

TOWN OF RYE
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
August 13, 2025

Call to Order/Roll Call

Marty Rahl called the Regular Monthly Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall at 2067 Main Street in Rye, Colorado. Those in attendance were as follows: Marty Rahl, Mayor; Patrick Ryan, Trustee; Sandra Steele, Trustee; Aimee Kramer, Trustee; Heidi Miller, Trustee; Jim Echer, Colorado City Metro Manager; Greg Colter, Colorado Rural Water; Scott Thomas, Colorado Rural Water; Cindy Bykerk, Resident; Nitai Morano, Resident; Kristen Bell, Resident; and Jocelyn Ensley, Town Clerk. Those absent were: Kathy MacCormack, Mayor Protem and Geoff Pagnotta, Trustee.

Audience Participation

- Scott Thomas with Colorado Rural Water presented the Board with a revised RevPlan Rate Adjustment for the Sewer Main Capitol Improvement Project to reflect the revisions requested in previous meetings to include: 1-phase construction project with the start date in 2031 with a 10% sewer base rate increase annually starting in 2026 and ending in 2031. Scott Thomas explained that it will be necessary to implement a water and sewer usage rate increase to cover the Operations & Maintenance Budget as well as the Debit Service requirements to qualify for loans and grants. The Board agreed to include a 3% water and sewer usage rate increase in the RevPlan. Jim Echer recommended providing a brochure in the water and sewer billing to help educate account holders and provide notice of the rate changes coming in 2026. Scott Thomas stated that he can come to a Town Hall Work Session in September to review the RevPlan with all residents and allow for public comment and questions. Jocelyn Ensley stated that she can ensure the water and sewer rate increase brochure can be delivered with the August 2025 billing, so that residents can have the information before attending the Town Hall Work Session in September 2025.
- Jim Echer acknowledged the Board and stated that County Commissioner Miles Lucero presented at the Colorado City Metro Board Meeting on August 12, 2025, and informed them that the Pueblo County Commissioners are looking at putting in a satellite office at the VFC building located at 4705 Sante Fe Dr. Colorado City, CO 81019. Mr. Echer continued saying that they are looking into having different departments available at the satellite office such as: Planning and Zoning, Building Department, DHS, DA, Recorder, as well as Vehicle Registration Renewal. Mr. Echer continued stating that the County Commissioners were asking Colorado City to cover a portion of the monthly overhead costs associated with the satellite office, asking for a total of \$500.00 per

month- the County is looking at starting in October of this year and contracting for 2026. Mr. Echer asked the Rye Board if they would be interested in splitting the requested monthly overhead costs for the satellite office, totaling \$250 per month, as it will have a great impact on all residents in the Greenhorn Valley, including the Town of Rye. The Board agreed that the satellite office will provide a great service to the community and instructed Jocelyn Ensley to add it to the monthly agenda so that they can vote on the matter as soon as possible. Jim Echer said he will forward the information as soon as it is made available to Colorado City Metro so the Town attorneys can review it. Jim Echer stated that the sewer meter for the Town is inoperable and in the process of being fixed and as soon as he has scheduled the repairs, he will provide the information to the Board so they can have a representative present. The Board thanked Jim Echer for coming to the meeting and providing all the updates and information.

- Nitai Morano acknowledged the Board and stated that she had received a letter from the Board in July 2025, denying her request to have late fees reimbursed and that she submitted a letter appealing the decision. The Board reviewed the letter submitted by Nitai Morano on 7/26/2025 detailing the reasons why she could not pay on time and demanding that no further late fees be applied to her account for failure to pay the original assessed fees. Nitai Morano continued saying that she started a petition and received 40 signatures from individuals inside and outside of Town boundaries to allow a one-time per year late fee forgiveness policy. The Board reviewed the petition. Jocelyn Ensley stated that, per the Town attorney, for the Board to reconsider the vote, they would need to follow the following rules per Resolution 2023-11 Standards of Conduct and Rules of Procedure- The First Rule: The motion to reconsider would need to take place at this current meeting. The Second Rule: The motion to reconsider would need to be made by a member who voted in the majority of the original motion, any other member can second the motion, and the motion to reconsider would require a majority vote to pass. Jocelyn Ensley stated that all information had been provided to the Town attorney, and they recommend the Board move into Executive Session to discuss the negotiations prior to making a motion to reconsider.

At 6:45 p.m. Patrick Ryan made a motion to enter Executive Session. Heidi Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

For the purpose of determining positions related to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e).

At 7:00 p.m. Patrick Ryan made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to the Regular Monthly Meeting. Heidi Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Marty Rahl addressed Nitai Morano and read the Town of Rye Policy Manual regarding discounts and explained that at this time the Town of Rye policy does not allow the reimbursement of late fees or discounts and stated the policy has been in place since 2008. Patrick Ryan made a motion to revise the Town of Rye Policy Manual to include a one-time late fee waiver per year, for all water and sewer account holders, to be discussed at the next regular monthly Board meeting to allow comment from all Board members. Aimee Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Nitai Morano stated that while she did not receive a “win” in having the Board waive her late fees, that her initiative was a “win” for the Town residents. Marty Rahl stated that while the Board agreed to discuss revising the Town of Rye Policy Manual at the next regular monthly meeting, this was not a guarantee that the revision would be made or implemented in any capacity, and if the Board did decide to revise the late fee policy it would not be retroactive. Heidi Miller stated that the Boards responsibility is to ensure the Town can meet the financial demands of the future, and the Board had not always had late fees which resulted in financial distress for the Town.

Consent Agenda Items

- Aimee Kramer made a motion to approve the July 9, 2025- Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes. Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) Water Treatment Plant End of Month Report.
- The Board reviewed the meter locating and mapping project progress in Diamond Maps.
- Jocelyn Ensley stated that Little Diggers Construction is scheduled to test and locate all water valves at the water treatment plant for the master meter replacement on Saturday, August 16, 2025. Jocelyn Ensley stated that the date was chosen as to not disrupt Rye Elementary, Rye High-School, and Mama Bear Daycare operations and that all other business owners had been personally notified as well as public notice being placed on the town website and Town Facebook page.
- The Board reviewed a quote from Steel City Hydrants for the remaining inoperable fire hydrants on North Boulder Ave. and Main St. & Boulder Intersection. The Board agreed to keep the quote on the agenda to review at the next regular monthly Board meeting.
- Jocelyn Ensley stated that Mike Hager with Element Engineering provided an update on 8/13/2025 stating that the revised Sewer Main CIP would be ready at the next regular monthly Board meeting and he intends to present it at that time.
- Jocelyn Ensley stated that Little Diggers Construction has put in 811 locate requests to have the manhole on Matnock replaced in the next two weeks. Updates will be provided once completed.
- Marty Rahl stated that she spoke with Jeff Lepley regarding the installation of the emergency services well at the water treatment plant and he stated that he can assist

the Town is accessing a water discharge point. Marty Rahl stated that a quote will be provided for the Board to review as soon as she receives it.

- The Water and Sewer Monthly Meter Usage (Billing Register) was reviewed. Marty Rahl stated that the Rye High-School water usage was excessively high for the month of July 2025 that she contacted District 70 to have them inspect for a water leak and instructed Jocelyn Ensley and Matt Smith to perform a dry billing run to assess if repairs have been completed. Jocelyn Ensley stated that account #33 was able to turn in the Water Usage Adjustment Application to her before July 31, 2025, per the instruction of the Board, and a credit for half of the water usage was given for the July 2025 billing cycle. Jocelyn Ensley stated that account #98 also had a water leak, but the account holder chose not to use the Water Usage Adjustment Application in the case that an emergency occurs closer to winter.
- The Town of Rye Summary of Accounts, RVS Systems Totals Report and CCMD Sewer Flow Chart were reviewed by the Board.
- The Summary of Aged Receivables was discussed by the Board. Past due accounts were called by Jocelyn Ensley and reminded of their past due balance as well as the current due balance. The Board instructed Jocelyn Ensley to issue disconnect letters for all delinquent accounts surpassing 61+ days in payment.
- Patrick Ryan made a motion that the Accounts Payable/Transfer of Funds from appropriate accounts be paid and that appropriate funds be transferred per the Checks Written form. Sandra Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheets.
- The Master Calendar was reviewed. Jocelyn Ensley has updated the calendar to reflect the date and name of persons completing monthly items. Jocelyn Ensley stated that the water tanks will be due for inspection and guidance from the ORC has been requested to ensure all state requirements are met.

Unfinished Business

- Jocelyn Ensley stated that quotes for the pothole patchwork will be provided as soon as they're received.
- Jocelyn Ensley stated that she contacted Holly Tittel with the local non-profit, Purple People Leaders to see if they would be interested in assisting the Town with advocating the Safe Routes to School Grant Program with District 70. Jocelyn Ensley stated that with the new school year starting, Science Day will be soon approaching at the Elementary School and provides an excellent opportunity to conduct a walking-audit survey. Aimee Kramer stated that she would also be participating in Science Day and would be a Town representative for the audit walk. Jocelyn Ensley stated that she will connect all parties to the SRTS Program representative so they can assist with coordinating the walking-audit survey. Jocelyn Ensley stated that the Town was able to

provide a data collection space at the Town Hall vendor booth during the 2025 Town Square Fair, and all recorded data will be saved and sent to the SRTS program director.

- Jocelyn Ensley stated that the Town attorney was given the revisions for the Town of Rye and Pueblo County Intergovernmental Agreement for plowing services, chip and seal services, and striping services for Main St. and Boulder Ave. and the revised contract will be provided as soon as possible.
- Jocelyn Ensley stated that the full budget, donations, and vendors recap for the 2025 Town Square Fair will be provided at the following meeting due to receiving last minute donations.
- The Board reviewed Resolution 2025-5- Water Tap Moratorium and instructed Jocelyn Ensley to keep it on the agenda until the next regular monthly meeting.
- The Board reviewed the Fire Mitigation letter sent to all residents with the July 2025 water and sewer billing. The Board read, reviewed, and discussed all Public Nuisance violation letters sent to accounts: #19, #69, #68, #65, #102, #72, #97, #87, and #7. The Board determined that all accounts except for account #97 are now in compliance with Ordinance 2021-3 Public Nuisance. The Board instructed Jocelyn Ensley to contact account #97 to explain that all junk must be removed from the property in order to be in compliance with Ordinance 2021-3 Public Nuisance. The Board instructed Jocelyn Ensley to send notices of compliance of Ordinance 2021-3 Public Nuisance to accounts: #19, #69, #68, #65, #102, #72, #97, #87, and #7 and dismiss them of any additional violations.
- The Board briefly discussed the Inlet Silt and Reeds Removal and will leave it on the agenda for future discussions with Greg Colter, Colorado Rural Water and Matt Dennison, Little Diggers Construction.
- The Board discussed accepting resumes for the Water Treatment Plant Operator Assistant position. Jocelyn Ensley stated that she will continue to accept resumes for the position through the end of August 2025 before scheduling interviews with the applicants.

Reports

CPA Update:

- The Board read and discussed the engagement letter from McPherson, Goodrich, Paolucci & Mihelich for the 2026 Budget preparations and the 2025 Audit Exemption. Aimee Kramer made a motion to accept the engagement letter from McPherson, Goodrich, Paolucci & Mihelich for the 2026 Budget preparations and the 2025 Audit Exemption. Heidi Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Update: N/A

Trustee Updates:

- Marty Rahl stated that with fall quickly approaching, arrangements need to begin for the annual tree lighting ceremony on December 6, 2025. Jocelyn Ensley stated that she

will add it to the agenda and contact the Purple People Leaders and Colorado City Chamber of Commerce to ensure all events can be integrated together.

- Aimee Kramer stated that with the Sewer Main CIP in progress, water account users who are on grandfathered septic systems may need alternative options for wastewater services in the future, including the option to connect to the Sewer Main infrastructure. The Board discussed the matter. Jocelyn Ensley stated that she will provide the concerns of the Board to Element Engineering to have them help brainstorm viable options for this situation.

Staff Updates: N/A

New Business

- Jocelyn Ensley stated that she has been receiving calls regarding rumors that the Town of Rye is no longer statutory Town and the Town and water treatment plant has been acquired by Pueblo County. The Board discussed the matter. Jocelyn Ensley stated that the Town of Rye is a statutory Town and has not been acquired by any outside authority, the Town currently does not have any zoning, coding, and permitting within Town boundaries but the Town does rely heavily on Pueblo County for public services such as law enforcement and animal control. Any residents with questions or concerns regarding the Town's authority can contact Jocelyn Ensley at 719-489-2011 or jensley@rye.colorado.gov.
- The Board reviewed the FEMA Flood Map for the Town of Rye, last updated in 2018. Jocelyn Ensley stated that while she and Marty Rahl assisted Pueblo County Sheriff's Department and Rye Fire Department to ensure the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan is current, with the last revision submitted in October 2024, the flood map still needs to be updated through the County. Jocelyn Ensley stated that they will continue to work closely with the stated entities to get the updates needed for the community.

Adjournment-

At 8:40 p.m., Aimee Kramer made a motion to close the regular monthly meeting. Patrick Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.


Marty Rahl, Mayor


Jocelyn Ensley, Town Clerk

**The Next Regular Session meeting will be held on
September 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall at 2067 Main Street, Rye, CO 81069
The public is encouraged to attend.**

Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aid(s) may request assistance by contacting the Rye Town Clerk at 719-489-2011. We would appreciate it if you would contact us at last 48 hours in advance of scheduled events so arrangements can be made to locate the requested auxiliary aid(s).