

Town of Norwood Board of Trustees

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Regular Session 7:00pm

NORWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER 1670 Naturita St, Norwood, CO 81423

- And - Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Town of Norwood Board of Trustees, San Miguel County, and State of Colorado was called to order by Mayor Candy Meehan at 7:00pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor, Candy Meehan	PRESENT	Trustee, Shawn Fallon	PRESENT
Trustee, Jaime Schultz	PRESENT	Trustee, Morgan Rummel	PRESENT
Trustee, Niven Drybrough	PRESENT	Town Clerk, Amanda Pierce	PRESENT
Town Administrator, Patti Grafmyer	PRESENT	Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Hannigan	PRESENT
Public Works Director, Randy Harris	PRESENT		

Others: Regan Tuttle, and Stephanie Van Damme via Zoom

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of October 11, 2023, and October 25, 2023

November Financials

MOTION: Shawn Fallon motioned to approve the consent agenda.

- a. Niven Drybrough seconded.
- b. All others approved. Motion Passed

BOARD BUSINESS:

Music on the Mesa by Norwood Parks and Rec, Daiva Chesonis

Daiva brought back an update to the board after the meeting with Rob Miller the talent agent at the Fair Grounds with Decanna Burbridge and Jaime Schultz, the meeting went well. Board discussion on where the taxes would go for vendors, and that the budget reflected an amount of \$5000.00 from the town upon budget approval.

Special Event Liquor License Application, Norwood Park and Rec District 1555 Summit Street

MOTION: Jaime Schultz motioned to approve the Special Event Liquor License for Norwood Park and Rec.

- a. Morgan Rummel Seconded
- b. All approved. Motion passed.

Manufacturing Facility, Dahlia Mertens

Dahlia talked to the Board about her proposed business that she is bringing to Norwood.

The Board Expressed their excitement for the possibility of a manufacturing facility in town that will be additional jobs to Norwood.

SPECIAL DISTRICT AND STAKEHOLDER REPORTS:

Daiva mentioned, "Try it Tuesday" events for NPRD and all the events coming up. She mentioned the possibility of the Ice Rink going up this winter.

Amanda Pierce talked about the Norwood Youth Organization opening an Adult CO-ED Volleyball League registration due by Nov. 25th and Thursday being the League nights.

STAFF REPORTS:

San Miguel Sheriff's Office Calls for Service – See written report for October.

Public Works Director, Randy Harris –

- Last month winterization, snow removal.
- Wade Garvey resigned, so Public Works is looking for another person to fill his position.

Administrator Patti Grafmyer –

- a. The Town is starting their Shop Local event starting December 1st. Prizes this year include a Blackstone Grill and a Dewalt Impact Tool Set. The Chamber of Commerce is donating towards the prizes.
- b. Dan Covault met with Patti requesting an amendment to the agreement that would have Code Enforcement help take care of a dog/s in the event of an arrest or accident to ensure the pet was not left. The Sheriff's Office would keep the facilities. Also, in the current contract, the Sheriff's Office does not charge the town for a 30-day jail stay and the plan will be to continue that agreement.

Town Clerk, Amanda Pierce

- Amanda and Becky Hannigan went to a Joint Task Force meeting in the West End to discuss the next round of funding.
 - The committee talked about using a portion of the monies for a Regional Grant Writer and Administrator for the Town of Norwood and West End municipalities. There is a possibility of a 3 to 5-year use if the application is approved. There is still a lot more work that needs done and discussed before even applying. Also, talking about a business and economic growth plan is in the discussion stages too for the communities.
- I have a call with an economic development program (Placer) that we can be a pilot program so we can see who has been at our events and where did they come from and all the places they visited during the event. It is extremely costly, but Amanda is hoping to be able to purchase it with grant funding or use it in the implementation of the economic business program with JUST Transition funds.
- As a region the municipalities are using funds to be able to keep using, WEEDC to help with Grants and additional Economic development.

Code Enforcement Officer, Sharon Pape

Written report was in the packet, along with a NACA Animal Control Officer 1 certification Sharon had completed. Patti discussed with the board the injured feral Feline bill and potential cost in the future to the town. The board agreed that processes need to be put into place so other options can be used and to keep fair and consistent use of funds.

MAYOR AND TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Meehan – See attached for full report.

Candy requested the board consider an amount of \$1500.00 to help with funding the Food Hub for the holidays.

Motion: Jaime Schultz made a motion to give the staff a budgetary amount of \$1500.00 to support the Norwood Food Bank.

- a. Niven Drybrough Seconded
- b. All approved. Motion passed

Mayor Meehan asked the board for consent to engage with attorney, David Reed about updating the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Norwood Water Commission and the Norwood Sanitation District that was put into place in 1999.

Shawn – Working on the Ice Rink for the year that NPRD owns and is placed at the Pig Palace. He stated the shade cloth needs to be replaced due to the Roping Club cutting it up. Shawn asked the Town for \$300.00 to replace the cloth.

Motion: Jaime Schultz made the motion to approve \$400 for a shade cloth for the Ice Rink.

- c. Morgan Rummel Seconded
- d. All approved. Motion passed

Niven – None

Morgan – None

Jaime – None

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Shawn Fallon made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm.

- a. Candy Meehan seconded.
- b. All others approved. Motion Passed.

APPROVED

APPROVED AS CORRECTED

DATE APPROVED: *December 14, 2023*


Minutes Taken by, Becky Hannigan, Deputy Town Clerk


Amanda Pierce, Town Clerk

https://www.telluridenews.com/norwood_post/article_1b8b79fa-fdf6-11ee-8e6e-7f6db21dbcbb.html

Norwood Town Board of Trustees meeting turns heated

Mayor accused of inappropriate use of government funds

By Mia Rupani Editor

Apr 19, 2024

The Norwood Town Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday, in which the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the Town of Norwood, Norwood Water Commission and Norwood Sanitation District was discussed, became emotionally charged.

As it stands, the current IGA addresses funding for the town manager's salary, which has historically been split between the three entities. On Wednesday's agenda was a letter of agreement regarding Town Manager Deana Sheriff's salary.

Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan had previously consulted the town attorney, David Reed, about updating the current IGA. The

draft IGA was then erroneously sent to the Norwood Water Commission and the Norwood Sanitation District by Sheriff.

Mike Grafmyer, who is a member of both the Norwood Water Commission and Norwood Sanitation District, raised concerns about Meehan's intentions.

"Why are we trying to fix something that isn't broke?" he said. "We've been doing this for 20 years and the three boards have worked excellently together. Now its attorney, attorney, attorney, attorney. There's no reason for that; we're all adults here."

Meehan said the draft IGA was not discussed among the board of trustees prior to the meeting.

“We didn’t have a chance to sit down with our attorney that we retained to protect our interests,” she said. “I have board members that don’t even understand what the IGA is and just because you (Grafmyer) have historical knowledge of it does not mean Mike (Grady) does. It does not mean Shawn (Fallon) understands it.”

Meehan said it’s frustrating that she “get(s) scolded for asking questions.”

A memo from the town attorney regarding the dissolution of the Norwood Sanitation District was also sent to Sheriff, which she then forwarded to all three entities.

"I cannot find any history about the creation of the sanitation district, how it works and how it functions," Reed said. "My staff put together a memo that suggests what the sanitation district is, how the board of directors is appointed and, yes, how it can be dissolved. There was never any indication to pinpoint a dissolution."

Norwood Sanitation District Member Kerry Welch filed a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request to obtain the detailed invoices from the attorneys to the Town of Norwood, which she presented to the board of trustees during the meeting.

The invoices, which were also obtained by The Norwood Post through a CORA request, date back to 2023.

On March 6, 2024, there is a \$202 charge in which the description of service reads, in part, to “discuss potential for absorbing sanitation district.”

The following day, there is a \$180 charge in which the description of service reads, “Review and analyze Colorado law regarding dissolution of special districts for the purpose of advising Town of Norwood.”

“The Norwood Sanitation (District) did not ask the mayor to dissolve the sanitation district,” Welch said during the meeting. “Did the town board direct the mayor to discuss this with the attorney?”

The board of trustees denied instructing Meehan to consult with the attorney regarding the dissolution of the Norwood Sanitation District.

Meehan said there was never any intention to dissolve the sanitation district; instead, she contacted the attorneys to ask about what might happen if the Norwood Sanitation District suffered a massive failure.

“What is wrong with me asking questions, especially with our attorney, to understand if we are legally responsible beyond just morally?” she said. “It’s really interesting that in asking questions, everyone is up in arms.”

The Town of Norwood budgeted \$10,000 toward attorney fees in 2024. The invoices from the attorneys, which start in January, total more than \$13,000 for the year so far.

During the meeting, Meehan wrote a personal check for \$2,700, which she said is intended to cover the costs of the times she spoke with the attorney regarding the sanitation district.

“I feel like this is my responsibility because I did not know about those charges,” she said.

Reed suggested tabling the discussion and later reconvening with a committee of representatives from all three entities to discuss the IGA “not with arguments, but with your various positions and see if you can’t reach consensus.”

It was decided that all three entities would sit down together for a work session to discuss the future of the IGA at a later date.

Welch spoke to The Norwood Post on Wednesday, April 17, during which she accused Meehan of inappropriately using government funds.

“If they wanted more information on the sanitation district, all they had to do was ask,” she said. “Shame on the attorney and on her for not going to Town Hall and asking for the records instead of spending so much taxpayer money.”

Grafmyer felt similarly about the attorney fees.

"As taxpayers, we aren't done talking about the attorney bills," he said.

Meehan told The Norwood Post that she felt like the board of trustees was at an "incredible disadvantage" during the meeting.

"My board didn't have the chance to see the documents that were attorney-client privilege that was shared with the other boards," she said. "I think that this (meeting) gave us an opportunity to come to the table and work together collaboratively to bring this document to date. It revealed a lot of holes in the bucket that we have an obligation to address together so we can have a better understanding of our fiscal responsibilities and moral obligations to the town and Wright's Mesa as a whole."



Norwood Fire Protection District
1605 Summit St, P. O. Box 411
Norwood, CO 81423
970-327-4800
norwoodfiredistrict.org

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Candy Meehan as Mayor of the Town of Norwood.

Ms. Meehan is promoting change for the betterment of the community. I believe she has nothing but the best intentions for the people of Norwood since taking the Office of Mayor.

She has sought legal council for advice on how to run a local government properly and to make the proper changes necessary to comply with local, County and State regulations.

I believe Ms. Meehan, along with the Town Manager, should be given the chance to make the necessary changes needed to help the Town of Norwood move forward with continued growth.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

John J. Bockrath, Chief
Norwood Fire Protection District
970-729-0934
norwoodchief@norwoodcofire.com

From: [Candy Meehan](#)
To: [ETW - Candy Meehan](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter to the Norwood Town Board, Water Commission and Sanitation District Boards
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 4:38:15 PM

Candy A. Meehan
970.208.7829

Begin forwarded message:

From: Raymond Cossey <raymondcossey@gmail.com>
Date: April 23, 2024 at 6:24:18 AM MDT
To: Art Goodtimes <art@tellurideinstitute.org>
Cc: dsheriffbiz@gmail.com, Candy Meehan <meehan@norwoodtown.com>, Shawn Fallon <Fallon@norwoodtown.com>, Michael Grady <MGrady@norwoodtown.com>, Morgan Rummel <Rummel@norwoodtown.com>, Niven Drybrough <Drybrough@norwoodtown.com>, fkjome@hotmail.com, daranyi@rmi.net, bradcampbell94@yahoo.com, norwoodnelson@yahoo.com, mikegrafmyer@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Letter to the Norwood Town Board, Water Commission and Sanitation District Boards

Art, Good morning
Thank you for your letter, opinion and concerns.
Ray Cossey

On Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 10:46 PM Art Goodtimes <art@tellurideinstitute.org> wrote:

This letter is intended for all three boards, although I only have select emails for Water Commission and Sanitary District members. Please share.

Dear Town Board, Water Commission & Sanitation District members

I would like to respond to an article in the Norwood Post (April 19th issue) in which Kerry Welch is quoted as allegedly accusing "Meehan of inappropriately using government funds."

As a county commissioner here for 20 years, let me say that in general having outside counsel advise local governments on the complicated laws regarding special districts is in no way "inappropriate" but rather entirely appropriate. Town or county attorneys are generalists, and when an issue is a complicated one, they routinely advise boards to seek outside counsel with special expertise in the field of law implicated.

In this instance, since Norwood has a very unique town manager funding arrangement, I think in drafting a new IGA for a position that is usually not co-funded in this manner, it is entirely reasonable to have outside counsel advise the Town on a new IGA and any issues that might arise, including in this case what would happen with a potential dissolution of a district.

That attorney-client privilege was violated in this instance by the public release of privileged information would disturb me more as a citizen of the Town (which I am not) than unsubstantiated allegations.

It appears that communication mistakes were made on all sides here, but the Mayor's personal payment of her privileged attorney-client communications as Mayor with the Town's outside counsel goes above and beyond making up for any missteps on her part.

Sincerely,
Art Goodtimes

Kris Holstrom
PO Box 437
Placerville, CO 81430

May 7, 2024

To: Town of Norwood, Norwood Sanitation District

RE: Meeting on April 24th

Hi all,

I have been zooming in on Town of Norwood meetings from time to time over the last few years as part of my efforts to stay knowledgeable about happenings in the region. This past winter my husband and I rented a home just outside of Norwood town limits and were happy to feel part of the community for a time prior to returning to our home on Hastings Mesa.

On April 24th I attended the Norwood Sanitation District meeting in person. I listened as a proposed resolution was discussed to express 'no confidence' in Mayor Candy Meehan. I have spent many hours in meetings, crafted and signed resolutions myself. I was dismayed by the tenor of the meeting and spoke up at one point to question the wording of the resolution as I thought my input might have been useful. However, while my comments may have been heard, my impression was they were not welcomed or truly considered and that internal decisions had already been made.

I would like to add, after attending and listening in to Town of Norwood meetings over the last few years, I have found Mayor Meehan to be incredibly dedicated and completely fair minded in her decision making and other processes. Sometimes the job of an elected official is to ask difficult questions in order to have informed discussions and understand different options.

Also, I believe it is important to take the Open Meetings Act seriously, and it is very concerning that the recording of the meeting either did not happen or has been lost. Several questions that have come up regarding the meeting could have been resolved by having access to that important record.

I appreciate your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Kris Holstrom
As SMC citizen

jaime schultz
1715 Summit Street
Norwood CO 81423

4/29/24

Dear Administrative Staff and Board of Trustees;

I am writing today to express my support of the revision process of the IGA, and to also lend my support to our Mayor, Candy Meehan.

As a former member of the Board, I do recall giving Candy instruction to consult with the town's new-at-the-time lawyer, Mr. Reed. While the discussions surrounding his hire were brief, the IGA was an integral focus of his hiring and I recall instructions that conversations with him include the IGA at the time of his hire.

I am also writing to express my concern over what I witnessed during the Sanitation Board meeting on April 24, 2024. First, Mike Graffmyer's behavior was rude and disrespectful toward members of his own Board as well as members of the constituency who came in to question the proposed resolution. Also concerning: Tom Kyle made a statement that "The time for discussion is over;" a simple statement that carries the weight of having had the conversation behind closed doors. Quite frankly, the time for discussion and the honest consideration of evidence was that very moment and not a moment before.

Finally, I have learned that this very contentious and embarrassing meeting was not recorded. This is extremely disturbing and disappointing. I really could not be more deeply offended by this omission.

Please take these remarks into consideration.

-jaime schultz

April 24, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

The recent articles in the San Miguel Basin Forum and the Norwood Post, 'Tension high at Norwood town meeting,' shed light on a pattern of dysfunction and hostility within our town's administration. The articles report on a meeting where disagreements were evident, and accusations were raised about inappropriate use of attorney fees. These issues suggest problems that impact the effectiveness of our local government.

Unfortunately, these problems are not isolated incidents. My wife, a dedicated employee who recently resigned from her position with the town, experienced a hostile work environment despite her commitment and excellent performance. When she requested an investigation into the town's workplace practices, the town's response, guided by an attorney, failed to address the concerns raised adequately.

I mention this matter today out of concern for the well-being of our town's employees and the overall functioning of our local government. It is crucial that our elected officials, like Mayor Meehan, have the support and cooperation they need to understand and address the issues impacting our town's governance structure. Any efforts to bring transparency and accountability to our administration should be commended and supported.

~ap

From: Alexander Pape

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 12:18:24 AM

To: Candy Meehan <meehan@norwoodtown.com>; sf17713@gmail.com <sf17713@gmail.com>; Grady (wellnessisdank@gmail.com) <wellnessisdank@gmail.com>; Morgan Rummel <rummel@norwoodtown.com>; Niven Drybrough <drybrough@norwoodtown.com>; Bernice White <bernice.white@usda.gov>; Tom Kyle <tommyky1@gmail.com>; Kerry Welsch <redbob209@gmail.com>; Mike Grafmyer <mikegrafmyer@yahoo.com>; Finn Kjome <fkjome@hotmail.com>; Tony Daranyi <daranyi@rmi.net>; Brad Campbell <bradcampbell94@yahoo.com>; norwoodnelson@yahoo.com <norwoodnelson@yahoo.com>; Ray Cossey <raymondcossey@gmail.com>

Cc: Bronwen Spielman <bspielman@hotmail.com>; Nina Kothe <nkothe56@gmail.com>; Sonny Lopez <sonny.lopez@protonmail.com>; Nancy Willis <nancyplants@hotmail.com>; Brian DiPaola <briandipaola22@gmail.com>

Subject: Addressing Allegations from the April 24 Sanitation Meeting

Dear Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Commission, Sanitation Commission, and Water Commission Members,

This letter references my verbal statement made to the Sanitation Board on April 24. Since the official meeting video recording was deleted, a transcript is provided below for reference.

I hereby formally request the following be added to your meeting minutes:

Events following the recent Sanitation Board meeting, where I participated strictly in a public capacity, have prompted concerns that merit follow-up. My closing remark, the single word 'remember,' reaffirmed my dedication to the principles outlined in our town's Code of Conduct, principles which Commissioner Holstrom acknowledged were violated by board members throughout the meeting.

Now, a strategically timed complaint against me, including the baseless accusation that I threatened any board member, directly following my voicing support for Mayor Meehan, suggest political motives that extend beyond the specific issues at hand. This frivolous complaint undermines the spirit of fairness and non-prejudice that our Code mandates.

I am confident that any scrutiny will validate my intentions and reaffirm my commitment to Norwood's best interests. Let's shift our focus to issues that affect our community rather than petty internal disputes.

Best,



Alexander Pape
