

# MORRISON

THE NEAREST FARAWAY PLACE!



# HOGBACK

DECEMBER 2021

## MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

**Mayor:** Sean Forey   **Mayor Pro-Tem:** Debora Jerome

**Trustees:** Katie Gill, Matt Schweich, Paul Sutton, David Wirtz, Ryan Burris

**Board Meetings:** December 7, 2021 and December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meeting:** December 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**All meetings are held at Town Hall: 110 Stone Street**



## TOWN STAFF:

**Town Manager:** Kara Winters

**Town Clerk:** Ariana Neverdahl

**Administrative Assistant:** Debbie Jacobson

**Public Works Director:** Fritz Fouts

**Museum Curator:** Matt Mossbrucker   **Museum Coordinator:** Doug Hartshorn

**Town Office:** 321 Highway 8   **Phone:** 303-697-8749



## POLICE DEPARTMENT:

**Interim Police Chief:** Jon Manna

**Officer:** Chris Chung

**Dispatch:** 303-980-7300

**Jefferson County Sheriff:** 303-277-0211

# NEWS FROM THE TOWN BOARD

## Rebuilding the Morrison Police Department

The Town Board meeting on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, involved receiving and reflecting upon public input for co-envisioning the nature and quality of law enforcement in our Town moving forward. Many questions were discussed including the following: 1) To what extent do we want to contract our law enforcement activity out to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO)? 2) If we choose to retain local control and have a Morrison Police Department, what are the primary functions and staffing levels for such a Police Department? 3) What direction should the Board of Trustees give to the Town Manager, Kara Winters, with respect to recruiting a new Police Chief? 4) How should the Police Department be funded? Comments from the public were diverse; however, there was consensus that current policing by the JCSO was excellent and that we should continue contracting with JCSO for the immediate future. Some members of the public expressed an opinion that a small town such as ours lacks the economy of scale necessary to fund an independent Police Department. Others expressed a desire to rebuild a local Police Department for a variety of reasons including: 1) Our location is unusual in that there are so many heavily used highways passing through and near our town, and there are two venues (Red Rocks Amphitheater and Bandimere Speedway) that result in significant flows of people and vehicles; 2) A local Morrison Police Department can more effectively engage in community policing because they will have developed personal relationships and local knowledge that is not possible to obtain from JCSO; 3) Local control allows us to make staffing changes to our Police Department if we feel the Department is not enforcing public safety laws (e.g. Noise Ordinances, Speeding in Town, etc.) or complying with the public health guidelines of the state and county.

Regarding the above questions, the Board has given Kara Winters the following directions: 1) We would like to continue contracting out our law enforcement with JCSO for an indefinite period of time with the intention of building a smaller Morrison Police Department; 2) The ultimate staffing level we envision for the Morrison Police Department will consist of a chief, a commander, four police officers, and a secretary (this is the minimum staffing level needed to provide a backup to our officers during our anticipated deployments); 3) The primary functions of our Police Department will be law enforcement aimed at preserving public safety executed through the principles of community policing; 4) Kara Winters will work with a committee consisting of two members of the Board of Trustees to hire a new Police Chief; 5) The new Police Chief will be charged with building a Police Department consistent with the principles described here; 6) Funding for this Police Department will come from a variety of sources likely including parking revenue, court fines, and the Town's general fund; 7) As the Police Department grows, it will take over shifts from the JCSO until we reach the point where the Morrison Police Department will cover the 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. time periods with JCSO providing the graveyard shift policing. Historically, the graveyard shift time period represents less than 5% of our incident calls.

The Board believes this plan best represents the will of the electorate going forward. This will be a smaller Police Department focused on the unique needs of our Town. We have recently provided a significant increase in the salary of our police officers which we hope will allow us to recruit police officers who will become important members of our community. Research by members of the Board of Trustees has suggested that retaining our police officers is not primarily about their pay (although pay does have to be sufficient) but about having our police force feel that they are part of our community and contributing to serving the broader public good. Going forward, we plan to have some regularly scheduled social events (e.g. a 'Policeperson's Ball 😊', police picnic, etc.) which we hope all members of the community will participate in to build stronger relationships between our residents and our police force. The members of the Board of Trustees are grateful for the public input from our residents and businesses regarding how to move forward. We encourage everyone to embrace this plan and welcome a new police force into our community in the coming year.

# AROUND THE TOWN



## CAROLING BY CANDLELIGHT

**DECEMBER 3, 2021; 6 P.M.**

For about 25 years, give or take, we've had a very "small town" event to bring in the Christmas spirit. Some years we started at the church and used the battery-operated candles and the lyrics to the carols; some years we started at the Nursing Home and used the song sheets they provided. Recently we have added ending at the Town Hall with hot spiced cider, officially called "Wassail" in Merry Olde England. In fact, caroling and wassailing were names for the same activity. "Here We Come a Wassailing Among the Leaves So Green" is an old English carol.

This year we can do Caroling and Wassailing on Dec. 3rd starting at the Nursing Home at 6 p.m. We'll not go inside, but carol outside and go through the streets to downtown at the Vet Memorial and the Christmas Tree Plaza. Wassail will be served from the Majestic cookstove in the backyard at 207 Bear Creek Lane—from cider made on-site by Apple Annie.

*Jamie Chambers*

## STAFF MEMBERS LEAVING THE TOWN OFFICE

Two long-time staff members have resigned from their Town positions to pursue other endeavors. They have been valuable employees and will be greatly missed by the Town.

**Char Bryant** began working for the Town on Dec. 23, 2013. Her most recent title was Court Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk. Char kept Morrison running smoothly by handling building permits, dealing with the financial aspects of the Town Office, and taking charge of all Court responsibilities. She was instrumental in handling the ZOOM Court sessions during the COVID crisis. Many other jurisdictions contacted Char for her expertise in setting up their own ZOOM Court sessions. Char was always willing to go above and beyond to help people understand and deal with their traffic citations. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.



**The following memories are from Jennifer Sponnick, Administrative Assistant for the Morrison Police Department.**

"I started working for Morrison on January 2, 2013. When I began, I was Chief's Secretary working full time supporting Chief and doing small tasks for the officers. As the years went on and officers came and went, I picked up the title of Fleet Maintenance, Evidence Tech and Records Tech. I coordinated a number of events that I was very passionate about, including annual awards ceremonies, fundraisers and events assisting Bandimere, Red Rocks, and the elementary school. Over the course of nearly 9 years, I interacted with 101 officers. Good or bad, each one of them shaped me into who I am today. I finished my time with Morrison on November 8, 2021. I loved my work and was sad to see it end, but wish the Town the best."

Morrison wishes Jennifer good luck in her future endeavors.

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 <i>caroling</i>	4
5	6	7 <i>Board Meeting</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Planning Commission</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>Board Meeting</i>	22	23	24 <i>Town Office Closed</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Town Office Closed</i>	

