



The Town Board will meet on Wednesday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m.

The public is invited to participate virtually on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449378638> , or on the Town's Facebook page.

Newsletter

November 2021

Town Board Matters

As 2021 begins to wrap up and 2022 begins the Town Board has been actively engaged in projects that will impact the Town in positive ways for many years to come. The Board approved an agreement with YVEA to allow for the extension of broadband fiber into the Town and use of the Town's electric utility poles as part of the Soroco/YVEA broadband grant program to extend broadband services to students throughout Routt County. This project includes improving utility poles to make them ready for this additional wire and weight. The Board approved the purchase of a new headgate and operating equipment at the Sheriff Reservoir Dam. This is the first step in a multi-year project that will update the 67-year old dam and continue to operate safely and provide drinking water for the Town's residents. In 2022 the Town's consulting engineers will design required improvements to the dam structure and develop cost estimates that Town officials can use to seek grant funding to help offset the estimated \$10-\$13 million cost of improvements. The consultants hired to evaluate Oak Creek (the creek) and determine how to restore the creek and create a greenway connecting the Town presented their design recommendations at the October 21st Board meeting. The Town Board can now determine how to implement these findings and move this project forward. The Town Board also approved the leasing of a second van for the Town's summer camp program which will allow more participation by local children than has previously been available.

Want to See Things Change in Oak Creek? (Here's your first steps . . .)

1. Identify owners/stakeholders.
2. Find out information from the correct people.
3. Obtain background information/ talk to the right people/ read past minutes from Board mtgs.
4. Put in writing what changes you would like to see made.
5. Find out challenges.
6. Volunteer
7. Fundraiser
8. Attend Town Board meetings to present your ideas.
9. Stay in contact with appropriate people/stakeholders.

New Town Trustee Appointed

On August 26th Mayor Pro-tem Chuck Wisecup announced his resignation from the Town Board. Notice of the vacancy was posted and requests for letters of interest to fill the vacant seat were solicited from the community. Three qualifying residents applied to fill the position and one applicant later withdrew her application. The Board of Trustees held a Special Board meeting on October 21, 2021 to interview the applicants. At this meeting the Trustees unanimously appointed **Melissa Dobbins as a Trustee**. Trustee Dobbins will serve the remaining term of Chuck Wisecup and per State statutes will be required to run for office at the April 2022 election. Trustee Dobbins and her family purchased the former Sharp Street property known as the Community United Methodist Church of Oak Creek where they live. She teaches Yoga here in Oak Creek, and is also a stay at home mother to a daughter. Trustee Dobbins has participated in various organizations including: volunteering on a Volunteer Fire Department and helping lead mountain biking trail development and MTB events. Through her volunteer activities Trustee Dobbins has become certified in Outdoor Emergency Care, Cave Rescue 1 and has hands-on training experiences with Incident Command, Mass Casualty incidents and Triage.

Census 2020 – Town population is 889

LEAP Information

The **Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program** (LEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible hard-working Colorado families, seniors, and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. LEAP is designed to assist low-income households with paying their winter home heating costs but is not intended to pay the entire cost. Eligible recipients can receive only one LEAP benefit per heat season. The heat season runs from November 1st – April 30th. If you have questions on how to apply call 1-866-432-8435.

Be GREEN

This time of year many people are preparing food for holidays party's. Dumping the food oils and grease down the drain clogs our sewer lines and causes "grease balls" to form at the Town's treatment plant. Please soak up the oil and grease with paper and throw it in the trash which may be healthier for the environment and will be healthier for your sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment systems.

New squad car – 55% USDA funded, Town saved for five years and paid the remaining 45%.

Thank you taxpayers of Oak Creek, the United States Department of Agriculture, Town Board and Town staff, the staff at John Elway Chevrolet and the technicians at L.A.W.S. Thank you for providing the funds and the staff time it took to provide the police department with a brand new police SUV. Our 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe has made it to town and is looking quite stylish.

Chief Ralph

Bear proofing – Are your trash cans Bear Resistant? Call Twin Enviro Services for a quote – 970-879-6985.

Winter's around the corner; coming soon, Holly Fest, the ice rink opens, Rossi Meadows X-country ski trails, the Oak Creek Mountain Park trails and the Moffat Avenue sledding hill.

Town Job posting

The Town is seeking to hire a **full-time Maintenance Worker** in the Public Works Department. This benefited position offers a competitive wage, \$41,361 - \$59,752 depending on public works experience and training. This position provides good benefits, and a wide variety of work in the Town's public works operations including the electric system, water and sewer systems, and streets, parks and building maintenance. Applications and full job descriptions can be found at www.townofoakcreek.com/employment.

E-Waste

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has local locations to recycle electronics, appliances with freon, appliances without freon, light bulbs, batteries, and more so check their Yampa Valley Recycles App for more information about where to recycle these items.

COVID-19 updates are available online at Routt County's webpage:

<https://www.covid19routtcounty.com/>

Routt County Public Health is testing anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and anyone who has been in close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, make an appointment.

The mornings are frosty and snow is falling. It's time for us to remind you to make sure you can see and that you can be seen. To be seen: clear your headlamps and tail lamps. Clear the snow from your license plates and licence plate lamps. Turn on your lights whenever visibility is compromised. Best practice? When in doubt if you need lights on...you likely need lights on."

The windshield of your car must be *completely* clear of ice, snow and fog when you drive. The same is true for the windows on your front doors. We ask that all windows be completely clear and that you have full advantage of being able to see through them, but law requires the windshield and front windows be clear.