

T.O.P. NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Volume 17, Issue 9

Manager's Message

Annual Budget Preparation

The fall months have arrived and its time again to work on the Town's annual budget process and prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. This may be a boring topic for many but as I advise the Board of Trustees and all departments having a stable budget with strong reserve funds is the basis of providing a wide variety of services for the community.

The Town has not always had a stable budget with adequate funds but during the past 15 years the fund balance (i.e. savings or reserve funds) has increased from approximately \$200,000 to a little over \$5,000,000 allowing for more services to be provided and projects to be completed. The underlying factor to a successful budget is to fund what is needed or required first with available revenues and then look at optional or "wanted" projects while maintaining a conservative spending approach. Again, this can be a boring topic but it's important for the community to know that the Town Board and staff strive to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer moneys while continually providing essential services and making improvements in the community.

We may not always agree on how the budget is spent but that's why we have a public process to explain how the budget is formulated and explain or justify why funds are being spent on various services and projects. During the month of September all department heads will develop their draft budgets to submit to me by the last week of the month for review. I then work with the Town's accountant to formulate the draft budget to present to the Board during the October 7th regular meeting. The Board and staff will then have an all-day budget workshop at Town Hall on October 10th from 9:00am to approximately 4:00pm to review the budget in detail to develop the final draft. During the rest of October staff and I work on finalizing

estimates for proposed projects and review all revenues and expenditures before submitting the final budget to the Board for approval during the December 2nd regular meeting. Once the draft budget is submitted to the Board on October 7th anyone may obtain a copy to review and can always contact me directly to ask questions or attend the budget workshop or regular Board meetings.

Police Station Design

The design and cost estimate for the new police station is getting closer to completion and will be presented to the Board during the October 7th meeting. The consultants completing the design initially provided a rough cost estimate of approximately \$5 million based upon current market and construction costs which was well above what I and the Board had anticipated. Since the cost of new construction has basically doubled during the past few years this project has been a challenge but worth the process as we've outgrown Town Hall years ago with an increase in staff and a serious lack of storage.

Some residents aren't aware of why a police station is being designed so I want to provide a quick summary. In 2015 The Platteville-Gilcrest Fire Protection District purchase the former Poirot Subdivision which consisted of 27 undeveloped residential lots directly north of Town Hall with approximately 8 lots along the west side of Town Hall. The fire district did not need the lots west of Town Hall so an agreement was made for the Town to acquire them to expand the Public Works shop and storage yard while allowing space for a new police station next to Town Hall. Moving the Police Department made the most sense

Town Departments

Administration

400 Grand Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2245
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
platteville.colorado.gov

Police Dept.

(970) 785-2215
Non-Emergency Dispatch:
(970) 356-1212

Public Works Dept.

(970) 785-6415
After Hours:
(970) 304-2534

Recreation & Seniors

508 Reynolds Avenue
(720) 438-0711

Pioneer Museum

502 Marion Avenue
(970) 785-6285
Mon & Wed 10:00am-3:00pm
Sat. 10:00-2:00pm

Ft. Vasquez Museum Welcome Center

13412 US85
(970) 785-2832
Wed, Sat, Sun 10am-3pm

Public Library

504 Marion Ave./PO Box 567
(970) 785-2231
Mon - Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.PPLCO.us

Nantes Library (Gilcrest)

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035
Mon-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.nanteslibrary.us

Manager's Message (cont.)

as they consist of one-half of the staff at Town Hall and require the most space and storage so moving them to a new building across the parking lot would free up space for the front office and Public Works to expand.

Since that time the Public Works shop expansion and yard were completed as it was the first priority and least expensive to complete. Also during the past ten years the Board has authorized unrestricted revenues to be placed in a reserve fund for the new Police Station which has built up to over \$1 million dollars while still building other reserve funds for various projects. The intent has always been to either self-fund the new Police Station by using Town reserves with grant assistance or build it using a short-term debt service without any new or additional taxes on the community. I firmly believe this can still be accomplished but we likely will have to be patient and find ways to reduce costs and locate other funding or financing sources while continuing to build up our reserve fund. At this point the goal is to complete the design for a building that will fit the best on the land directly west of Town Hall and develop a budget estimate so we know what funding is needed. I've made it clear to everyone involved in this project that this new Police Station needs to be built using available funding, budget and other resources without asking our residents for increased taxes through a bond or mill levy increase. You might say that I like challenges and this is definitely one of the largest I've had to face in recent years.

Town's Water Supply

Since there's been a lot of news lately regarding the issues between the Town of Firestone and the Central Weld County Water District on their CBT (Colorado Big Thompson) water agreement I wanted to discuss the Town's water supply briefly so you're aware

of our current water status. Just like Firestone and many other community we have an agreement with CWCWD to both treat our CBT water and then deliver to our community through a master meter. Our agreement with CWCWD originated in 1994 when the Town connected to the CBT project that is managed by Northern Water in Berthoud. The CWCWD headquarters is in Greeley and we get our water treated at the Carter Lake Treatment Facility which is then delivered through pipelines to us and other communities.

Water can be a very complicated issue to discuss but simplistically speaking the Town and CWCWD (and Northern Water) have good working relationships and we are not in jeopardy of losing our water supply for the community. There's no doubt that water is expensive, especially CBT, but since it's our only potable water source at this time we have limited options. The Board and staff will be meeting with our contract water attorney and engineer on September 16th to discuss our water rights with specific focus on what the benefits and costs would be to participate in the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) which is close to becoming a reality after over 20 years in the making. Since the Town is solely reliant on CBT water acquiring another water source is a priority for our community's future. The bottom line is that the Town has a sufficient supply of CBT water for the community but if the annual quota or allowed use gets reduced more in the future we'll need another source of water.

Troy Renken, Town Manager

Citizen Committees

&

Civic Organizations

Parks, Trails, & Trees

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm at Town Hall

Recreation

Monthly Meetings: 4th Monday at 7:00pm at Senior Center

Economic Development

Monthly Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 5:30pm at Town Hall

Public Safety

Monthly Meetings: 4th Thursday at 6:30pm at Town Hall

Veterans Memorial

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm at Town Hall

Senior Association Advisory

Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of month at 10:00am at Senior Center

Historical Society

Monthly Meetings: 1st Wednesday at 10am at Pioneer Museum

Rotary Club

Weekly Meetings: Thursdays at 6:30pm
Platteville Town Hall on odd months
and The Merc in Mead on even months

Lions Club

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Monday at 7:00pm at 723 Goodrich Ct Platteville

Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 7:00pm at Welcome Center

For contact information please visit our Town website at platteville.colorado.gov