

**TOWN OF HOCHATOWN  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.  
Hocha Town Hall  
9983 N. U.S. Hwy 259, Ste A  
Hochatown, OK 74728

**TRUSTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order.

*Who Ordered:* Dian Jordan  
*Time:* 2:00p

2. Roll Call of Trustees.

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Janet Cress	Y	
Howard Haggard	Y	
Dian Jordan	Y	
Todd McDaniel	Y	
Chad Sargent	Y	

A Quorum was present.

3. Approval of the January 17, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were not approved.

4. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action regarding hiring a bond company.

*Discussion notes:*

Brief discussion regarding sending the bond contract to Hochatown's attorney, Liz George, for review.

*Motion:* To send the bond contract to Liz George for review.

*By:* Dian Jordan

*Second:* Howard Haggard

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried to send the bond contract to Liz George for review.

5. Discussion Only regarding Police and Fire Protection.

*Discussion notes:*

Dian Jordan notes discussions have taken place with Randy Coleman (Hochatown’s Fire Department Liaison) and the Choctaw Nation. In addition, she has spoken with McCurtain County’s sheriff’s office to confirm that protection for the Town of Hochatown will continue as it was before incorporation.

Todd McDaniel asked if McCurtain County Sheriff’s Dept. will be adding personnel.

Dian Jordan explained the option for Hochatown to pay for a full time, dedicated sheriff’s deputy and vehicle. She proposed a meeting with multiple cities and organizations regarding safety and protection.

*Motion:* To form a Safety Committee with Dian Jordan and Janet Cress.

*By:* Todd McDaniel

*Second:* Chad Sargent

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried to form a Safety Committee, with Dian Jordan and Janet Cress.

6. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action regarding establishing a Hochatown website.

*Discussion notes:*

Dian Jordan reported that 'Hochatown.gov' is available to be reserved and the application is ready to process.

Discussion followed regarding design firm options and pricing.

Discussion continued regarding the need for a Communications Subcommittee with Chad Sargent, Skip Copeland (consultant), and Todd McDaniel as members.

*Motion:* To allow Dian Jordan to sign the authentication of status as a municipal government.

*By:* Howard Haggard

*Second:* Todd McDaniel

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried to allow Dian Jordan to sign the authentication of status as a municipal government.

7. Discussion Only of Highway 259 road improvement.

*Discussion notes:*

Todd McDaniel updated the Board on his meeting with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Chief and ODOT. ODOT wants to start work on improvements as soon as possible. CNO is very interested in a bypass route as their Chief has a vision on how it can be developed.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of ODOT building 5 lanes vs 3 lanes vs a bypass for Hwy 259.

There was discussion regarding USDA help with municipal grants for engineering and the need to ask them for help and advice.

8. Discussion Only of Ordinances update.

*Discussion notes:*

The Ordinance Subcommittee has been looking at different ordinances from best-in-class municipalities and has come up with a basic set as a starting point to be sent to Hochatown's general attorney for review.

9. Discussion Only of Insurance.

*Discussion notes:*

Discussion regarding working with the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) for guidance on insurance.

10. Discussion Only of Plat Approval Process update.

*Discussion notes:*

Brief discussion regarding keeping the plat approval process in line with McCurtain County's current process.

11. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action regarding appointing an interim Hochatown Town Manager.

*Discussion notes:*

Discussion regarding the need for an interim town manager, the compensation, how that position would be funded, and how long the interim position would last. A discussion followed regarding the use of the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) connections with retired city managers as best-in-class resources.

It was decided to hold action on this item until the Board can meet with OML.

12. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action regarding establishing a bank account.

*Discussion Notes:*

The Finance Subcommittee has visited with two banks, First Bank and First United, and both banks offer similar services. The Finance Subcommittee suggests to open only a general bank account at this time.

There was a discussion regarding who should be signatories on the account, the number of signatories, and the need for them to be bonded.

It was decided that there will be two signatures required on each check written, with the Treasurer and three Trustees authorized to sign.

*Motion:* To select First Bank to open a general checking account.

*By:* Todd McDaniel

*Second:* Chad Sargent

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried to select First Bank to open a general checking account.

*Motion:* For Charles Ward, Chad Sargent, Janet Cress, and Howard Haggard to be signatories on the First Bank general bank account.

*By:* Dian Jordan

*Second:* Todd McDaniel

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried for Charles Ward, Chad Sargent, Janet Cress and Howard Haggard to be signatories on the First Bank general bank account.

*Motion:* For First Bank general bank account signatories to become bonded at \$10,000 amount.

*By:* Howard Haggard

*Second:* Todd McDaniel

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried for First Bank general bank account signatories to become bonded at \$10,000 amount.

13. Discussion Only of Lodging Tax.

*Discussion Notes:*

After a brief discussion, it was decided to take no action on this matter until the Tax Committee can meet with the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML), the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC), and Counsel.

14. New Business; any matter not known, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda.

*Discussion Notes:*

Brief discussion regarding gratitude for the Choctaw Nation’s presentation to the Board of Trustees on economic development resources that are available to the Town of Hochtatown.

Brief discussion regarding the need to change the timing and location of the regularly scheduled Board of Trustee’s meeting. It was decided that the February meeting would be changed to 1:00pm at the Hocha Town Hall location.

Janet Cress updated the Trustees on the 2024 Solar Eclipse meeting she attended in Idabel, OK. She learned that Idabel is anticipating approximately 100,000 people will descend on the area as Idabel is considered the most ideal place in the world to view this

solar event. A discussion followed regarding the need to be prepared for this event and to meet with emergency service groups.

Janet Cress began a discussion on the need to give an overview to the public on the work that the Board of Trustees have been doing. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

15. Discussion and Possible Action to adjourn.

*Motion:* To adjourn the meeting.

*By:* Dian Jordan

*Second:* Chad Sargent

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Trustee Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

Motion carried for the meeting to be adjourned.

*Time Meeting Adjourned:* 3:27p