

SCOFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

April 14, 2025

7:00 PM

Call to Order: 7:00 pm by Mayor Levanger

Roll Call: Meliss Holloway, Brad Peacock, Jim Levanger, Ralph Brinkerhoff, Liberty Smith-absent.

Moment of Reflection:

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Levanger

Minutes Review: Minutes from 3-10-25 Town Council were provided. Brad Peacock motioned to approve with Meliss Holloway as second, all agreed.

Minutes from 4-7-25 Council Meeting Special Meeting were provided. Brad Peacock motioned to approve with Ralph Brinkerhoff as second, all agreed.

Financial and Adjustments Reports: The mayor read the financial report for all accounts approved by Town Treasurer as of March 31, 2025. There was 1 adjustment to declare this month in the utility account due to a postal delay.

Bills to Pay: the bills from 3-11-25 to 4-14-25 were provided for inspection. There were no questions. Brad Peacock motioned to pay the bills with Meliss Holloway as second, all agreed.

Public Comment Period: The mayor announced that meetings have been taking a long time recently so the council would not be taking any comments on agenda items after the public comment period in order for the council to carry on business without disruptions.

Brad Peacock shared a comment from a phone call with Steven Biggs from 210 Short St. Mr. Biggs suggests that the town hire a consultant concerning what our costs might be due to possible improvement of infrastructure due if the mine comes in.

Scott Holman, 320 Church- We need to continue working as a team with the outlying areas. He and Jerry will continue to work on the community contact list for area. Have people contact them or the town to be added to the list. It is hard to get people to join the list because people don't want to give that information out. Because we are a small town he thinks water leaks that are reported on a property could cost property owners a lot so those should be looked at by the council and voted on and worked out.

Harv Helsten, 435 N Meridian St. – Thinks that town should go to the mine and get money for the town and play hardball. Said our sewer system is overloaded so to charge them \$250 a load for removing sewer. Don't give them any water.

Starr Helsten Dowding, 235 Meridian St. – Thanks everyone for their contributions on Saturday. It was the first time she has seen the people work together and hopes to see more of it. Doesn't think we roll over and die with the mine issue, we fight to the end, she will do anything she can to do that with anybody. Scofield will need to provide a permit for the mine and we should fight them tooth and nail or we will be rolled over. She is ready to fight.

Town Updates- Getting bids on the Town Hall ADA ramp and the repair on the top of the jail to repair the damage to protect the building. If anyone knows of construction companies that could bid the work let the town know.

Lorraine Behling shared information from a conversation she had with Amanda Daniels from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) just before the meeting. She requested a digital copy of mine area map that was at the Price meeting and a map showing how much of the mining operation is on Town property. She offers her best estimate of how much is the town but that will need to be checked for accuracy. Amanda sent them this afternoon and there are copies here to be viewed that are at least a little bigger than Greg Hunt has provided. Amanda said Coal Energy started the permitting process in December and they have a year plus to get it all taken care of, there are circumstances that can push the time out. She anticipates that the decision from DOGM would be late summer or early fall at the earliest. The permit is kind of like an umbrella permit in that it includes documentation and information from other agencies that Coal Energy will have to provide in the application for approval or denial. She said since it has been over 3 years since the last permitting attempt everything will have to be redone this time. Before they do anything else DOGM will be talking to key people in town to help make the decision. Ms. Behling mentioned to Amanda that there are things that the town thinks they have been left out of or told incorrectly and Amanda said they are aware of that. Lorraine invited them to come meet with the town if they would like. She asked what could or should be done now in this process? Amanda said that contacting

Carbon County for a conditional use, UDOT Region 4 for a highway access, and The Division of Water Quality for a UPDES and asking them to let us know if they receive any permit applications from Coal Energy Group from the mine and ask how to submit comments on the permitting.

Scott Holman stated that Commissioner Larry Jensen and Mark Larsen from UDOT told him that so far nothing has been submitted.

New Business

Paul Giacometto, 3-phase power discussion: The mayor said the town received a bid from Rocky Mountain to put in 3-phase power for our sewer wet well. To help make a council decision Mr. Giacometto has been invited to give an overview. Mr. Giacometto said that one of the big things is the life or longevity of the sewer pumps and 3-phase power provides constant power so you don't get dips in power. In the summer power needs are higher and 2 older circuits feed the entire town. There is a high demand of power to start up and puts wear and tear on the sewer pumps. Mr. Brinkerhoff asked how much longer a 3-phase pump would last than a single phase, Mr. Giacometto said probably twice as long. You don't want a soft start to the pump because you want the power immediately so the pump start grinding right away to avoid clogs. The faster start of the 3-phase helps with that rather than the slower single phase start. Maintenance is simpler for a 3-phase especially with the controller. A single phase pump could be wired in in an emergency. 3-phase pumps are slightly more than single phase but the capacitors and relays that are needed with a single phase pump make it more expensive than 3-phase. It is getting very hard to get the parts for the single phase pump. Won't get power dips and he thinks in the long run it will save the town money even with the high initial cost. Longevity will be good. It would increase capabilities in the town shop. Discussed what would be needed for a control panel for 3-phase and the work that would need to be done. Bottom line is that it would be less expensive to operate, pumps would last longer, and repairs are easier.

Part-time liquid waste hauler: Our current hauler is planning on knee replacements so we need someone to help with the hauling. The position has been posted and advertised in ETV. If anyone knows of anyone with a CDL with tanker endorsement, please let them know about the opening.

Old Business: Council Discussion and possible decision on 3-phase power from Rocky Mountain Power: Melissa Holloway, thinks it sounds like a better deal and it sounds like single phase is an expense we don't need to keep fighting. Brad Peacock, has dealt with this in his career. He has found that the pay-off is quite quick. With prices going up he thinks it would be wise to make the transfer to 3-phase now to save on the cost of operation, pumps, etc. and there is no time like the present to move forward. Ralph Brinkerhoff, is 100% in favor of 3-phase and thinks single phase is for homes not commercial properties. Jim Levanger, the money for the switch would come from the utility account and he thinks we would get a return on it. It might take a while since we are not as big as some communities but it would solve a lot of our current problems of replacing capacitors, potential relays, contacts that can be expensive and hard to find the right ones for our system. The bid is to get the 3-phase across the street to the building is \$35,853.24 and includes a small discount. Ralph Brinkerhoff moved to approve the cost of getting 3-phase power with Brad Peacock as second, all agreed with no dissenting votes.

Street Signs- We can get new street signs for a reasonable cost for all new street signs. We need to let them know exactly what we would like and how many to get a quote for the signs. We have a town employee that has said he can put them in. Council discussed whether they should have a little art on them with the street name as well as the color. It was decided probably green and white but decide for sure later and to get a quote for both with and without artwork.

Brad Peacock, Park improvements- Brad would like to develop the south hill of the park so we can add vendors on the area to make more money. Add a road with spurs as well as grass and sprinklers. He would like to use some of the funds in the PVD account to make the improvement. Brad would like to do a walk through with the council and towns people to discuss it then he will get some bids for the work.

Motion to Adjourn: Ralph Brinkerhoff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 with Melissa Holloway as second, all agreed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Town Clerk

__Lorraine Behling