



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 58 Issue 15 – April 25, 2019

LAST MEETING: April 18, 2019

President Heck Presided

Visitor: Deanna Olsen (upcoming new member)

Key Guest: Mitch, owner of Farm and Home Supply (along with his wife, Michelle)
Betsy's name was picked for next Key Guest.

Visiting Rotarian: Laura Derby from the Mt. Vernon, Virginia Rotary Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

James announced the Service Saturday for A Little Help on Saturday, May 4th with pizza following.

John announced a fundraiser on Thursday, June 6th at Salt Pollen (Dollars for Scholars): \$30/person expense. Tickets will be sold for \$70/person. We will also have an art auction. More than just Rotarians at event. More information later.

Sarah announced that the community chorus spring concert is 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 28th at the Blue Sage. This concert is special due to the fact that all the music at this concert was written by women. Sarah Bishop will be playing mandolin on Ellen Stapenhorst's song! Tickets are \$10.00.

Peggy announced that Jim Cunningham is doing well, he made a miraculous recovery!! Norm is doing much, much better, too!

Betsy announced that she picked up a Cashier's Check for \$1,246.00 from First Colorado National Bank from donations of our community for appreciation of all the years Norm Vincent of North Fork Veterinary served us and our animals!

Program:

Mike Heck introduced Ken Knight – Town Administrator. Ken gave a State of the Town Address.

Ken stated that the Town is in a transition economy from coal mining and farms to arts, creative and organic agriculture. There are fewer people now working in the coal industry than are working at Arby's Restaurants. Some would like to see previous economies come back.

Rural Philanthropy Days in June will be here in Paonia and Hotchkiss. They'll bring in 12-25 million from funders (Bill Gates Foundation, etc., etc.) over the next two years. The number of participants (300) is almost maxed out and they are looking for additional accommodations and event spaces to do workshops.

Ken mentioned that the Town needs a single master plan for the parks. It is not cheap so they are hoping to find an organization to help fund this.

Space to Create: Over \$100,000 for feasibility studies, including surveys and market studies from foundations and the State. They identified the need for art and work space for artists.

There is a need for land use planning (Master Plan). Ken says he has a young intern pulling apps for Master Planning. He is helping this intern start a Master Plan. We want housing to be based around the communities.

Do we have enough water? The crisis earlier this Spring was due to leaks and the lack of inflow from springs. We are processing 100,000 gallons per day in our 2 water treatment plants. Now spilling 400,000 gallons/day into the river due to lack of raw water storage. Ranchers will allow their reservoirs to be filled for use by the Town.

Real estate prices in town are rising. Lots of folks want to move here and either buy or build. Can the City of Paonia sell water/sewer taps?

Q: Is there a reversion of the 400 water taps that Arch Coal Mine has?

A: No. Arch gave the Town of Paonia the German Creek Spring in exchange for those water taps. To revert the taps, the Town would need to give back some of that water right. If the land is put into ag or conservation trusts, then the taps could revert. Not currently negotiating until complete analysis of the system is completed. Currently just working on conjecture, not fact.

Q: Has spring flow increase caused water spillage?

A: Yes, since there is nowhere to store excess water. It's part of Colorado River Compact to allow a certain amount of water to flow from spring to the river.

Q: Does the Town have senior water rights?

A: Yes, on most of the source. But do owe some water to the Colorado River Compact.

Q: Does the city have a study of expected spring flows?

A: The Town needs to do the analysis. There's not a really good engineered study. Study will start at 22 springs (5 are major producers). How much can be processed? How much is used? What is water pressure? Where are isolation valves?

Q: Can we get a grant for water study?

A: Ken has applied for a DOLA grant and an admin grant to study and map the water system.

Q: How many unused water taps are there?

A: Total of 420 outstanding unused water taps. Arch Coal owns 316 water taps and the other undeveloped subdivisions and vacant lot owners own 80 of the remainder of taps.

Q: What is the timeline for the master plan?

A: Looking at updating land use plan (in parallel with County). There is currently no documented land use plan or planning agreement with the County on most of Town except up by Highway 133 planning area, Stahl Road, Price Road and the High School. They don't have planning agreements for Hidden Valley or Mathews' Lane. The water companies being supplied contain territory 8-10 times the size of the town.

Q: Is town going to do something about contracted water companies violating restrictions on number of properties on each tap?

A: The Town is only supposed to provide domestic water. Some water is being used for commercial and agriculture and it shouldn't be. The Town is planning on revisiting those contracts. Water quality control division came down and said water companies have to have inspections, a water use plan and an operator in charge if over 25 taps and users. The State found seven new water companies that need to be more highly regulated.

Q: Can separate water districts be formed?

A: To create a new water district would need a vote by everyone using Paonia Domestic Water. The Town would have to pay off every town bond and value of water assets. Town would need to vote to sell. They would have to hire people to run the system and maintain it. There's a lot of capital expense and new bureaucracy that would need to be paid for. The Town is not going to give away \$80 to \$100 million in assets. The Board of trustees cannot transfer their authority to a third party under the Colorado State Law.

Q: Poulos park GOCO grant not approved. Can something get going in Poulos Park.

A: Yes, but it will be more limited than the original plan.

Q: The Rotary Club can now apply for grants from the District however we cannot apply for the grant until the revised plan is in place.

A: Ken will let Barb or Sarah know when the Poulos Park plan has been revised.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- 4/25/19: Club Meeting - Fund Raising Ideas**
- 5/2/19: Steve Duffy – Industrial Hemp Growing in the NFV (Bob Lario)**
- 5/9/19: Business Meeting**
- 5/16/19: TBD (Norm Lewark)**
- 5/23/19: TBD (Jackie Parks)**
- 5/30/19: Potluck**
- 6/6/19: TBD (Kevin Parks)**
- 6/13/19: TBD (John Coombe)**
- 6/20/19: TBD (SEI)**
- 6/27/19: Swearing in of new President and BOD**

