

- 1 C1: Mayor Williams
- 2 D: Diane Dimicich
- 3 P1: Wareen Wall
- 4 P2: Bradley Broderick
- 5 P3: Leslie Bachmann
- 6 P4: Steven Vale
- 7 P5: Kristen Hollum
- 8 P6: Chris Ferguson
- 9 P7: Lee Merck
- 10 P8: Catherine Simon
- 11 P9: Charity Stevens
- 12 P?: All unidentified public
- 13

14 C1: This is your opportunity uh, we invite you to come to the podium and, if you will, state
15 your name and address.

16 D: My name is Diane Dimich, 217 North Platt. Well it's been an interesting week, I've been
17 accused by those in the Mayor's inner circle of being a cop-hater, a liar, and a trouble-
18 maker. I come before you to let you know that I have 2 brothers in law enforcement and I
19 have the utmost respect for those in the field. The fact is, I only know 2 of the members
20 of our police force because they have been around here for many years, both of them
21 have assisted me in the past and I have never had an issue with either one of them. I have
22 never said anything or posted anything publicly that I did not personally experience or it
23 wasn't documented. And if asking questions about what is happening in our town and our
24 government is being a trouble-maker, then they're right, I am a trouble-maker. Over the
25 past few months, I have talked to many of the Council members about my concerns. I
26 even warned some of you that something big was going to happen and it was going to
27 cost the city a fortune. My concern was for all of Redgil...la...Red Lodge, not just a
28 chosen few. I have a large investment in this town and no intention of ever leaving. I

1 came here in my 20's, met my husband downtown at the Snag, we own a business and a
2 home here. We raised 2 children in this community and one of them has just purchased
3 his own home here in town. My husband was born and raised in Red Lodge. Our
4 investment in this town is our whole life and everything that is important to us is here. So
5 instead of calling me a trouble-maker, maybe the inner circle should realize that I've tried
6 to protect our investment. My first encounter with the Chief and Mayor was at a talking
7 with the mayor at Honey's. The topic of the day was a new Red Lodge jail. I spoke up at
8 that meeting with a few concerns about Red Lodge getting a jail, one of them of course,
9 being, its a County issue, not the City's responsibility. At one point during that
10 discussion, the Chief raised his voice, informed her that my sweet little safe town during
11 the day, is not the same at night, pointing his index finger at me to emphasize his words.
12 He made it sound like Red Lodge was a dangerous place to be at night, and I informed
13 him that I moved here in my 20's and I moved here for the nightlife and I can tell you,
14 back then it was much worse. It was at this meeting that I began to try and keep informed
15 about what was going on in City Hall. I have continued to ask questions and stay
16 involved with what was being presented as the pressing issues of Red Lodge. Over the
17 past summer, or over the past summer things truly escalated. The Mayor took coming
18 out of City Hall was to be afraid of Red Lodge, because if the crazies downtown didn't
19 get you, the bears or the curbs would. The Mayor would not speak to me and even shut
20 me down during, uh, public comments during some of the meetings. Then came the
21 Carbon County News article in late January, a drug bust in J...in Bear Creek. After
22 reading the article, I had questions, and I wondered what was going on, and obviously so

1 did others too. I don't do well with r... rumors, so I did a little digging of my own to find
2 out what was going on. From what I was hearing, it was a mess, and obviously it still is.
3 Every time a news article comes out, whether it be the Carbon County News, the Last
4 Best News or the Gazette, the narrative coming out of the City seem to be a little bit
5 different. There is one law suit already filed and from the sounds of things, there could
6 be more of them. This is going to cost our town dearly. Not only in legal fees but also in
7 any judgment that may be made. And after all the hoopla, at this point, no one has been
8 charged with a crime. I think this latest fiasco should make every one of you start to
9 question where our leadership is taking us and if this is really the path Red Lodge needs
10 to be on. We have long-term businesses shutting down their doors downtown. We have
11 an over zealous leader in the police department working hard to get several bars closed
12 too, and a mayor who is micro-managing everyone including attempting to micromanage
13 the County and the State. We need to have an independent investigation into this
14 administration, our police department, and including the city prosecutor. And I am
15 asking you as a City Council to get that accomplished. I know you have thankless jobs
16 and I do appreciate all that you do, but while the Mayor has you all re-writing codes and
17 regulations, he is busy tearing down what makes this town unique and special. Red
18 Lodge is a great place to live but we need the State and the County to survive. We need
19 our community to continue to be diverse with people of all ages and backgrounds. It is
20 what keeps this town alive, but most importantly, we need to know the whole story of
21 what happened to lead up to the Bear Creek incident. I think as a community, we are
22 owed at least that much. Thank you for listening.

1 C1: Thank you Diane. Anyone else would like to speak during this time?

2 P1: I'm Wareen Wall I live at 317 Broadway Avenue South. Mr. Mayor, Council members,
3 Department Heads, and Citizens of Red Lodge. I am here tonight with the public record
4 to express my appreciation for your commitment to our community. I say thank you to
5 Mayor Williams for his vision and his leadership, to the City Council for its dedication,
6 to Chief of Police, Hibler and Officers of the Red Lodge Police Department for making
7 Red Lodge a safer place, to Jim Bushnell and his staff for taking care of the
8 infrastructure, to Peter Italiano and James Caniglia for implementation of policy and
9 guidance in community development, and to Administration for taking care of the day to
10 day business of Red Lodge. Through all your efforts, your responsive in serving the
11 needs of the Red Lodge citizens and are assertive in making Red Lodge a more business
12 friendly place. I feel compelled to speak out tonight because there is a small but noisy
13 minority in Red Lodge that's spends copious amounts of time on the internet and a
14 concerted effort to discredit our police force and others by association. They say
15 spurious things, particularly about the Mayor and the Chief of Police. While these folks
16 have the right to question the city government and the freedom of speech gives them the
17 rights to speak their minds, it is accomplishing nothing positive. However it is creating
18 an adversarial environment by spreading vitriol, in some cases picking out truth and even
19 slander. Because the internet is so far reaching, it also creates a negative view of Red
20 Lodge that reflects on tourism on which our town survives. I for one am tired of the
21 nasty rhetoric. Many in our community work to serve others and to make Red Lodge a
22 better place for all who live here and for all those that come to visit. To have a view or

1 stay determined to dismantle and disparage our city government is unsettling but more
2 importantly, is working against the common good. Mr. Mayor and Chief Hibler, I hope
3 you will be encouraged by knowing that the greater population of Red Lodge appreciates
4 what you do on behalf of our town and holds you in high regard. Keep up the good work
5 and keep the faith. We stand behind you.

6 C1: Thank you Wareen. Would anyone else like to speak?

7 P2: Hello my name is Bradley Broderick. I don't have anything quite as prepared as
8 everyone else, so (inaudible)

9 C1: Thank you

10 P2: Um, I, actually speaking I've heard quite a bit of worry downtown and people have come
11 to me, they don't want names spoken, but it's about the intimidating police force that we
12 do have. I'm getting a lot of this from both the tourists and from people in town.
13 They're saying that Red Lodge is becoming a place where they want to come and relax
14 but they feel there is an ever presence of a threat, if you will, they don't feel comfortable
15 being in our town anymore. Now I've been in Red Lodge 23 years, I graduated here, I've
16 gone to school here since elementary school. I love this town. I plan on staying here for
17 a good long time, but these worry me because we are a town that relies on tourism in my
18 opinion. We have, when the town comes to the summertime, we've got the Harley
19 ra...rally which brings in a lot of money. We have the um, ir...or the Home Champions
20 Rodeo, also brings in a lot of money, and brings in a lot of partiers, and they feel as
21 though they can't let loose. Now these people are not trying to cause any harm. They
22 aren't trying to do any damage. They're trying to have a good time, and they're feeling

1 very restricted. That is what I have to say about that.

2 C1: Thank you.

3 P3: I wasn't going to talk but that did it. Um, I'm Leslie Bachmann. I live at 119 West 7th
4 Street. Um, I just want to say that uh, I am fully supportive of our Mayor, our Red Lodge
5 Police Department, I've lived here 16 years, my family is from here, I went to Roosevelt,
6 and I've too experience what it was like when we were little. These times are not those
7 times anymore, very, very different. We have never ever had a more professional Mayor
8 and professional Police Chief and Police Department than we do now.

9 P?: Here, here.

10 P3: They're not turning their cheek, they are facing what they see, and I feel safe, and my
11 family feels safer, our entirement... entire town should feel safer, um and as far as
12 partying, if you feel like you can't let loose, you probably shouldn't. Um, there's
13 something wrong there, and it doesn't sound right. Um, I just really want to support and
14 do whatever we can do for our Mayor and the Police Department here. They've done,
15 gone out of their way, Chief has gone out of his way to do personal things for people, far
16 beyond his power, um, as a person to support Red Lodge.

17 C1: Thank you for that.

18 P4: Steven Vale, 898 Upper Continental Drive. I'm going to attempt to do the impossible. I
19 haven't been here my whole life. I'm a transplant, I'm a native Montanan. I've been in
20 Red Lodge 5 years and 3 months. I love this town too. The most common question is
21 Red Lodge, in Red Lodge is, so what brought you here? You brought me here. When I
22 lived in Colorado, I had a business as many others did. It was in the mountains, it was a

1 tourist destination, it was beautiful, but the common theme in the business is you can't
2 eat the scenery. It won't provide. It takes people to make things work, and that's the key
3 to make things work. Now I went to school on a Blackfeet Indian Res in Browning, and
4 even there I learned something about glass houses with rocks, and I also learned
5 something out of what is now my Lord Jesus Christian Bible, let the one without sin,
6 throw the first stone.

7 P?: Amen

8 P4: I don't think that we are accomplishing anything by tearing down each other, and at the
9 end of the day, that's all we have. There's going to be disagreements on policy, there's
10 going to be disagreements on behavior, there's going to be disagreements on the Great
11 American Circus, the New Hampshire Primary, right, but somehow, for more than 200
12 years, we managed to come together, sometimes in spite of and sometimes because of our
13 very passionate differences and make things work. And the most common theme, or the
14 common theme that I've heard here tonight, I love this town. I would ask because I'll
15 have to do it first if I'm going to ask you to do it, ok, this is going to sound real hokey
16 from this fellow Indian, try to love each other as much as we do the town. Try to find
17 solutions not resolutions, but when I say resolutions, I mean resolve to be in each other's
18 things, resolve to be bitter, resolve to angry. It doesn't work, we know that. We can look
19 within our own families and see what happens when that happens. It doesn't work. We
20 have to agree to disagree and do what's civil...civilly. The biggest complaint about
21 American Politics right now in congress is there's no civility. We need not emulate, we
22 need to teach them, it's just that simple. Okay. Well Pastor Lee, with that my sermon is

1 ended.

2 C1: Thank you

3 P?: Thank you

4 C1: Anyone else?

5 P5: I'm Kristen Hollum. I am at 408 South McGillen, and I just want to say I come to these
6 meetings and other, um, City Council meetings and Park Board meetings to be an
7 informed and engaged citizen, and in regards to this matter, I would just like to request a
8 little bit of transparency and communication with the general public because, as people
9 have mentioned, it, all we get are reports from the news member or bloggers or rumors
10 that fly around, and I think a public comment, um, and a little bit of transparency would
11 really help this situation for people whatever side of the argument they fight on.

12 C1: Thank you. Anyone else?

13 P6: My name is Chris Ferguson, uh, I live on 806 South Hauser. I am a third generation
14 Ferguson in this town and uh, I feel um, very threatened by the presence of the Police we
15 have in town, and this has exacerbated my concern. Uh, the Bear Creek incident seems a
16 matter of over extension and the image that I receive in town with the, uh, bulletproof
17 vests, with the undercover cars, the new drug dogs, these things I feel like is, uh, an
18 exacerbation of a kind of anxiety that I think is, is natural with authority figures like that
19 but this is something that is making me much more difficult to look past these, these new
20 elements in our, in our town, um, so it just worries me that this is another extension of, of
21 overreach, so thank you.

22 C1: Thank you, Chris.

1 P7: My name is Lee Merck. I live at 11 Robinson Lane and uh, I have 4 daughters, and I'm
2 very glad that all those drugs were taken off the road.

3 P?: Amen (14:46)

4 P?: Amen

5 P7: When I see these guys walking around with vests on, I'm not threatened or intimidated. I
6 have a family, I'm not trained in law enforcement and I need them to do their job. Uh, I,
7 I need them, I need the County, and I need the County and the City to work together.
8 Um, maybe some talking before letter writing and things of that nature would be good.
9 Um, I uh, also want to say that uh, it's an honor for me to serve as Chaplin with the
10 Police Department and uh, I don't wear a vest and I'm not armed when I'm out with
11 them. I'm out in the public enjoying some time uh, with them and seeing what they're
12 doing. I'm very impressed by the number of uh, people they have helped in some of
13 these situations you're talking about in terms of driving people calling when they're too
14 drunk to drive themselves. I don't know how many times that has happened and I've
15 been with them, uh, they're very courteous and also uh, you know the, the threatening
16 people that are being talked about uh, some of these things you don't know about but we
17 have sat together at restaurants, just for a few hours, to make sure that young people who
18 are seeing their dad for the first time in 5 years that are threatened by the presence of their
19 dad are not scared and uh, when there's situations, there are times when um, I don't know
20 how many Teddy Bears they've given out so, uh, Teddy Bears aren't very threatening.
21 Um, I would encourage everybody to take a little bit of time to get to know them,
22 Sherriff's Department, Police Department. We need all of them, and we need all of them

1 working together. And uh, because I drive, I don't know city streets, I drive on County
2 roads and uh, I, just to be honest with you, uh, I prayed for both County and City people
3 this week that I know by name and uh, we need to uh, we need to cut some of this out, a
4 lot of immaturity going on right now, and uh,

5 P?: Yes

6 P7: begin to act like adults and um, treat each other with respect, and so uh, my
7 encouragement is to take some time to get to know people here doing these jobs and uh,
8 I'm very thankful for the city we live in and the protection that we have so, that's what I
9 wanted to say.

10 C1: Thank you

11 P8: My name is Catherine Simon, I live at 23 Big Horn Road, um, just inside of uh, two mile
12 bridge road, um, I graduated from Red Lodge High School in 1980, my Stepfather is Paul
13 Pilati, my mother's Claudette Pilati. Um, I'm, I'm, I, I just feel like I need to say
14 something. The other day, it was a Wednesday afternoon and I was sitting at Bogart with
15 my husband and within 15 minutes I saw 3 undercover officers in vehicles, or not
16 undercover, um, unmarked vehicles, I saw one with our Police thing on it, and I saw one
17 that was for k-9 vehicle on a Wednesday at 2:00pm. And I guess my question is, why do
18 we have so much, so many police officers? Why are there unmarked vehicles, um, I
19 came from Seattle, I, I just moved back after 25 years. I am shocked at the City and the
20 way that it looks today. Um, I don't feel safe having that much Police presence
21 personally. Um, I, I really don't, I feel it's overbearing and it's ok to laugh but I have my
22 right, I'm very discouraged, I'm very upset at what's happening with this town. I love

1 this town, I moved back after many years, and I really think when you have many times
2 over the average of police officers in Red Lodge than there is in the whole of Montana,
3 there's something wrong. This is not a big city. Billings is just not that far, you know,
4 we don't need that much, when you look at the Police Blotter, I (inaudible) you know,
5 what is going on that we need this much? It makes no sense, it makes no sense. And as a
6 citizen, I'm extremely uncomfortable with this, and I'm actually emotional because it
7 upsets me so much to see what's happening, and this event that we just, that just
8 occurred, that is the beginning of something, that's not going to go well for us. It's just
9 not, I would like to see a change from the top down. I would like to see citizens of Red
10 Lodge understand that this should be a balance, there is no balance right now. There's
11 just too much police. We're already the County seat. We have the Sherriff Department.
12 How many police officers may I ask are in the Red Lodge Police Department? How
13 many? Does anyone know?

14 P?: (inaudible) You don't know yourself, you're saying there's too many, (inaudible)

15 P8: I want to hear it.

16 P?: (inaudible)

17 P8: There's no need for you to act this way thank you. I'm just asking.

18 C1: 7

19 P8: 7, how many are on the Sherriff Department or is there (inaudible)

20 C1: Catherine, you need to address me and the Council not the audience because that's where
21 the rules are being (inaudible)

22 P8: Ok, I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry

1 C1: No, it's no problem I just want you to, it's, we're not going to have a get back (inaudible)

2 P8: No that's fine, that's fine, I just would prefer just (inaudible) speak freely

3 C1: Fine

4 P8: So there's 7? How about in the Sheriff Department, are there, is there um, an overlap in,
5 in officers?

6 C1: If you would like to come in and talk about that, we will be, I'll be glad to talk with you
7 about how it all works and it might be better to do it that way.

8 P8: Ok, that's fine, anyway, this is just how I feel and I'm sure that it might seem silly to
9 some but

10 C1: Thank you for your comment

11 P8: it means a lot to me.

12 P9: Uh, Charity Stephens. I live at 22..224 and a quarter South Platt, I, I kind of just wanted
13 to touch on what Catherine said about uh, the need for so much Police present. I
14 currently the director of the 2 group homes here in Red Lodge for people with intellectual
15 and physical disabilities. I am also a Red Lodge AEMT, I serve on our ambulance and
16 I'm also on the board for that as well and I'm also in an AEMT with AMR the medical
17 response in Billings. Uh, I apologize ahead of time. I, I tend to stutter uh, when speaking
18 so if that happens I apologize but, uh, in reference to Catherine, uh I appreciate the fact,
19 uh, from a medical standpoint of the police walk throughs. Yeah, it's not very known to
20 the, to the public uh, there seems to be quite a bit of GHB slipping in some of the bars
21 here in town. I can attest that I know that for a fact because I have helped render aid to
22 some of these women that have been found unconscious or unresponsive in the alleys

1 behind these bars. With that being said, the decrease in that has been quite significant
2 since we've had police doing the walk throughs through the bars, uh, kind of keeping an
3 eye on things, making sure that there's not a lot of drugs going through the bars, uh, as
4 we know very well, it used to be quite prominent in one of the bars here in town. Uh, I
5 would also like to commend uh Chief Hibler and the Police Department not because it's
6 been thrown at me several times that I'm too close to the situation, but as somebody
7 that's one of the more active members of Red Lodge EMS, never once have I got an EMS
8 call that Red Lodge Police was not there to assist us, who has not helped carry patients
9 down the stairs for us, who has not helped secure a scene when we've questioned whether
10 it's safe for us to be in there, they've never ever hesitated, they've always been there, and
11 they've been there when we've just needed an assist lifting somebody because some of us
12 are quite small that couldn't lift somebody cause they were twice our size, always have
13 responded. Um, the talk about the tourism, with the Red Lodge presence, I can personally
14 tell you that on the 4th of July every year I help carry the enormous flag down, with great
15 pride, down our main street. This Summer there was a business owner, there was a 911
16 call that went out for a girl who has an intellectual disability. She had heat stroke, she
17 was very sick, she was in front of the business of this place, or sitting in front of it. I
18 went inside and asked that business owner if I could please bring a patient inside to get
19 her out of the heat while we waited for 911 to respond. That business owner in front of
20 12 customers screamed at the top of her lung, "Get her out of my F-ing store, she's
21 already thrown up on my F-ing floor, I don't need her in here."

22 P?: That was me and there was a vomit problem all over the front of my store

1 P9: Do I get to finish Sir?

2 C1: Come on guys.

3 P9: So with that being said, this girl was belittled in front of a cusom...in front of several
4 customers of the store and I was allowed to take this girl across the street to Pizza Co.
5 which was 30 times more packed than her establishment and they were more than happy
6 to take the patient in the back and render care until the ambulance came. So I don't think
7 it's a police presence that's causing some of the problems with tourism. I know for a fact
8 that that family said that they would never come to Red Lodge again, they would never
9 shop at her store, so it can't just be the police presence, it's also got to be, you have to be
10 accountable for how you treat people in your store in front of customers. So there's that.
11 Uh, the other thing I wanted to mention is not only did they assist me with EMS patients,
12 but I have quite a diverse group of people in my group homes. I have one particular
13 resident who likes to elope all the time. The police force has made a great effort to
14 become friends and personal with my people in my group homes. One of them started
15 running away just so he could hang out with the Chief in his car and then get a sticker.
16 Uh, I had one elope, he was gone for quite some time. It was cold, he was barefoot,
17 nobody could find him, and it was Greg Srock who found him, who was literally 300
18 yards away from a bear and 2 sows, he saved his life. My resident to this day is still
19 doing amazing because of the fact that the police force was diligent, they never gave up
20 and they spent 3 hours searching for him. I'm forever grateful. It's no secret that our
21 group homes are short-staffed. I've got people with all diverse backgrounds and the very
22 fact that they're willing to take time out of their day to swing by the group home and let

1 one of them play with his radio, or get a sticker, or even turn on the lights means the
2 world to me. And the last thing I want to say is I'm ashamed. I have got sucked into the
3 Red Lodge debates. All everything on there was all about how bad our Police
4 Department was, how, how, how crooked, how the Chief does this and the Mayor does
5 that, and there was no real support there. And I thought to myself, "why doesn't anybody
6 stand up for the things that they do do right?" My son was a p...a proud recipient of a
7 ticket this summer because he had his helmet on, he got a ticket and got to have ice
8 cream. That's huge, there's a video that's going viral at Winter Stroll 2 years ago where
9 the same Officer Greg Srock, the bad one, was in a snowball fight with kids, that's 30
10 kids, they were having a ball, but nobody talks about that. Nobody talks about the fact
11 again that the decrease in the drugs that are going through our bars because of the walk
12 throughs, nobody's talking about the fact that they've given hundreds of rides home and
13 prevented DUI's, and I am ashamed. I did get sucked into the debate because I believe
14 that people should have a moral character. I did Face...I Facebook stalked the girl that
15 made the complaint against the City. Her posts on her Facebook were less than
16 favorable, they were very unpro...unclassy if (inaudible) and I made a comment that
17 probably wasn't the best, I said, maybe a million dollars would buy her a conscience and
18 some class, and I apologize for that because she is a victim, however again someone's
19 character needs to be taken into play when we're looking at this. A lawsuit for this City
20 would be huge, not only does the insurance have to pay for it, but we as tax payers are
21 going to end up paying for it as well and we're going to lose city jobs and funding
22 because a million dollars isn't, isn't, isn't change. So again I, I, I applaud you Mayor,

1 you have been thrown into an ugly circle for the last couple of weeks, I applaud the
2 Police Department and from an EMS standpoint, I am eternally grateful for all of their
3 hard work and for standing with us and, and, and I appreciate it.

4 C1: Thank you, Charity. Going, going, gone. I appreciate all the comments. I know the
5 council does, we will take them and get through them, and (inaudible) what we need to
6 do about them. I do appreciate all the comments.