

Independent Ethics Commission  
1300 Broadway, Suite 240  
Denver CO 80203  
Phone: (720) 625-5697

Attn:

**Dino Ioannides**, *Executive Director*

Re: Ethics Complaint against Town Trustee Steve Ricotta

To Whom It May Concern:

To the best of my Knowledge, information and belief, any statements set out in response to this complaint are true.

The complaint case # 17-31 against me, Steve Ricotta, was received by the Independent Ethics Commission on 21 July 2017. This statement is extremely important as pertinent information that was available prior to this date was omitted from this complaint.

The Brotherhood of the 74 acquired 3 parcels on block 5 of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. addition to Williamsburg. Two of the parcels were purchased in May of 2015, and the third was obtained at public auction as it was claimed by Fremont County in 1985 as taxes were not paid on this parcel. This is why we, The Brotherhood of the 74 thought it would be best to have just one big parcel, so there would be no issue of forgetting to pay taxes on one and lose it.

We built a small metal building on one parcel which consisted of two lots. We obtained permits and insured that we followed all setbacks. It was our understanding that if we owned the property that there was no law against building on a lot line if we owned both lots.

I spoke with several board members about making the property one parcel, and what was necessary to vacate lot lines. It was my understanding that if this didn't affect anyone else's property, there should be no problem just to vacate the lot lines. All of this was prior to my running for the Board of Trustees. I was elected in November 2016.

Mrs. Ricotta, who is my wife, has been the Town Clerk for about four years, worked for the town for about nine years and always has tried to do things properly and above board, informed me that I needed to put my request in writing, to memorialize the request before it could be filed with the county. In going to the county, she found that she had filed this action prematurely, and that this should all be done in a public meeting as we were informed that the 10' strip going through the property was an alley way and not just an easement. Mrs. Ricotta also informed me that there was another property owner that was requesting that her alley way on Block 4 of the same filing. It was our understanding that an alley way could be vacated with Board approval.

At the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting I was sworn into office, and during the meeting the issue of the alley way for both blocks 4 and 5 was presented to the Board and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Ricotta stated that she had made the filing prematurely. She apologized for "putting the cart before the horse", and that she was unaware that this action needed to be in a public meeting, or approved by Ordinance.

At the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting, Mr. Harrison said that he just happened to be at the county and came across the filings, stated that it appeared to be under handed. He stated that the Attorney General wanted him to ask some questions.

At the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting, Eva Mares asked for a workshop to discuss the budget and audit, Jerry Farringer, (Mayor), asked if she would set that up. Sometime in February it was brought to our attention that we had vacated the alley ways improperly and it would require an Ordinance. The Ordinance was written and sent through the town attorney for approval. The first reading of the Ordinance to vacate the alley ways on both blocks was done during the March 2017 meeting. The second reading was done during the April 2017 meeting, and vote was taken and the Ordinance passed.

There may have been improper procedure as neither Mrs. Ricotta, myself, nor any Board member were experienced, or familiar with the process to vacate an alley way or that there was a statute in the Colorado Revised Statutes for the same. There was never any intent of malice, ulterior motive, or anything unethical about this situation and certainly no attempt to embezzle anything. The fact is that Mr. Harrison and his co-complainants did not provide you with all of the information.

With respect to the board going into Executive Session, this has been done in the same manner for the past 10 years that I know of, including when Mr. Harrison was on the Board. The Mayor announces that The Board will retire to Executive Session for either legal or personnel matters. This has not been an issue until this Board was sworn in.

I will now address the remainder of Mr. Harrison's allegations. As for his exhibit #5, this is simply a clerical error; Mrs. Ricotta was working with both of the vacations requests and in haste put the Brotherhood of the 74 where Donna Duncan's name should have been. Mrs. Ricotta did not benefit from any of the alley way vacations. The only affiliation that she has with the Brotherhood of the 74 is that she is my wife, she is not a member.

In respect to Resolution 4 of 2016, It is resolved that all employees of the town be retained to include building inspector, town attorney and judge, contracts with the insurance company and water billing software, etc. This resolution was not just for Mrs. Ricotta because she is town clerk and my wife, but for all listed in order to maintain ordinary daily business in the Town of Williamsburg.

With respect to my voting yes on the question, should the employees of the town receive an annual bonus. This was for all the employees. It was discussed in Executive Session, and put forth that the bonus was budgeted for and the intent of the prior Board. My vote was not a deciding factor with the Ordinance, Resolution 4, or the Employee Bonus. I believe that the employees of The Town of Williamsburg have well-earned this for all of their hard work, and all that they are put through by some residents. I would have voted the same way even if someone other than Mrs. Ricotta were town clerk.

In respect to monies being spent, there is a budget in place for bills to be paid, and it is the Town Clerk's responsibility to ensure that they are paid on time. The check register and banking statements are available to the public. They just have to make an appointment with the town treasurer who will be happy to go through the records with them, and answer any of their questions.

Hr. Harrison has also contacted Marianne Goodland of the Colorado Politics Magazine affiliated with the Colorado Springs Gazette and provided her with these allegations and erroneous information that has been published in said magazine online.

In my belief that Mr. Harrison and his co-complainants have deliberately mislead the Independent Ethics Commission, did not provide all information purposely in an attempt to defame my character to the town and public in an attempt to incite the people to question my integrity, my ethics, my morals, and my ability to serve The Town of Williamsburg and the people who live there.

I appreciate the Independent Ethics Commission and trust that they will be diligent in their findings.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven R. Ricotta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Steven R. Ricotta, Trustee  
Town of Williamsburg  
1 John St.  
Williamsburg, CO 81226  
719-784-4511  
[sricotta.trustee@gmail.com](mailto:sricotta.trustee@gmail.com)

Attachments:

Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes;  
December 2016  
January 2017  
February 2017  
March 2017  
April 2017

Request for Lot Line Vacation  
Resolution 4 of 2016  
Ordinance 2 of 2017  
Article; Colorado Politics

Town of Williamsburg, Co.  
Board of Trustee Meeting of December 5, 2016

**PRESENT:**

Joshua Baker, Mayor  
Billy Jack Hawkins, Pro Tem Mayor  
Forrest Borre, Town Trustee  
Alberta Winslow, Town Trustee  
Nia Stewart, Town Trustee  
Jerry Farringer, Town Trustee

**ABSENT:**

Donna Krautheim, Town Trustee

Citizens at meeting – 15

Budget Workshop held prior to Board of Trustee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Joshua Baker, Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE ALLIGANCE:** Joshua led the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LAST MEETING MINUTES:** Nia made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 11/07/2016 as presented. Billy Jack seconded the motion. Roll Call: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 1 absent. Motion Carried.

Jerry made a motion to take a ten minute break before the swearing in of the newly elected board. Nia seconded the motion. Roll Call: 5 yes, 1 no (Joshua) 0 abstain and 1 absent. Motion Carried.

Newly elected board members took their assigned seating positions (at meeting table) for the swearing in of oath of office. Lucinda read the town results from the November 8, 2016 election. She then proceeded with the swearing in of oath of office for Jerry Farringer, Mayor at a 2 year term from December 2016 thru November 2018. Then the swearing in of oath of office of Williamsburg town trustees; Shane Espinoza, Bob Busetti and Forrest Borre a 4 year term; Billy Jack Hawkins, Eva Mares and Steve Ricotta a 2 year term.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** No one signed up.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Jerry made a motion to retire into executive session. Forrest seconded the motion. Forrest asked the board permission to allow Alberta to attend executive session due to her assisting him with the job interviews. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Board and Alberta retired into executive session at 7:20 p.m., returned at 7:49 p.m. Meeting resumed. Discussed their recommendation of who to hire as Code Enforcement and Deputy Clerk. .

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Jerry thanked the community for electing him as town mayor.

He stated that his priority as mayor is to improve the condition of the town's paved roads; also research funding for a town Marshal (share between the three coal towns) and purchase of town equipment.

Jerry read a list of rules for public meeting process.

Jerry made a motion to have Billy Jack Hawkins continue as Pro-Tem Mayor. Forrest seconded the motion. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

Jerry made a motion to have Forrest Borre continue as Treasure. Seconded by Shane Espinoza. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

Assigned positions:

Check Signing: Forrest, Jerry and Billy Jack.

Personnel: Forrest and Bob.

Water: Eva and Jerry (Bob Bussetti alternative)

Parks: Steve Ricotta.

(Please see attached Mayor' Report)-

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ROAD & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Billy Jack read Rick's report for month of November. (Please see attached report)

**PARKS:** Steve reported the town has 3 parks. Park signs should be delivered soon; they were delayed due to the order being misplaced by the Signage Company.

Billy Jack brought up some unfinished business by asking if Rick ever received his uniforms yet. It was reported that he has not received them yet however, Lucinda is getting them ordered.

**TREASURE:** Forrest stated that the town is seeing minimal to no water loss. Looking at a possible decrease next month in water billing from \$3.98 1000 gallons to \$3.47 a 1000 gallons Billy Jack stated that Florence's is not making enough money on water since prison went to water saving measures and Florence may increase their rate in April. Forrest made a motion to lower town water cost. Billy Jack seconded the motion. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 absent and 0 abstain. Motion carried:

Forrest made a motion to remove Alberta Winslow and Nia Stewart from check signing. Asked Forrest to defer his motion and bring up again under New Business.

Forrest started reading some account totals then stated they were wrong that he was reading some of the numbers of October's report. Please see Novembers attached report.

Eva asked if the town sold any water taps in November. Lucinda stated that 1 was sold however Florence has not been paid yet due to waiting for the check to clear.

**TOWN CLERK:** Lucinda reported that no building permits were issued in November. Reported she's working on the finalization of the budget; Mill Levy certification due by December 15, 2016, Hutf Report completed, Conservation Trust Recertification annual submittal. Inquiry of 3 water taps.

Lucinda is going to contact Florence to see if they could assist Rick with road maintenance by use of water truck and road grader. Florence plans to revisit the water system cost due to the federal prison not carrying their weight with water cost. Florence is offering a water tap discount and Lucinda will ask if it includes their debt retirement. Discussed the need on updating our water software; the old system is becoming obsolete she will e-mail board members with the information.

Eva recommended that the town give 1000 to 2000 gallons of water to customers at no cost. Lucinda commented that the town still has to pay for treatment and transport cost for the water and that there's no such thing as free water.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. RESOLUTION 3 OF 2016 – BUDGET APPROVAL**

Jerry read the important parts of the budget; stated that before the budget goes out the figures will be double checked and needs to be completed next week. Jerry made a motion to accept the 2017 budget. Seconded by Forrest. Roll call 5 yes, 2 no (Shane & Eva) Eva gave reason that she did not have a chance to look at it. 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

**2. RESOLUTION 4 OF 2016 – RETENTION**

Jerry read the retention list of town employee's and their positions also the 3 board of trustees that are check signers: Jerry Farringer, Forrest Borre & Billy Jack Hawkins. Motion was made by Jerry to approve the Resolution 4 of 2016 Retention. Seconded by Billy Jack. Roll Call: 5 yes, 2 no (Shane & Eva) 0 abstain and 0 absent. Eva did state that the date on resolution needed changed. Motion carried.

**3. RESOLUTION 5 OF 2016 – MILL LEVY**

Mill Levy will remain the same at 3.49 %. Results from the November 8, 2016 election for a Mill Levy increase did not pass. Motion made by Jerry to approve the Mill Levy Resolution 5 of 2016. Seconded by Forrest. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

**4. FREMONT COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT**

Forrest commented that he would like to add an addition to the Humane Society contract stating that if did not provide the town of Williamsburg with monthly information on number of animal they picked up/brought in by citizens or code enforcement the town can withhold 1 month of pay. Forrest made the motion to accept the contract of \$645.00 a year with the addition and to allow Forrest & Billy Jack to negotiate with Humane Society Director Doug Rae. Billy Jack seconded the motion. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

**5. PERSONNEL ANNUAL BONUSES**

Forrest made a motion to give personnel an annual bonus of \$400.00. Seconded by Bob. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

Billy Jack asked if there was any information about the bike rack. Lucinda stated that she has not heard any response back from the Florence High School yet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. APPOINTING OF PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**



Lucinda stated the citizens that signed an interest in planning in zoning committee was Joe Purvis, Perry Souza, Ron Mares, David Lee, Billy Jack Hawkins, Bob Busettti and Shane Espinoza. Board asked for Billy Jack to set up the meeting date. Jerry made the motion to accept the above list of citizens. Seconded by Steve Ricotta. Discussion Bob Bussetti withdrew from the committee due to having 3 board members and would be breach of the Sunshine law. List accepted minus Bob. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

## **2. HIRING OF DEPUTY CLERK & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Forrest stated that he and Alberta held job interviews. Forrest recommendation was to hire Donnita Hawkins a Deputy Clerk in January 2017 if she agrees to accept the position. Seconded by Steve Ricotta. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

Forrest recommendation is to hire John Purvis for Code Enforcement Officer. Seconded by Billy Jack. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Forest asked John if he is willing to accept the position. He stated yes. Jerry stated his position will be effectively immediately.

## **3. VACATE ALLEYWAY**

A Written submission by Donna Duncan to vacate alleyway of block 4 on Pikeview and The Brotherhood of the 74 request the same for block 5. A motion was made by Billy Jack to vacate the 10 foot alleyway easement between east and west lots. Seconded by Forrest. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

## **4. OFFICE WINDOW**

Discussion held on putting in a window on the half door in the office for employee safety. Jerry made a motion to approve 1200.00 to install the window. Billy Jack seconded the motion. Discussion held. Forrest suggested a one way door lock. Shane Espinoza stated a need of 3 estimates for that installation. Forrest suggested giving it some more thought before we place window in the door. Jerry revoked his motion and Billy Jack revoked his second.

Forrest made a motion to remove Alberta Winslow and Nia Stewart from the checking account and signers on the account. Seconded by Jerry. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

1. Ron Mares – Recommended when requesting anything regarding vacating property it needs to go through the Planning and Zoning Committee. Comment was made there was no committee at the time however, they would only make recommendation and the board makes the decision.
2. Eva Mares – Commented on the Mayors duties she asked why Jerry did not appoint Shane for roads. Jerry stated the only positions voted on is Pro Tem Mayor and Treasure all other positions were appointed.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00p.m.**

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Billy Jack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jerry. All in favor Aye. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donnita Hawkins

Respectfully Submitted by, Lucinda Ricotta.

Town of Williamsburg, Co.  
Board of Trustee Meeting of January 9, 2017

**PRESENT:**

Jerry Farringer, Mayor  
Billy Jack Hawkins, Pro Tem Mayor  
Forrest Borre, Town Trustee  
Shane Espinoza, Town Trustee  
Bob Busetti, Town Trustee  
Steve Ricotta, Town Trustee  
Eva Mare, Town Trustee

**ABSENT:**

Citizens at meeting – 10

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Jerry Farringer, Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE ALLIGANCE:** Jerry led the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LAST MEETING MINUTES:** Jerry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2016 as written, but to include as an attachment Eva Mares submittal to December minutes. Motion seconded by Forrest Borre. Roll Call: 6 yes, 1 no (Steve), 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Please see attachment (at town hall) by request.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** No written request was submitted prior to deadline of Thursday, January 5 at 12:00 p.m. The town office did receive an email from Steve Harrison wanting to make a citizens comment, however it was received after the deadline on Thursday, January 5 at 12:26 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Jerry made a motion to retire into executive session. Billy Jack seconded the motion. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Board retired into executive session at 7:04 p.m. Following executive session the meeting was called back to order at 7:21 p.m. Jerry stated that some legal issues were discussed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Please see attached report. Report is available to citizens (at the town hall) by request.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ROAD & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Billy Jack read Rick's report for month of December. Rick's report stated that he's been working for the town of Williamsburg for 5 years now. Please see attached report, available at town hall by request.

**PARKS:** Steve stated that Angelina Park is nothing but prairie land and that he would like to work on getting grants to make walkways and add picnic tables. Jerry recommended starting with looking into a GOCO grant.

Eva asked the board a few questions on the number of water taps in the ground and stated that if you times that number (of taps) by \$55.00 the monthly deposits should be approximately \$15,000 a month and she feels the towns monthly deposits are running short. Lucinda asked if she's taking in the consideration of monthly arears that occur each month.

**PLANNING & ZONING:** A meeting was held on 1/09/2017. John Purvis was selected as Committee, Chairman. John Purvis introduced himself, than reported that the committee's goal for 2017 is to set up a mission statement and prioritize issues on safety and town drainage.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** John Purvis stated that he's the new Code Enforcement Officer. In December he worked on orientation and picked up some trash in the park. He stated that he looks forward to working for the town in 2017.

**TREASURE:** Forrest reported on December's financial. Please see attached report. Lucinda stated that the financials and expenditures are also found on the town web page.

**TOWN CLERK:** Lucinda stated that all the required year end reports are done and certified. Lucinda brought up about the need to purchase new water read equipment. She stated that the old system is no longer providing support service and the battery continues to die out on the hand held wand. She will be getting more information on new equipment from Dana Kempter and will forward that information to the board as it comes in. Jerry stated that he is inviting Dana Kempter to the next meeting to explain the use and cost of a new system. Lucinda stated she contacted Coal Creek on their water read equipment they use; she stated they use "Norton" system. Jerry stated that maybe Lucinda can go to Coal Creek for an hour or two and see how their program works.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **OFFICE WINDOW:** Town is still accepting bids until January 31, 2017 for office window.

**2. PRINTED DRAFT OF CODE REVISIONS:** The Copy Shop of Canon City will print up 1 updated code book (with revisions) and a thumb drive will be available for citizens to review during town office hours.

Billy Jack asked if Rick has received his uniforms yet. Jerry stated that he has and that Rick's been wearing them.

Steve Ricotta read a thank you note from the Williamsburg Women's Club thanking the town for use of their building and the Brotherhood of the 74 for their help with playing Santa Claus for Williamsburg community's children. 46 children were in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. No New Business discussed.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Steve Harrison approached the podium, introduced himself. He stated that he was going through county records and ran into information concerning the vacation of alleyway. He then went on saying that he contacted the town (by phone) on Tuesday and requested to be on the January 9, 2017 Agenda under citizen's comments. He felt it was unfair that he was not put on the Agenda. He stated that Mr. Farringer told him if he had any concerns to bring them to the office by 12:00 noon day of the meeting. Jerry stated that was for concerns and not for a presentation.

He stated he had a couple of questions the Attorney General asked him to ask the board of trustees on the vacating of alleyway. He asked Jerry if he authorized the recorded document. Jerry stated it was a transmittal letter and he did what he was directed by the county to do. Steve felt the way it was submitted looked to be done underhanded and felt the town misrepresented it and was not done openly. He stated that I "understand that Lucinda used a town check" for the recording fees. Jerry suggested that he contact the Attorney General and Steve stated we'll see how it works out.

Ron Mares made a comment that he did not like the town paying for the cost of dirt to fill in pot holes that they need filled in correctly with hot patch. Discussion held about the need to measure them and square them off. Ron stated he would help volunteer to fill them in and Billy Jack also stated that he would help.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00p.m.**

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Billy Jack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jerry. All in favor Aye. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donnita Hawkins

Respectfully Submitted by, Lucinda Ricotta.

Town of Williamsburg, Co.

Board of Trustee Meeting of February 6, 2017

PRESENT:

Jerry Farringer, Mayor

Billy Jack Hawkins, Pro Tem Mayor

Forrest Borre, Town Trustee

Shane Espinoza, Town Trustee

Bob Buseti, Town Trustee

Steve Ricotta, Town Trustee

Eva Mare, Town Trustee

ABSENT:

Citizens at meeting – 12

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Jerry Farringer, Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE ALLIGANCE: Jerry led the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

LAST MEETING MINUTES: Steve made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 9, 2017 as written. Seconded by Forrest. Roll Call: 5 yes, 2 no (Eva & Shane), 0 abstain and 0 absent. Eva gave her reason why she did not approve the minutes, she stated "that they were incomplete" due to Steve Harrison's questions he asked the board (under citizens comments) were not included in the minutes. Jerry reminded Eva that minutes are based on summary and not per verbatim. Jerry also stated that she had her minutes for over a week and that if she wanted corrections or additions they needed to be made prior to the meeting. Shane did not give his reason for not approving the minutes. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: No written request was submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Jerry made a motion to retire into executive session. Seconded by Bob. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Board retired into executive session at 7:04 p.m. Board returned from executive session at 7:27, Jerry stated that they discussed legal & personnel issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Jerry submitted his (typed) report for February. Jerry stated that Forrest recommended having an open house on the last Wednesday of each month to give citizens the opportunity to talk to Mayor and board members. First open house is scheduled for

February 22, 2017 from 10:30 am. – 11:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available at no cost to the town. Please see attached report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ROAD & MAINTENANCE REPORT: Billy Jack read Rick's monthly report for January. Reported that Rick has 1 water tap to install, town park vandalism is down and that he's hearing that citizens on Rockrimmon area are having problems with theft. Please see attached report.

PARKS: Steve reported that he's looking into Angelina Park and found some encroachment issues by neighbors. He stated he's looking into what property is actually owned by the town.

Steve stated that he would like to see both of the town parks connected by putting in a walking trail. When he gets all the needed information Steve plans to apply for a GOCO Grant

WATER: Jerry reported that the next Regional Water meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ZONING: John reported on items discussed at the meeting: the need of a water truck so Rick can grade the roads properly; sharing of town equipment (between Rockvale, Coal Creek and Williamsburg) and ways to increase town revenue by the increase of town fees, charging contractors and utility deposits. Please see attached report.



CODE ENFORCEMENT: John reported on the number of tickets and violations he issued in the month of January. He stated that on one of the tickets he attempted 8 times to contact the dog owner and never could get a hold of them, so Lucinda sent them a letter. Please see report.

TREASURE: Forrest reported on January's financial. Stated that Tabor account is at 0 and will not be reporting on it anymore. Eva asked about the deposits in water account on why it was more than previous months. Lucinda stated that this deposit includes a water tap sale of \$4200.00 and a water tap application fee of \$25.00.

#### TOWN CLERK:

Lucinda stated the town issued 2 building permits #932 and #933 which totaled \$115.00. Lucinda stated that she put insurance forms of death and dismemberment in trustee's folders to complete and return to her. Bob Pomeroy of CIRSA will be here the end of May or first of June for a town inspection to renew the towns insurance.

An exemption audit will be filed this year since the towns resources was less than \$750,000, also, a complete audit was done last year and the year before. Dana Angel is completing our exemption audit this year, which is like a mini audit.

Tim McElory of Dana Kepner, Company will be here next month to give a presentation on Updating our Meter Reading System. Old system is not being supported and the town handheld meter reader is not working. We now have a handheld reader on loan.

Billy Jack asked Lucinda if she knew the difference between the Norton system and Kepner system. Lucinda stated she may go to Coal Creek and review the Norton system and if she does go it would be around 9:00 a.m. so she doesn't miss much work time.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. OFFICE WINDOW: Town did not receive any bids. Jerry stated that a couple of the board members need to decide on exactly what's needed. Ron Mares recommended putting key locks on both sides.

2. PRINTED DRAFT OF CODE REVISIONS: Jerry stated that he's leaving the Code Book Revisions out for about a month so anyone wanting to review it can. He then plans to take it to the attorney for final review.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. CREDIT CARD SYSTEM: Forrest reported on looking into the credit card system with Bank of San Juan and National Bank Card and reported on their fees and transaction costs. Stated that for credit card processing it has no long term contracts, no set up fees or cancellation fees. Jerry stated he would like to try it for a few months. Forrest recommend for the board to give it some thought. Please see attached report for cost fees.

#### 2. LENGTH OF TIME FOR INFORMATION POSTED ON TOWN WEB PAGE:

Eva suggested leaving on 3 years plus current year. Jerry asked if that was a motion. Eva made a motion to leave 3 years plus current year on web page. Billy Jack seconds the motion. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

3. EVA MARES: Eva asked "who authorized the volunteer to throw away our paperwork" Jerry stated that he and Lucinda did and that the paperwork being thrown away was old with some being as old as 15 years.

Eva stated that when she was campaigning for trustee she went to approximately 100 homes of citizens that had made complaints about the town having vendettas and that they would like to see fair treatment for all.

Eva stated that she would like the board to hold a workshop to discuss the 2017 budget and the 2015 audit. She discussed concerns about the personnel wages, hours and job duties. She stated that when she served on the board before the maintenance man never came in the town office. She reported that she contacted Rockvale and Coal Creek and received information on what their town employees are paid and hours they work. Lucinda also contacted Rockvale and Coal Creek Co and read comparison figures, which shows that both towns' pay out more than Williamsburg. Eva made a motion to hold a workshop. Motion was seconded by Shane. Forrest shared his concern with holding a

workshop with no criteria or specific questions, saying it could take 20 hours. So would like to have that information beforehand. Jerry stated that if any board members want to hold a workshop it takes two board members to agree before one is set up. Therefore Jerry stated a motion is not required and Jerry asked Eva if she would set it up and bring back to next meeting.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Ron Mares asked about the hourly rate of the water operator and why he is paid so much. It was explained that his hourly pay is based on an additional \$700.00 a month for having a water license; which is what the town would pay if it was contracted out.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING:** Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00p.m.

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donnita Hawkins

Respectfully Submitted by, Lucinda Ricotta.

Town of Williamsburg, Co.  
Board of Trustee Meeting of March 6, 2017

**PRESENT:**

Jerry Farringer, Mayor  
Billy Jack Hawkins, Pro Tem Mayor  
Bob Busetti, Town Trustee  
Steve Ricotta, Town Trustee  
Eva Mares, Town Trustee

**ABSENT:**

Forrest Borre, Town Trustee  
Shane Espinoza, Town Trustee

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Jerry Farringer, Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE ALLIGANCE:** Jerry led the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jerry provided the reasons for Forrest and Shane's absence. Jerry recommended both absences be excused; asked the board for further discussion. None made. Both absences excused.

**LAST MEETING MINUTES:** Billy Jack made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2017 as written. Motion seconded by Steve. Roll Call 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain & 2 absent. Motion Carried.

**SPEAKER:** Tim McElory's presentation on a new Meter Read System was canceled due to health issues.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Donna Krautheim** addressed the board with issues concerning Code Enforcement and her complaint form she completed on February 21, 2017. She stated that she had problems with 3 people taking pictures of her property. She stated that her and husband Ron did not give permission to take pictures of her property and she considered it trespassing on private property. Jerry stated they weren't on her property (taking pictures) they were in Rockvale.

Jerry showed Donna an aerial photo of her place (from Google Earth) which shows the condition of her property.

Jerry also told Donna that the town has received several complaints concerning her property

Jerry stated the town code enforcement officer is issuing violation letters on properties that need cleaned up. This is a follow-up from the September's 2016 town's cleanup project; which provided citizens the opportunity to clean-up their properties by providing free dumpsters. Lucinda stated she's mailing out approximately 30 violation letters this month.

**Ron Krautheim's** comment was on the subject of the black death of Europe and bubonic plague in Colorado Springs in 1960 where prairie dogs were killed because of the plague. He suggested that spring and summer is high chance of getting this disease and that the code enforcement officer should look at attending a seminar relating to it. He also stated that in the past a local resident died from the plague.

**Alberta Winslow** started her comment by saying "she was looking forward to starting out the New Year with a new board by thinking they would have a positive attitude and look into moving forward". However stated that Eva Mares has expressed concern regarding current employees hours and budget. Alberta described the way the board in 2007 thru 2010 conducted business regarding town employees hours and budget. Questioning the need to look at employee hour cutbacks, workshops and review current budget. Please see Alberta's attached written comments and records from past board actions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Steve made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Billy Jack. Steve Harrison referenced the Colorado Revised Statue on procedure for executive session stated this is second time he's announced they' re doing it wrong. Roll call: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion Carried.

Board retired into executive session at 7:26 p.m. Board returned from executive session at 7:40. Jerry stated they discussed legal & labor board issues. No decisions made.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Jerry read his written report for February. Thanked Steve Harrison for bringing to the board's attention the need of an ordinance on vacating an alleyway.

Stated February was a quite month.

Reported that he and Billy Jack attended March's mayor round table meeting. Discussion at meeting was the possibility of a water cost increase; not per user but for the town if they use over a certain amount. Please see attached report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ROAD & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Billy Jack read Rick's monthly report for February. No new park vandalism. Next month he plans to spray weeds at the park. Water loss is way down since the new water project and better water pressure. Please see attached report.

**PARKS:** Steve reported that Jerry and himself walked through Angelina Park and found that the town had more land than what was previously thought. Jerry stated the town also has 100 yards of land down by the creek.

**WATER:** Jerry stated that at March's Mayor's round table meeting, Mike Patterson stated that Florence is considering an increase to towns water cost if they use more than 4,000,000 gallons in a month. Next Regional Water meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

**PLANNING & ZONING:** Due to the absence of John Purvis; Billy Jack read John's written report (for February). In the report it stated that Planning & Zoning Committee is working at being more pro-active in establishing commercial building codes, multiple tap fees per parcel and new planning and zonings codes for multifamily dwellings. This would require updates on building codes to 2016 UBC standards. Mentioned the need for new road signs some of the old signs are in bad condition. Please see attached report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Billy Jack read John's report which indicated that most of the problems this month are related to pets and ATV's on the roads. He conducted a town wide survey on 2/21 which produced 47 code violations that require immediate attention with removal of junk cars, trash and debris. Please see attached report.

**TREASURE:** Report was tabled due to Forrest's absence. Lucinda stated that Forrest will give February and March's treasure's report in April.

### **TOWN CLERK:**

Lucinda reported that 1 building permit was issued permit # 934 in the amount of \$146.00 for a Tuff Shed.

Reported the town needs to purchase of new printer/copier. Billy Jack made a motion to buy a new printer/copier. Discussion held to set a cost limit to not exceed \$500.00. Billy Jack amended his motion to buy a printer copier not to exceed \$500.00. Motion seconded by Steve. Roll call 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion Carried.

Lucinda stated that 2 kennel licenses applications were picked up in February; from Perry Souza and Barbara Engle. John visited both locations saw the dogs were in very good condition with food and water so his recommendation for the board is to approve both kennel licenses. Jerry asked if the neighbors were contacted on Central regarding the multiple dogs. They have not been contacted so Barbara Engle's kennel license is tabled.

Perry Souza does not have neighbors so Jerry made a Motion to approve Perry Souza kennel license and Second by Billy Jack. Roll Call: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **OFFICE WINDOW:** Jerry stated that he and Billy Jack went to Rockvale town hall to look at their newly installed security window and locks, he requested that other board members go look at it to see if that's what is wanted for our town hall. Tabled until April's meeting.
2. **CREDIT CARD SYSTEM:** Jerry stated that he's not sure if the credit card system is cost effective. Steve stated that he thinks it maybe more trouble than it's worth.
3. **WORKSHOP AGENDA:** Eva stated that she contacted CML and they're willing to come teach a class for employees on how to treat people when they come into the office. Jerry responded; by telling Eva to set one up and contact other towns to see if they would be interested in the workshop. Steve asked Eva "what are you talking about" I thought the workshop dealt with employee hours, finance and 2017 town budget. Motion was made for Eva to contact CML on a workshop for staff. Roll call: 5 yes, 0 no 0 abstain and 2 absent. Jerry asked for her not to set up workshop prior to April's meeting and get with CML to set up a topic.
4. **ORDINANCE 2 OF 2017 FOR VACATING ALLEYWAY:**  
Eva brought up the need to have ordinances available for review 48 hours prior to being voted on. Lucinda stated that this is only the first read with no vote.

Jerry read and a letter from Dan Slater referencing the vacating of property and clarifying the use of an ordinance. Jerry read Ordinance 2 of 2017. First read.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **LIABILITY & CONFISCATION OF MARIJUANA PLANTS – Ordinance 1 of 2017:**

Jerry read proposed ordinance stated that it is a follow-up from an ordinance that was passed in 2012. First read.

**2. RESOLUTION 1 OF 2017: Amended Street Budget**

Jerry made a motion to accept the amended street budget and motion seconded by Billy Jack. Roll Call: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carried.

**3. RESOLUTION 2 OF 2017: Exemption from Audit from 2016.**

Jerry read the resolution. Lucinda read an e-mail from Dana Angel on his comments. Then Jerry made the motion to approve Resolution 2 of 2017 and motion seconded by Billy Jack. Motion Carried 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent.

**4. FIRST AID KIT/DEFIBRILLATOR:** Lucinda stated she contacted CIRCA to see if it was a good idea or not. Lucinda read their response. Defibrillator cost is between \$800 to \$2000.00. Jerry will look into actual prices.

**5. ORDINANCE 3:**

Eva read Ordinance 3 of 2017. First read. Some revisions are needed to the Ordinance per attorney. This will be addressed again next month.

Donna Krautheim commented to where the town was with the bike rack. Stated she had some metal she'd donate so Rick could make one. She'll deliver the metal to the shop.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Ron Mares. Commented that he has some solid particle in his water and asked what the procedure is to flush lines. Jerry stated they run them until the water comes out clean. Ron invited Jerry to come over to see his complaint.

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donnita Hawkins

Respectfully Submitted by, Lucinda Ricotta.



Town of Williamsburg, Co.  
Board of Trustee Meeting of April 3, 2017

**PRESENT:**

Jerry Farringer, Mayor  
Billy Jack Hawkins, Pro Tem Mayor  
Forrest Borre, Town Trustee  
Shane Espinoza, Town Trustee  
Bob Buseti, Town Trustee  
Steve Ricotta, Town Trustee  
Eva Mares, Town Trustee

**ABSENT:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Jerry Farringer, Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE ALLIGANCE:** Jerry led the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LAST MEETING MINUTES:** Bob made a motion to accept the minutes of March 6, 2017 as written. Eva stated she had a correction to those minutes , stated "on page 4 paragraph 3 " under Workshop Agenda there was no name of who made the motion and who seconded the motion. Motion to approve minutes was seconded by Steve. Roll Call: 3 yes, 2 no (Bob & Eva) Eva stated she was not approving minutes until they were corrected. 2 abstain (Forrest & Shane) and 0 absent. Motion carried to approve the March 6, 2017 minutes.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Sharon Smith:** Sharon thanked the Mayor/ Board of Trustees for the use of the town hall on March 23 for granddaughter's wedding reception. Eva asked Sharon if she paid rent for the town hall use. Sharon responded by saying that she paid a \$100.00 damage deposit and damage deposit was returned back to her.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Jerry made a motion to retire into executive session. Steve seconded the motion. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain & 0 absent. Steve Harrison stated the town is not using correct procedure for retiring into executive session. Jerry responded by saying the procedure is correct and C.R.S. 24-06-402 was referenced on the Agenda. Roll call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried. Retired into executive session at 7:07 p.m. , returned at 7:26 with regular meeting resuming. Jerry stated they discussed a legal issue on

judicial fortification and reviewed John Purvis, Code Enforcement Officer's written resignation. This will be addressed further next month.

Jerry stated that Rick Pint is up for annual review and recommended to increase his wages .53 cents an hour, effective on April 1, 2017. Forrest made the motion to increase Rick's wages .53 an hour. Jerry seconded the motion. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Jerry read his written report for March. Reported that he's changing the meet and greet to every other month with the next one on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Jerry reported that in March two weddings were held at the town hall. Jerry read a Thank You card from the Winslow family for town hall use.

Jerry reported on the formula the state uses on figuring out road tax. He stated that Williamsburg receives .01375% for 11.74 miles. Please see attached report.

Jerry reported that the Regional Water System is planning on holding a treatment plant tour on May 13, 2017, if anyone is interested on attending they need to contact Jerry. Eva stated that Williamsburg Co. has the highest water bill in the state. Jerry said that is due to debt retirement. Eva stated that it's not, "it's due to administrative cost and water loan". Jerry asked Eva to stay on topic, that what she's talking about is not related to the regional water meeting. Please see attached report.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ROAD & MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Billy Jack read Rick's monthly report for March. Please see attached report.

**PARKS:** Steve reported that when he gets things all set up on the parks he'll go after grants. Jerry stated that he should talk to Kris Sullivan as a volunteer to see if she would like to help with the grant writing.

**WATER:** Discussed under Mayor's report.

**PLANNING & ZONING:** John reported that there were no new topics discussed. Please see attached report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** John stated he gave out 9 post cards to citizens that need to renew their dog licenses. Stated he's been busy working with the town on property code violations, which will only improve the town's appearance and increase property value. He stated he looks forward to see how it all turns out. Please see attached report.

**TREASURE:** Forrest read February's finance figures, stated to ignore the dates on the side that he forgot to change them. Reported he's designed a new page with comparison figures on accumulation totals. Forrest plans to provide these each month.

Forrest read March's finance report figures. See attached reports.

**TOWN CLERK:**

Lucinda reported that 2 building permits were issued in March permit # 935 and #936 totaling \$136.00.

Lucinda stated that town has had some technical and web issues with Charter. HUTF report is due and Lucinda will have it completed by the end of April. Received franchise check from Charter.

Lucinda reported that she's received a good response from town citizens that received clean-up violation letters they're responding by cleaning up and requesting extensions.

Lucinda stated that the town has received several complaints about the recyclable bin such as location and trash blowing everywhere. Discussion held on what to do about the recyclable bin. Shane made a motion to eliminate the recycle bin. Seconded by Billy Jack. Roll call: 6 yes, 1 no (Forrest) 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

Lucinda reported that the town has received 10 dump passes and if anyone wants one there available at the town hall.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **OFFICE WINDOW:** Looking at a separate area with a wall and window.
2. **CREDIT CARD SYSTEM:** Jerry made a motion to drop the credit card system. Seconded by Forrest. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.
3. **WORKSHOP AGENDA:** Eva made a motion to cancel a workshop until a later date. Seconded by Jerry. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent.

**4. ORDINANCE 1 OF 2017 – Liability & Confiscation of Marijuana Plants- Second Read.**

Steve made a motion to accept Ordinance 1 of 2017 and seconded by Billy Jack. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carried.

**5. ORDINANCE 2 OF 2017 – Vacating Alleyway – Second Read**

Jerry made a motion to accept Ordinance 2 of 2017 and seconded by Billy Jack. Eva asked what the address would be 3 or 4 Pikeview. Lucinda stated that it is determined by blocks and not addresses, however it did get recorded as 4. Lucinda stated that this is a county issue. Roll Call: 4 yes, 2 no (Eva & Shane) 1 abstain (Steve) and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

**6. ORDINANCE 3 OF 2017 – PAYMENT OF BILLIS AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES – SECOND READ.**

Eva made a motion to table this until May 2017. Seconded by Jerry. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

**7. FIRST AID KIT/DEFIBRILLATOR**

Jerry stated that the town's first aid kit is about 12 years outdated and suggested that the town purchase a new first aid kit as well as an AED defibrillator. Jerry made a motion to purchase these items not to exceed \$1500 dollars. Motion seconded by Forrest. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carried.

Jerry asked Shane if he would look into the cost. Shane was in agreement to look into it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – VARIANCE TO FENCE**

Eva made a motion to give the fence variance. Seconded by Steve. Roll Call: 7 yes, 0 no 0 abstain & 0 absent. Motion Carried.

**2. DONNA KRAUTHEIM – RECOGNITION -**

Donna approached the board and accepted her award plaque.

**3. TOWN HALL USE: EVA**

Eva asked if the citizens using the town hall is paying a rental fee. Lucinda stated that the citizens are giving a \$100.00 deposit fee and is refunded back to them if the town

hall is clean and in good condition. Discussion held that it's ok for the town clerk to accept reservations (from citizens) when they request town hall use.

Billy Jack asked if they are planning a workshop to approve the new water read system. Eva stated why it needs to be upgraded. Jerry stated that right now town is borrowing the gun reader and that the software is not being supported anymore. Discussion was to contact Tim of Dana Kepner on holding a workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> or April 20<sup>th</sup>. This workshop is open to the public, but not open for discussion.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Donna Krautheim** – Donna stated that “I’m putting all the rumors to rest that Ron is not the poster child for Methamphetamine”.

**Ron Mares** stated that he “would like the formula to make water run up hill”.

**Eva Mares** stated that she wanted it on record that she did not feel that the executive session was truly an executive session.

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donnita Hawkins

Respectfully Submitted by, Lucinda Ricotta.

Subject: Lot Line Vacation

From: "Ricotta, Steven R CIV USARMY MEDCOM EACH (US)" <steven.r.ricotta.civ@mail.mil>

To: Town of Williamsburg <clerkwilliamsburg@bresnan.net>

Cc: "bh74rgsec@gmail.com" <bh74rgsec@gmail.com>

Wed, 9 Dec 2015 19:07:09 +0000

9 December 2015

Subject: Lot Line Vacation

To: Town of Williamsburg, Colorado

Attention: Board of Trustees

We request the consideration to vacate lot lines separating lots 4 through 10, block 5 of the CF&I Subdivision of the Town Of Williamsburg, and this single parcel to be known as: 4 Pikeview, Williamsburg, CO 81226. This request is for the purpose of building on the said lots, as I believe that not allowed to build across lot lines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Steven R. Ricotta, AKA  
Smurf / President  
Brotherhood of the 74  
Royal Gorge Chapter  
smurf74.co@gmail.com

• [smime.p7s](#) Downloadable File - 7 KB

Subject: Lot Line Vacation (UNCLASSIFIED)

From: "Ricotta, Steven R CIV USARMY MEDCOM EACH (US)" <steven.r.ricotta.civ@mail.mil>

To: Town of Williamsburg <clerkwilliamsburg@bresnan.net>

Mon, 14 Nov 2016 19:17:18 +0000

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Brotherhood of the 74  
President RG Chapter  
Steve Ricotta (Smurf)

Town of Williamsburg

Attn. Town Clerk  
Lucinda K. Ricotta  
1 John St  
Williamsburg, CO 81226

We, The Brotherhood of the 74 hereby request there a complete lot line vacation Block 5 of the Williamsburg, CF&I Plat, between lots 4 through 10, between lots 11 through 20, to include the Northern line Lots 4-10, and the Southern line lots 11-20, creating 1 parcel addressed as ~~7~~ Pikeview, Williamsburg, CO 81226.

4 SLL

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Regards,

Steven R. Ricotta (Smurf)  
Brotherhood of the 74  
President, RG Chapter  
(719) 371-1111

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

• [smime.p7s](#) Downloadable File - 7 KB

**Town of Williamsburg**  
**1 John St.**  
**Williamsburg, CO 81226**  
**719-784-4511**  
**clerkwilliamsburg@bresnan.net**

**RESOLUTION 4-2016**  
**RESOLUTION OF RETENTION**

In order to continue normal daily business in the Town of Williamsburg, Be it resolved that the following be retained. Any of the following may be changed at any time by the Board of Trustees by proper procedure.

All current Resolutions, Ordinances Codes shall remain in effect unless repealed by the Board of Trustees.

Bank of the San Juans will be the financial institution where funds will be deposited and kept for the General Fund, Water Fund, Street Fund, and Conservation Trust Fund and System Development Fund, Water Grant & Water Loan. Signatures on the Bank of the San Juans Accounts are Jerald Farringer, Forrest Borre, Billy Jack Hawkins. Two signatures are required on all checks.

All current Town Employees shall be retained. Leonard Hudson shall be retained as Building Inspector. Rick Pint shall be retained as Water Systems Operator and Maintenance, Lucinda Ricotta as Town Clerk and Municipal Court Clerk. All hourly pay, hours, holidays and vacation time as well as insurance and clothing allowances that are currently in place to be retained. Office assistant will be Donnita Hawkins January 1 and Code enforcement John Purvis.

Dan Slater shall be retained as the Town Attorney.

Richard Mandel shall be retained as Municipal Court Judge.

Contracts with CIRSA for Insurance and RVS and Sensus for Water Billing Software and Quick Books shall be continued.

The Contract with the Fremont County Humane Society for impounding animals shall continue.

Introduced and passed this 5th day of December, 2016.

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG  
Jerry Farringer, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucinda Ricotta, Town Clerk    SEAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SS



**TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG  
ORDINANCE NO. 2-2017  
SERIES OF 2017**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN ALLEY VACATION AS SET FORTH  
BELOW, FOR THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, the Trustees at the regular town meeting on December 5, 2016, reviewed a request from residents within the Town of Williamsburg, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees heard a motion for an alley vacation of Blocks 4 and 5 in the original platted portion of the Colorado Fuel and Iron CO's addition to Williamsburg, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees recognized that there is no need for a 10 foot utility easement or an alley way that is of no advantage to the Town of Williamsburg or its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees moved that land resulting from the vacated alley be equally divided between affected property owners; and

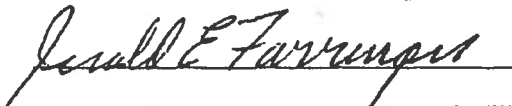
WHEREAS, this motion was voted upon by the Board of Trustees with unanimous vote of approval and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG, COLORADO:

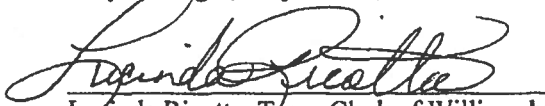
The alley in Blocks 4 and 5 of Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's addition to the Town of Williamsburg, Colorado is hereby vacated, leaving the vacated alley way to be divided among the affected property owners outlined in C.R.S. 43-2-302.

ADOPTED THIS 3rd Day of APRIL, 2017.

ATTEST:



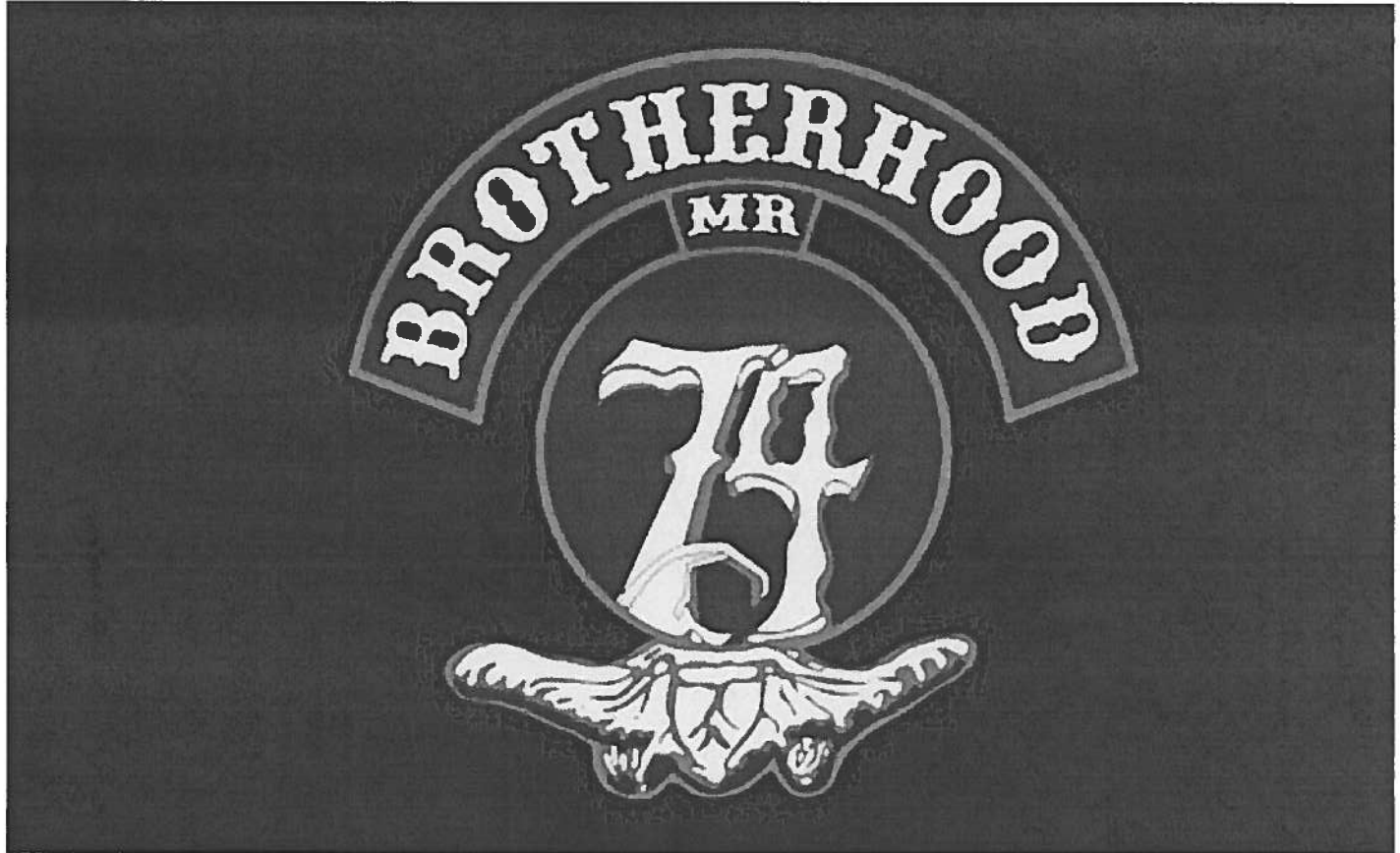
Jerry Farringer, Mayor of the Town of Williamsburg, Colorado



Lucinda Ricotta, Town Clerk of Williamsburg, Colorado

# A motorcycle clubhouse snares small Colorado town's leaders in ethics questions

By Marianne Goodland on September 6, 2017 0



(Logo courtesy of the Brotherhood of the 74)

The motorcycle club Brotherhood of the 74, Royal Gorge chapter, built a simple clubhouse in the small town of Williamsburg, southeast of Canon City in Fremont County.

The clubhouse has no running water or electricity. What it does have is a legal problem. When it was built, the building went over the property line and onto an alleyway, which is considered part of a street and hence public property.

No problem! The club's president, Steve Ricotta, got the town clerk to file documents with the court of Fremont County on last November that "abandoned" the alleyway, so that the building was legal. And he didn't have to look far for help: his wife, Lucinda, is the town clerk.

And that's what's put the town of Williamsburg, population 653, under the radar of the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission, which this week announced ethics complaints have been filed against the town clerk and her husband, who is also a town trustee.

Also listed on the document that abandoned the public right of way to Fremont County in November, Mayor Jerry Farringer. Except he wasn't the mayor; at the time he was a town trustee and mayor-elect. He didn't become mayor until Dec. 5. Joshua Baker was the mayor on Nov. 15.

The actions of Lucinda and Steve Ricotta and Jerry Farringer smack of a coverup, according to current and former town trustees, who filed the ethics complaints in July. The ethics commission voted to launch an investigation into those complaints in their Aug. 28 meeting.

Former town trustee Steve Harrison, who filed both ethics complaints on behalf of himself and six current and former town trustees, brought up the discrepancies to Farringer in a Jan. 9 public meeting. Harrison said he pointed out that state law requires actions pertaining to public property be done by a public ordinance and voted on by the town board. But Farringer replied that the town doesn't have to follow state law, Harrison told Colorado Politics.

The letters that authorized the vacating of the alleyway, filed with the court of Fremont County by Lucinda Ricotta and Farringer, didn't exist prior to Jan. 9, Harrison claimed in the complaints. One letter said the town is merely changing lot lines; another said the town is vacating the alleyway for development by the Brotherhood of the 74. Harrison alleged that Lucinda Ricotta backdated the letters to December 6 and indicated she falsified town meeting minutes to show the town board had authorized the action.

Two days after that Jan. 9 meeting, Lucinda Ricotta and Farringer filed the letters, as well as recording documents that showed the town board had discussed and authorized the transaction at a Dec. 5 meeting. According to Eva Mares, a town trustee who said she also was present at the Dec. 5 meeting, that discussion never happened.

Meeting minutes showed a vote of 7-0 to approve the action, although the minutes also show that only six members of the town board attended the meeting. Mares is not recorded as being present or absent at that meeting.

A letter from Mares disputing the accuracy of those December meeting minutes is now part of the official record, according to the complaint.

The complaints filed against the Ricottas claimed among other things that the transaction smacks of embezzlement, a class 5 felony, since Steve Ricotta, as president of the club, benefitting financially from the town's actions regarding the alleyway. The complaints seek fines and public admonishments for the Ricottas.

According to Harrison, these kinds of shenanigans have been part and parcel of Williamsburg for some time. The town "has suffered from lack of attention and management for years," he said.

An investigation into the embezzlement allegation is underway with the Fremont County Sheriff's office, according to public information officer Sgt. Megan Richards. Should criminal conduct be discovered, that investigation would be routed to the Fremont County district attorney, she said.

And Harrison hinted in his complaint against Lucinda Ricotta that the problems go deeper.

"This is not a petty issue for those of us concerned about how the town's money is being spent," Harrison wrote in the complaint. He claimed that Lucinda Ricotta has refused to issue printed copies of check registers with check numbers or associated bank statements. Town bills are not approved by the town board prior to payment each month, the complaint alleged.

And while the alleyway is now no longer public property, and has part of the Brotherhood's clubhouse on it, the Brotherhood has never taken steps to actually buy the land upon which their clubhouse encroaches, Harrison said.

Lucinda Ricotta told Colorado Politics that the town board had taken the appropriate action regarding vacating the alleyway. The ordinance authorizing the action got its first reading at the February meeting and passed on a 5-2 vote in March.

Regarding the ethics complaints, "this is under investigation," she said. "Our town attorney is dealing with this [but] most of it is false reporting. I have no guidance on what to say, but it's a legal matter being investigated."

Lucinda Ricotta maintained that the board unanimously approved the action in December, before the official ordinance and blamed the errors on "putting the cart before the horse ... whenever there is a problem, I'm the first to bring it to the board's attention," she said. "We learned the hard way it was supposed to be done by ordinance," and she also pointed out that there was no financial advantage to vacating the alleyway to the motorcycle club, since the alleyway had no monetary value.

"I made an error and apologized for it," she said.

Those who are filing the complaints "have it out because it's a motorcycle group," and some people don't like having motorcycles in her town, she explained. "Some people just see people that way and think everyone should see it that way."

Farringer told Colorado Politics that he didn't sign the Nov. 15 document, although it lists him as mayor. "The current mayor was never available," he explained, adding there was no intent to confuse anyone.