



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

December 22, 2020

6:30 PM

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hamman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hamman asked that all rise for the pledge of allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Troy Hamman

Mayor Pro Tem Wyatt Knutson - ABSENT

Trustee Jon Gaiter

Trustee John Jerome

Trustee Rebekka Kinney

Trustee Ashley Macdonald - ABSENT

Trustee Tim Whitehouse

Also Present:

Patti Garcia, Town Administrator

Kelly Houghteling, Deputy Town Administrator

Brad March, Town Attorney

Judi Tippetts, Finance Director

Cody Bird, Director of Planning

Hallie Sheldon, Town Intern

Bob Gowing, Director of Public Works

Krystal Eucker, Town Clerk

Michael Rairdon, Larimer County Sheriff's Office Patrol Sergeant

Lori Woodruff, Human Resources Manager

Mahalia Henschel, Communications Specialist

Liz Young-Winne, Planner

3. Amendments to Agenda

Mayor Hamman asked if there were any amendments to this evening's agenda to which there was none.

Mayor Hamman did thank Ms. Houghteling for all her work as the Interim Town Administrator.

4. Conflict of Interest

Mayor Hamman inquired if there were any conflicts of interest on this evening's agenda to which there was none.

B. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Public Comment

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Clark commented that he has some concerns about the lockdown and the effects that it is having on businesses in town. There are other members of the community that have the same concerns; there are about 90 individuals in a group called Wellington Freedom. The basis of the group is to see our state open back up so that people can get their jobs back; we see that a first step would be to partner with the Town to assure the business owners that the Town would not participate in any punitive measures against a business owner who decided to open up. There are a lot of opinions on this, but our belief is that if you feel that it's unsafe for you to go into a business that's fully open then you have the choice not to go in.

Mayor Hamman inquired if Mr. Clark received the statement from the Town.

Mr. Clark stated he had not seen it.

Shirrell Tietz, 4525 Ingalls Drive, Wellington, CO commented she is jumping in on the comment from Mr. Clark. They are looking for some support from the Town that if businesses open up even though there are restrictions in place by Larimer County that the Board of Trustees are in support of businesses. The restrictions are severely affecting business owners.

Trustee Kinney commented that when money is spent at the local businesses, that is supporting them. The Town did place over \$300,000 in the hands of local businesses during this pandemic.

Kathy Wydallis, 3405 Revere Court, Wellington, CO commented that she agrees with Mr. Clark and Ms. Tietz.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the December 8, 2020 regular Board of Trustees Meeting

Trustee Gaiter moved approve the consent agenda; Trustee Gaiter seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Gaiter, Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – None

Motion carried.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Law Enforcement Services Contract

Ms. Garcia informed the Board that the contract is for law enforcement services for 2021. The costs have not increased much although there is an individual from the Larimer County Finance Department on the meeting that can explain the costs and Sergeant Rairdon also has a presentation to share with the Board.

Sergeant Rairdon informed the Board that the Larimer County Sheriff's Office is proud to continue providing law enforcement services to the Town of Wellington. What is before the Board this evening is two separate parts of the Law Enforcement Agreement. The first part is the Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement which is the overall agreement for services between the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Wellington that provides the framework for the

services provided and what each entity is responsible for. That is a multi-year agreement that was last signed in 2017 and the current agreement expires December 31, 2020. This agreement will carry us through the end of 2025, so the Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement has no direct costs attached to it; the costs come in the Annual Statement of Budget and Work Agreement.

The second part is the Statement of Work and Budget Agreement. This is the document that outlines how many Deputies are assigned or dedicated to the Town of Wellington by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and their associated costs. The Deputies that you see in the Statement of Work and Budget Agreement are assigned to provide services directly to Wellington.

A staffing increase was not requested for 2021 as the numbers for service calls has not greatly increased over the past three years. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office will continue to provide one Sergeant, one Corporal, six Patrol Deputies, one Patrol Deputy that's assigned as an SRO at Wellington Middle School, one Desk Deputy and half of an Investigator position. The total cost for 2021 is approximately 3% more than what it was for 2020 and almost all of it comes from costs that the County is passing through. One new category is bicycle maintenance. Wellington originally purchased two bicycles for patrol, along with the associated gear for them. Those bicycles are worn out and we couldn't get parts for them anymore. The Sheriff's Office purchased replacement bicycles and a category was added to ensure that there is money available to keep those bicycles maintained and replace them as needed in the future.

The other new category comes from indirect County costs. The County is charging the Sheriff's Office and other county departments indirect costs on all outside service agreements and this is a new thing. For agreements where there are no facility costs to the County, which is the case with Wellington where Wellington provides office space, the amount is currently 9.57% of the salary amount in the agreement. A 3% increase was added this year with the intention of increasing this annually by 3% until it matches the amount that the Sheriff's Office is paying the County; the Sheriff's Office covering the difference out of their budget.

Mayor Hamman inquired as to how long the 3% will accrue.

Sergeant Rairdon stated the 9.57% is what the County Finance Department has determined it allocates as indirect costs for internet, phone, human resources, payroll and other services like that. There will be a 3% increase until it matches what the Sheriff's Office is covering so it will be a pass-through cost.

Trustee Gaiter inquired about the five-year contract and if there is a termination clause.

Sergeant Rairdon stated there is a termination clause. If the Town decided to bring in their own police department, there would not be a penalty associated with terminating the contract.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he appreciates the Sheriff's Office taking some of the indirect costs but has a concern that the County is charging a fee to provide services to residents of the County.

Sarah Pierson with Larimer County stated this is not the first year that that the County has been charging these fees and, in the past, our Sheriff has said no. A decision was made as an agency to

work with the County more as we understand these fees are out there. The numbers were worked with to really try and slim them down to not harm the contract.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he wanted to be very clear that the work that the Sheriff's Office is doing is appreciated and suggested coming together as a Board to address the indirect costs with Larimer County. Trustee Gaiter feels this is unacceptable as taxes are being paid from citizens of Larimer County which pay for services such as the Sheriff's Office and then to have additional fees charged to the Sheriff's Office from the County is unacceptable.

Trustee Jerome commented that he agrees with Trustee Gaiter and feels like the Town should see an itemized breakdown of the indirect costs. With other municipalities contracting with the Sheriff's Office, it may be worth a discussion with those municipalities about why they are being charged for indirect costs.

Mayor Hamman commented that it sounds like the Board will vote on the contract tonight and then contract Larimer County regarding the indirect costs.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he is fine approving the contract but would like the discussions to take place with the County very soon regarding the indirect costs.

Ms. Garcia commented that she can reach out to other municipalities and request information.

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting up for public comment.

Christine Gaiter, 8132 4th Street, Wellington, CO commented that she would like to see the vote postponed or vote with the provision that the 3% be taken off.

Kathy Wydallis, 3405 Revere Court, Wellington, CO commented wanted to thank the Board for keeping the Sheriff's Office as she feels they are doing a great job and her interaction with them has been positive.

Mike Clark commented that he agrees with Ms. Gaiter and would like to see the Town vote with the contingency to cast out that extra percentage. Mr. Clark did not see anything in the contract regarding coverage times.

Sergeant Rairdon stated there is a Deputy on duty in Wellington from 6:45 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. and that four-hour window is covered by the District so there is still coverage for Wellington. The District does drive throughs and patrols the Town. Approximately 30% of Wellington's calls are handled by the Deputies that are assigned to other areas and coming into Wellington. That 30% could be Deputies coming in to assist when Wellington Deputies are handling another calls or when there is a jail transport.

Trustee Gaiter inquired if there could be a contingency put in the contract if we were able to successfully negotiate the indirect costs with the County.

Ms. Pierson commented that it would be removed if the negotiations were successful with the County.

Mr. March commented that this agreement probably needs to be approved tonight although the Board can always terminate the agreement.

Trustee Jerome commented that the Board should probably approve the agreement this evening and if negotiations are successful, an addendum could be made to the agreement.

Mr. March commented that his suggestion would be to approve the contracts this evening because there does need to be law enforcement services in Town. A discussion can take place with the Commissioners and if that discussion is not an acceptable resolution, the agreement can be terminated with notice and a police department could be formed in Town.

Trustee Kinney moved approve the Law Enforcement Services Agreement; Trustee Gaiter seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Gaiter, Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – None

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance No. 22-2020 - An Ordinance Approving a Conditional Use for a Single-Family Residential Home Within the TR Transitional Zoning District

Ms. Young-Winne informed the Board that the applicant is seeking conditional use approval to construct a single-family detached residence at 3709 Harrison Ave. There is currently a single-family detached home on the property. The existing home has been vacant for a number of years, and the existing structure is nonconforming because it does not meet the front yard setback requirement. The existing home is proposed to be demolished to make way for redevelopment of the site.

A new detached single-family residence is proposed to be constructed in accordance with the required setbacks and other applicable regulations. The lot width of the property is less than the minimum width (50 feet instead of 60 feet wide), but all other applicable requirements will be met, and therefore, it is acceptable to allow the lot width to remain as part of the conditional use approval. The property is zoned TR - Transitional, a district in which all new uses require conditional use approval.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 7, 2020 to consider the conditional use. Following the public hearing and deliberations, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the conditional use. The Planning Commission's recommendation are below.

Municipal code section 16-7-30 provides review criteria for conditional uses. By recommending approval of the conditional use, the Planning Commission determined that the applicable review criteria have been satisfied or can be satisfied by conditions of approval. Below is a summary of the findings of the Planning Commission:

1. Applicable provisions of Chapter 16 (Zoning) and Chapter 17 (Subdivision Regulations) are satisfied, or conditions of approval are recommended that would satisfy the regulations. No variance is being requested.
2. The proposed conditional use for a single-family detached residence may be found to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The area is identified as a Transitional zone district due to its proximity to the Cleveland Ave. commercial corridor and the property is mostly surrounded by single-family detached homes. The proposed residential use is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.

3. The property requesting the conditional use has adequate public services available to it, and approval of the conditional use will not result in a significant increase in demand for public services that cannot be accommodated with existing resources. A condition of approval states that the existing water meter vault, curbstop, and wastewater cleanout must be evaluated and repaired or replaced as necessary.
4. The conditional use will not substantially alter the basic character of the district in which it is in or jeopardize the development or redevelopment potential of the district. Currently, the surrounding properties on Harrison Ave. are single-family detached residences and the proposed new construction is consistent with the use, scale, and character of the adjacent residential properties. The property is also adjacent to the C2 Downtown Commercial district and Town staff suggested the applicant consider constructing the new residence on a crawl space instead of a full basement. The structure could be moved in the future if the land is desirable for redevelopment and it would reduce the costs associated with redevelopment for other uses. This recommendation is presented as a consideration, but not as a requirement.
5. The conditional use will result in efficient on- and off-site traffic circulation and will not have a significant adverse impact on the adjacent uses or result in hazardous conditions for pedestrians or vehicles in or adjacent to the site. The application proposes the replacement of a single-family detached residence with a new construction single-family residence. A condition of approval includes repair or replacement of any damaged or non-functioning curb, gutter, and sidewalks, as necessary.
6. There are minimal negative impacts associated with the proposed conditional use. Replacement of an existing single-family detached home with a new construction single-family home is not anticipated to result in significant changes to the neighborhood.
 - a) Traffic – Minimal vehicle trips are expected if the proposed single-family detached dwelling is approved.
 - b) Activity levels – Activity levels associated with the home are consistent with adjacent land uses and is not anticipated to be a problem.
 - c) Light – Lighting is not anticipated to be a problem.
 - d) Noise – Noise is not anticipated to be a problem for the proposed use.
 - e) Odor – Odors are not anticipated to be a problem for the proposed use.
 - f) Building type, style and scale – The existing building is a single-story residence that is 567 square feet in size and is a non-conforming structure (encroaches on front setback). The proposed new single-family detached residence will be one-story, approximately 1,500 square feet in size, and will conform with all applicable zoning and building regulations. The new building will be constructed to a type, style, and scale of other existing homes in the surrounding area.
 - g) Hours of operation – Hours of operation is not applicable to this proposed use.
 - h) Dust – Dust is not anticipated to be a problem for the proposed use.
 - i) Erosion control – Erosion control is not an applicable factor for this use at the proposed location. A condition of approval states that a grading and drainage plan must demonstrate the new construction adequately discharges stormwater from the site and does not negatively impact adjacent properties.
7. The applicant has submitted evidence that all applicable local, state and federal permits have been or will be obtained.

Mayor Hamman asked the applicant if they have anything to add this evening.

Mr. Porter informed the Board that he is fine with the conditions that the Town has asked for and it has been a great experience working with the Planning Department.

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting up for public comment to which there was none.

Trustee Kinney moved to approve Ordinance 22-2020; Trustee Jerome seconded the motion.

Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Gaiter, Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – None

Motion carried.

3. Resolution No. 48-2020 - A Resolution Waiving Certain Occupation Taxes for 2021

Ordinance No. 4-1970 set annual occupation taxes for liquor licenses that are due January 1, 2021.

In an effort to assist small business that may be struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff is requesting the Board of Trustees waive the occupational tax for liquor licenses referenced in Ordinance 4-1970 for the year 2021.

Mayor Hamman conformed that this is an effort to relieve some COVID-19 financial pressure.

Per Ms. Eucker; that's correct.

Trustee Gaiter inquired if this will apply to renewals or new and incoming licenses.

Ms. Eucker stated that since these renewals are due on January 1, 2021, they would pertain to licenses in effect currently. The occupation tax is in addition to the business license fee.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he would like to see some support for other businesses and would like to see the business license fee waived.

Mr. March commented that the business license is a fee offsets staff time when completing the business licenses; it is a nominal fee. The business license fee is the Town's way to know what businesses are in Town.

Ms. Garcia stated the business license fee is \$25.00 per year and that is how we track what businesses are here.

Trustee Jerome inquired if this waiver is specific to liquor licenses.

Ms. Eucker stated there was an occupation tax assigned to certain types of liquor license and that is what this Resolution would waive.

Trustee Kinney commented that the business license fee may not be the way to go but does appreciate staff's effort to find creative ways like this to support businesses. Trustee Kinney also proposed abolishing the occupation tax for liquor licenses as some of the fees are large.

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting for public comment.

Kathy Wydallis, 3405 Revere Court, Wellington, CO commented that she is ok with any tax going away.

Mike Clark commented that he agrees with Trustee Kinney and is fine with any tax going away.

Trustee Kinney moved to approve Resolution 48-2020; Trustee Gaiter seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Gaiter, Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – None

Motion carried.

4. Resolution No. 49-2020 - A Resolution Adopting the Strategic Plan

Ms. Houghteling stated before the Board this evening is the resolution formally adopting the strategic plan. This process started back in June with a Board of Trustees retreat to discuss the strategic plan which is a guiding document that helps set the direction for our community and our mission that we have. The mission statement is why we exist. Our vision statement is an aspirational statement forward looking; there is a difference between the two.

There are also four key areas of focus and goals within those focus areas. There's a much larger document that we have shared in a previous meeting that gets into the nitty gritty of how this will be accomplished.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he has received some questions from members of the community for a chance to have public comments on the strategic plan.

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting up for public comment.

Shirrell Tietz, 4525 Ingalls Drive, Wellington, CO, commented that about intentional growth and development and attracting and retaining commercial development and business. Is there anywhere, your strategic plan where it goes into more detail about how you guys intend to accomplish attracting and identifying

Ms. Houghteling commented that there is a more in-depth document talking about economic development. There is a lot of work that will need to go into what that means to accomplish this high-level goal. In particular for that item, there's going to be a lot of steps along the way to keep both the Board and the public involved and engaged to this effort.

Mayor Hamman commented that these are high level goals and there's a lot of backup to achieving these goals.

Christine Gaiter, 8132 4th Street, Wellington, CO commented that she would like to see some changes; intentional growth to free market growth, sustainable infrastructure to improve and maintain infrastructure, community engagement to engaging with the citizens, organizational strength to community's strength.

Kathy Wydallis, 3405 Revere Court, Wellington, CO commented that she really liked the change to memorable experiences and that our community strength is what we do through the community activities. One problem with the strategic plan is that it's so vague, even the goals are vague.

Mike Clark commented that he agrees with Christine Gaiter. Mr. Clark commented that he is going to just be super straightforward and super blunt; a lot of the terminology that he sees being used is the Communist Manifesto. That is unacceptable to him as an American.

Shirrell Tietz, 4525 Ingalls Drive, Wellington, CO, commented that she had a hard time understanding the strategic plan as there was not a lot of detail on goals like a date set to

accomplish goals. When the Board is voting on this is that approving the strategic plan or just approving how it looks in PowerPoint. It would also be helpful to bring in the community as they can offer some valuable opinions.

Mayor Hamman commented that this is a high-level PowerPoint presentation and the Board sat in with professional staff to help develop these higher-level items. As the goals are refined, they're going to be detailed and they will be presented for public engagement. This is just a template of a high level.

Trustee Kinney commented that her understanding was this is a guiding document that we developed as a group. Someone might read it and they would think that seems vague, but the areas of interest were determined. Those areas of interest cascades down into many different specific goals and actions that then have to be done by different groups and staff.

Ms. Houghteling commented that this is a guiding document and the Board will receive quarterly updates. The Excel spreadsheet was not included as there are items that have not been formally adopted by the Board; those items still need community engagement and Board input. The intention was to keep it focused on the key areas of focus and the goals.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he does not have a problem with the plan as he was involved with developing it, there was not the opportunity to ask the community what they think needs to be included in the strategic plan so the engagement from the public is the missing piece.

Mayor Hamman commented that if this document is not ready to roll out, maybe we should hold on for a little bit.

Trustee Kinney commented that she thinks it is ready with those major areas of focus, all those pieces within that are going to come back through the Board. This document essentially helps staff focus on projects although that does not mean the Board won't do anything outside of the document.

Trustee Gaiter commented that the Board has a pretty clear understanding of what we're trying to accomplish with this document as well as town staff. The most important entity in this town is the citizens of Wellington that all of the rest of us serve. Trustee Gaiter recommends that if members of the community have concerns about the wording of the document to reach out to town staff.

Trustee Whitehouse commented that there was a lot of effort that went into developing this document. The Town does need to have some sort of plan or you don't get anything done. This is a living document and not chiseled in stone. The document can be rolled out and, in the future, do better with communication

Trustee Jerome commented that what we are looking at right now is probably the highest overview of what we are trying to get accomplished over the next couple of years. This is a roadmap to keep the Board and staff on track. There will be a lot of work done related to the items on this document and that will include public engagement.

Ms. Houghteling commented that the plan is to provide quarterly updates to the Board which will reflect the breakdown of each action step.

Trustee Gaiter inquired if delaying approving this document until our first meeting in January would bring staff to a standstill; this would give members of the community a chance to comment on the document.

Ms. Houghteling commented that these three weeks may be a difficult time with the holidays.

Ms. Garcia commented that there are three weeks before our next meeting and it is a very difficult time with the holidays. The second part of that would be getting that information to the Board to review before the next meeting for the Board to decide how to move forward with any changes. Generally, the strategic plan exercise does include community engagement although that is difficult to do with COVID. This is an important document that will be revisited in two years when the new Trustees get voted in; it would then be revised. The hope is that this document gets adopted this evening and staff can educate the public as to what the goals mean.

Trustee Gaiter inquired if this document is approved, it stays in place until the new Board is in place.

Ms. Garcia stated that is correct; the quarterly reports will be on the projects that staff is working on.

Jon Gaiter commented that his concern is that this was completed in a Board retreat and there has been no public engagement so even with the holidays approaching, if the community has concerns, they will make the time to let us know so I'd recommend giving a couple weeks to hear those concerns.

Trustee Whitehouse commented that one issue is the capacity of town staff; the budget just got approved and there is a lot that staff is wrapping up at the end of the year as well. This document is a 30,000-foot view and would suggest approving it.

Mayor Hamman commented that he is comfortable with approving this understanding there will be community engagement for the elements involved in the document. There's no reason why the document can't be changed in the next quarter.

Trustee Gaiter commented that the Board was just told that this document is not going to change until the next board comes in.

Mayor Hamman commented that this Board can make changes.

Ms. Garcia suggested if the Board wishes to stop and take time to receive public comment, the Board can come together in January with Ms. Trent to refine the document.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he is willing to adopt the document if the Board will commit that it is going to come back and revisit this with community input although if the Board is not committed to revisiting the document and make changes with community input, he will not vote to approve this.

Trustee Kinney commented that this is the plan that the Trustees came together after we did two days with technical presentations on the state of our town. This is not something staff brought to

the Board and said approve this. The concerns that we hear from the community that I talked to every day were considered as well. I am absolutely happy to revisit but would like to move forward to approve the document.

Trustee Whitehouse commented that it was not just the Board of Trustees; there was a moderator and town staff had a lot of input to create this document.

Mayor Hamman commented that he has no problem adopting this tonight and then revisiting it quarterly.

Trustee Whitehouse moved to approve Resolution 49-2020; Trustee Kinney seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – Gaiter

Motion carried.

5. Marijuana Ordinance

Mr. March informed the Board that we received correspondence from the proponents of the ordinance on Monday. They have made some suggestions about the possibility of an ordinance that would settle this. Those suggestions have not been fully reviewed so it is being recommended that this be postponed until the January 12, 2021 meeting.

Trustee Kinney inquired if we will need an executive session on January 12, 2021.

Mr. March stated if one needs to be scheduled, we will get that done.

Trustee Gaiter moved to table the Marijuana Ordinance to the January 12, 2021 meeting; Trustee Kinney seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Gaiter, Jerome, Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – None

Motion carried.

6. In Person Board of Trustee Meetings

Trustee Jerome stated he believes it is time that this Board starts meeting in person to try to get back to a little bit of normalcy. I think that starting in January, we all as a group should meet in our chambers with the public invited to attend; we are all adults, the public are adults, they can make a decision if they if they want to come to a meeting in person. If individuals do not feel comfortable going in public or being near other people, I believe that there's been some headway made with audio visual technologies for the Board chambers to help facilitate getting our meetings transmitted over the internet.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he agrees with Trustee Jerome. There were multiple things that led to us meeting fully virtual. There was a point when we tried doing a hybrid meeting but unfortunately our technology would not support that. There have been three citizens over the last week that do not feel comfortable with Zoom and doing online meetings, therefore they were very upset that their voices were not heard by the Board. I believe we are at a point with technology, to be able to do in-person with virtual.

Trustee Whitehouse inquired about social distancing and if the Town can accommodate that at this point with staff, Trustees and the public; this doesn't seem like a safe idea. Thankfully town

staff has not been taken out by an outbreak as staff are already thin. It is putting staff, which are critical to the operations of the Town at risk. Trustee Whitehouse commented that he is not supportive of this and will not be attending in-person meetings.

Trustee Kinney commented that she sees no reason to accept additional risk when not required as the Town has been doing a good job with online meetings. Trustee Kinney commented that she is not comfortable making that decision for other people. It does seem like there is more consistent input from the community with online meetings. There may be an avenue for individuals to submit comments prior to the meeting who can't attend; an email submitted and read during public comment.

Ms. Garcia commented that the majority of staff have been working remotely. It would be definitely a change to do a hybrid, but we can do some testing to see how that would work. We could solicit comments before the meeting and read them during public comment; this could allowed individuals that are not comfortable with Zoom to submit their comments. We did reach out to other municipalities today to see what others were doing and the majority are still meeting virtually, the municipalities doing hybrid meetings are not allowing public to attend in-person.

Mayor Hamman commented that this seems a little too soon; maybe get past January and see how things are as we don't want to put staff, Trustees or the public at risk.

Trustee Jerome commented that he respects everyone's opinion but would like to suggest turning off the chat function in Zoom during the meetings so there are no side conversations going on.

Trustee Gaiter commented that he appreciates others concerns although believes a hybrid meeting is a possibility with the technology that we have. Staff could continue to do virtual if they have concerns. There are concerns about gatherings although the County allows hundreds of people being in Walmart or King Soopers.

Mayor Hamman commented that churches and restaurants are not open; the Town does not have control over what the County does. There are a lot of places that still cannot get together.

Trustee Kinney commented that we are not determining what stores are open which is not something that the Town has a say in.

Mayor Hamman opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Clark commented that if you do not feel comfortable meeting in person then feel free to join on Zoom. If you do feel comfortable meeting in person, then do so; we are all adults and able to make choices for ourselves.

Christine Gaiter, 8132 4th Street, Wellington, CO commented that according to the municipal code, at least one member of the Board of Trustees or an officer appointed by the Board is to be present at the physical meeting location unless the nature of the meeting makes attendance impractical or inadvisable as determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem, in which case, notice of such shall be given with the statutorily required meeting notice. I don't believe that this notice has been given on each meeting notice nor do I think that the emergency makes attendance impractical, so the Board is not following its own code.

Shirrell Tietz, 4525 Ingalls Drive, Wellington, CO, commented that she is in support of hybrid meeting. Some individuals may not feel comfortable or as engaged doing virtual only meetings

Erin Jerome commented that the Board leads by example, so I believe it is important that the Board gets back to meeting in-person and engaging the community in person.

Kathy Wydallis, 3405 Revere Court, Wellington, CO commented that she is in favor of having public meetings again but hope there is an ability to have hybrid for individuals who wish to attend over Zoom.

Amanda McGuinn, 8979 Raging Bull Lane, Wellington, CO commented that she is in favor of in-person meetings. If the Board really wants more community involvement, you need to open it up to the public so those who can't attend on this forum can attend in person and have their voices heard.

Trustee Gaiter commented that however the Board votes on this, we do need to follow our own code which requires someone to be at the physical meeting location.

Mr. March he will take a look and do what we need to do for the agendas.

Trustee Kinney commented that she would be in favor of tabling this to the end of January when we may know more information and maybe hear from staff on their comfort level of running a hybrid meeting. Again, I don't want to make that decision for anybody else.

Mayor Hamman commented that he would like to get back to in-person meetings but would like to see the numbers come down and does not want someone to come to a Board meeting and pick up COVID-19. If we get another month on this, we might see some numbers come down, and have a better perspective; then look at doing a hybrid. Mayor Hamman commented that he is in favor of tabling this item.

Trustee Kinney moved to table In Person Meetings discussion to the January 26, 2021 meeting; Trustee Whitehouse seconded the motion. Roll call on the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas – Kinney, Whitehouse, Hamman

Nays – Gaiter, Jerome

Motion carried.

E. REPORTS

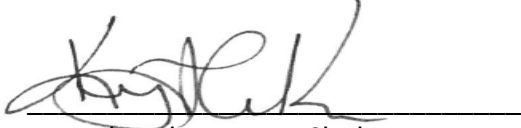
1. Town Attorney
Mr. March had nothing further.
2. Town Administrator
Ms. Garcia commented that postponing the in-person meeting discussion will allow staff to test the AV system that is being installed.
3. Staff Communications
None.
4. Board

Trustee Kinney thanked town staff for the work that they have done, especially with the CARES Funding.

Trustee Gaiter thanked the public for taking the time to make comments. Also, regarding the Board making a statement in support of businesses, that could end up causing additional problems for businesses

F. ADJOURN

Upon a motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krystal Eucker', written over a horizontal line.

Krystal Eucker, Town Clerk