BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, January 8th, 2024, at 7:00 PM

I. **Call To Order**

Meeting called to order at 703pm by A. Regester.

II. Roll Call

Present in Person: Bryon Monseu, Alessandria Regester, Randall McDonald, Chris Frey, Lee Berenato, Martin Gitlin, Kathy Grubbs. Clerk Chelsea Nihiser

Public Attendees: Eli Josephs, Blake Lumpkins

III. Motion to Approve Agenda

C. Frey motions to approve the agenda as presented. K. Grubbs seconds. Motion passes with all in favor.

IV. **Bills for Approval**

C. Frey motions to approve the Bills as presented M. Gitlin seconds. Motion passes with all in favor.

V. **Approval of Minutes**: 12/11/23 & 12/26/23

C. Frey moves to approve minutes from 12/11/23. L. Berenato seconds the motion. M. Gitlin rescues himself. Motion passes with all others in favor.

C. Frey moves to approve minutes from 12/26/23. R. McDonald seconds. M. Gitlin recuses himself. Motion passes with all others in favor.

VI. **Public Comment**

Eli is here to speak to the board about access to the 730 trail. M. Gitlin suggests this topic be an action item on the next agenda, for the second meeting in January. Will have a SPMP committee by that time, and board will do research into permit process/ requirements in the meantime. The clerk will assist with resources if needed. It is clarified that the permit is for motor vehicles, specifically, heavy materials are needed such as 8x8 timbers. M. Gitlin suggests Eli put together a brief proposal on what is needed.

VII. **Administrative Items:**

a. Mayor Report

Mayor will attend the upcoming Opioid Conference and prepare a report for the next Board meeting.

b. Town Clerk Update

Nomination Petition Packets are available for anyone interested in running for election. These can be circulated for signatures until January 22nd.

The current Board will need to appoint election judges, or delegate responsibility to clerk via

resolution by beginning of March.

The audit was submitted and approved by the state. Funds have been released from County Treasurer and CTF (Conservation Trust Fund) funds pending release for CTF funds.

IGA had Clerk listed incorrectly as a signer. It has been sent to CDOT for correction. B. Monseu and C. Frey are to look for a new document to sign in 7-10 business days. Still need to determine how to allocate funds (Construction and Design vs. Construction Only)

VIII. New Business / Action Items

a. Resolution 2023-11, Resolution to Set Mill Levies (L. Berenato)

Agenda amended to read Resolution 2024-01, instead of Resolution 2023-11

C. Frey motions to adopt Resolution 2024-01. R. McDonald seconds the motion. B. Monseu calls for discussion, as he has questions regarding how the Mill Levies were calculated. B. Monseu read the 3rd study that the emergency service district put out. Suggestion from last study was for the County to combine resources. Unincorporated parts of county are not required to participate currently. Concern is municipalities will pay more in dues than the unincorporated sections (50%) of the County, which should be the opposite. It is not certain that the county will allow this to come to vote. The national average for Emergency Services is $30-$40 dollars/person. Residents in this municipality paid $13,000 (total) last year and there are only 198 citizens. L. Berenato details how the calculations for the Mill Levies were calculated. He used the budget to determine the total revenue needed and set Mills using form DLG 70 (attached to Resolution 2024-01). It is suggested that the Town needs to investigate alternative avenues for providing a fire district. The Fire Authority may not be the best solution. A frequent problem in government is to just pour money into the problem and not find an actual solution. Silver Plume has more Mill Levies than any other municipality in the County. This is not attractive to prospective residents, as it is extremely expensive to live here. Basic thing that the 3rd study said is the Fire Department needs money or will go under. It makes sense for GT and IS to go all in with their dues, as they will have stations that will immediately respond. In Silver Plume there will always be a delay in response. After discussion during the last board meeting, it is concerning to some BOT members to potentially raise Mill Levies and Water and Sewer rates in the same year. Lee asks what the rate is for nonincorporated municipalities. C. Frey states this needs to be asked to the Fire Authority. It is determined by an IGA, and a vote (on the county level) is supposed to take place later in the year to determine their rate. M. Gitlin shared he was fire chief and animal control during nineties, and a victims advocate for 20 years. He asks if when B. Monseu refers to the County, is he referring to the County Commissioners? Bryon states yes, he means the Commissioners, but is unsure if they will be the outgoing or incoming commissioners. Given what happened to dispatch, M. Gitlin would be genuinely concerned about leaving the fate of this county vote to the Commissioners. Bryon sums up his intentions of having discussion because he wants to be able to discuss Mill Levys with his neighbors from an informed perspective. The Board clarifies for B. Monseu that Silver Plume

pays the bare minimum in Fire Authority dues and has paid the bare minimum for years. The Emergency Services Mill Levy is not changing in Resolution 2024-01. This Mill Levy has been set at 4.569 Mills for many years. The conversation regarding increasing the Mill Levy is for the year 2025 and is to be voted on during the Spring 2024 election. Paying CCFA dues is only part of the plan, to make our contributions is only scraping the surface in funding for the Fire Authority. There have been a handful of structure fires in Silver Plume over the years which were saved by the Fire Authority. The Town of Silver Plume, however, does own the Silver Plume Fire House and there is an agreement for the Fire Authority to use it as. C. Frey suggests B. Monseu reach out to the CCFA to discuss the rise in taxes in April. It is stated that Silver Plume has the highest Mill Levies because there are not as many businesses bringing in Sales Taxes. The board members agree they need to be prepared to justify and explain to residents what we are requesting. Some feel the 9 Mills will be a tough sell. People are more conscientious of what they are expending, and it will feel like a triple whammy when TOSP raises property tax, water and sewer rates, and the County raises taxes as well. Another benefit of the CCFA is that Silver Plume does not pay a dispatch fee, whereas every other municipality does pay a dispatch fee. Moving the conversation back to where the values within the Resolution to Set Mill Levies came from, L. Berenato states the General obligation bonds are Water Plant Bonds, and the Town is authorized to do that. The County Assessor provides numbers for the assessed value and rate of growth. All numbers come from the attached worksheet, DLG 70. The CCFA comes from the budget. To develop the Annual Budget the Town determines total Expected Revenue and Expenditures, then uses a formula, (30% Sewer 20% Water 50% General) to pay from the water/sewer/general operating budget. Next meeting B. Monseu would like to do a breakdown of the Budget and review Mill Levy values for 2025. L. Berenato states the Board has already determined the language that will appear in the Ballot, and that there are not any special work sessions or meetings prior to the election. C. Frey offers any information B. Monseu would like to see from the CCFA. B. Monseu states he will talk to CCFA and County Manager. Discussion concluded, the motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 passes with all in favor.

b. Clear Creek Count Multi-Agency Coordination Group (C. Frey)

749pm. The Town received an email from the Clear Creek County Multi-Agency Coordination Group, requesting a representative on Silver Plume's behalf. B. Monseu has a good working relationship offered to liaison on the Town's Behalf.

IX. Updates:

a. Road and Bridge Committee

Georgetown needs a new truck and is curious about the white Ford pickup truck. C. Frey recommends giving it to Georgetown as they helped with summer maintenance. M. Gitlin also recommends this and would like to expediate the process to get it to them ASAP. Kathy states the Board has already voted on selling the truck, so this is just deciding on how. No vote needs to be taken, as one has already occurred. The clerk will connect with Municipal Attorney and CIRSA (insurance) to get the logistics sorted out.

b. Budget Committee

No update

c. Personnel Management Committee

Everyone has been paid finally, although there were significant hurdles getting there.

d. Cemetery Committee

Wreaths were placed, although a bit late for Wreaths Across America. The gate has been vandalized. Mickey installed it and it has now been removed from posts. Need to plan a monument resurrection project, will need approval from families, but work needs to be done. Legally the cemetery should be open for limited hours, and currently the gate does not close. Would like to preserve as we can. CCFA spent a month over the summer cleaning dead/downed trees up and plans to spend more time this summer.

e. Mountain Park Committee

Two letters of intent have been received to be on SPMP committee for Citizens at large. M. Gitlin suggest this be an action item on the next agenda. M. Gitlin to replace F. Young as Board Member, and then they will choose from letters of interest to appoint citizens at large. Camera and solar panels have arrived. Will need to post in locations only a few folks know about. A new lock and chain are needed. M. Gitlin has asked mine restoration for danger signs to post as well.

X. Adjournment

C. Frey moves for adjournment. M. Gitlin seconds, all in favor.