

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING

JULY 15, 2009

The Council convened for a workshop meeting at 5:40 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Members in attendance were Councilmembers Hebert, Hunter, Weaver and Mayor Pro Tem Clark. Councillor Hynes was not present for the roll call. Councillor Johnson and Mayor Willits were absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Adjourned Workshop Meeting dated 7-9-09.

Water and Sewer Rates

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan addressed the Council regarding monthly residential and business water and sewer rates. She presented spreadsheets displaying operating revenues, expenditures and debt service and explained the utility funds are required to cover expenses by receivables, and the funds are operating at a net loss. Also presented was a table of user rates and gallon allotments for the Town and neighboring jurisdictions. There was discussion regarding the fund revenues, which are provided by the approximate 600 water taps, and 550 sewer tap users. It was noted that sales of new taps, which fund capital improvements, were minimal in 2008 and are very limited this fiscal year.

Councillor Hynes entered the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Director Fagan recommended increasing rates in increments over three years until revenues reach expenses. There was discussion and the Council agreed that current residential and business monthly rates should be increased annually, beginning January 1, 2010, over a period of three years, by \$5 annually for water and \$7 annually for sewer, this increase will also apply to the vacancy rate; accessory dwelling units increase \$3 annually for water and \$4 annually for sewer. It was also agreed that rates for multiple residential units, duplex and tri-plex, should be the same rate for each unit, and should not receive a discount rate for multiple units on a single tap. It was further agreed the senior rate should be eliminated, and if possible, current users on the plan should be grandfathered.

The Public Works Director was requested to research, and make recommendations on increases to school water rates at the next regular meeting.

There was discussion pertaining to water allotment.

Regional Collaboration

Planner Jen Coates explained there have been recent discussions regarding the Town, City of Ouray, County of Ouray, Towns of Telluride and Mountain Village and San Miguel County joining forces and creating a regional coalition to apply for funding to address issues that affect all jurisdictions, such as transportation and housing. She suggested the Town host a meeting or gathering of public officials, including elected and administrative staff, to begin discussions. The Council agreed with the concept.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk