

March 18, 2026

Work Meeting

Town Board: Mayor Kerry Barney, Kurt Sawyer, Russel Riggs, Gary Goble, Grace Howard

Staff: Carly Burrows, Tyler Mendenhall, Janett Young

Public: Kim Burrows, Brett Burrows

Summary of the Town work meeting:

The council held a special work meeting to discuss Hatch’s culinary water storage, distribution, and fire-flow issues in preparation for a CIB funding application due in May. The town currently has a 200,000-gallon culinary tank (without a dividing wall) and a separate irrigation system from Mammoth Creek that cannot be combined with culinary water. Serious pressure and fire-flow problems were noted, including a drop from about 60–65 psi to 10 psi when a nearby hydrant is opened, which is below fire code requirements.

The council compared a previous 2022–2023 study by engineer Richard White—which indicated capacity to more than double ERCs through selective main upsizing at an estimated cost of about \$750,000—with Ensign Engineering’s current concepts, which include a 500,000-gallon new tank and broad 8-inch main replacement to meet R309 and fire-flow standards. Members expressed concern about the financial burden of a potential \$5.7 million project, given already high-water rates and state affordability thresholds.

As an alternative, the group discussed adding a second 200,000-gallon concrete tank on BLM land west of town (with higher elevation and free easement) combined with selective upsizing/looping of key mains, aiming for a lower overall cost in the roughly \$1–2 million range. There were consensus that higher-elevation areas may still require boosters and that developers or directly benefitting properties (such as Riverside Campground) should pay for infrastructure upgrades specific to their developments. The council requested a concise, independent analysis from Ensign to refine options and costs for the upcoming CIB application.