



**TOWN OF PALMER LAKE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - AGENDA MEMO**

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| DATE: June 9, 2022 | ITEM NO. | SUBJECT: |
| Presented by: Town Administrator /Clerk | | Resolution to Authorize Fire Mitigation Service with Miller Timber |

Background

The Town was awarded a state funds in 2021 to conduct fire mitigation. Chief McCarthy has worked with Miller Timber to provide the following service –

Widening the Road: \$3,000.00

Thinning, forwarding logs, and chipping slash: \$4,041,67 per acre

The Town has \$100,000.00 budgeted (\$50,000 in Colorado State funding and \$50,000.00 in Town matching funds) for a total of 23.9998 acres to be mitigated.

The plan submitted by Miller Timber will improve the forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk. The operations will considerably strengthen areas previously treated by hand as well as expand this work into areas that are critical to protecting the water, reservoirs, and town of Palmer Lake.

To complete the work, Miller Timber will be utilizing three distinct machines. First, a Ponsse Bear harvester will be used to thin trees, process them into usable wood and slash. Second, a Ponsse Elephant King forwarder will bring that wood to a landing. Lastly, they will utilize a first of its kind chipper forwarder. This marriage between a Ponsse Buffalo forwarder and Vermeer AX19 chipper allows Miller Timber to chip slash in the woods. Chip will be broadcast onto machine trails minimizing erosion potential, keeps fuel loading to a minimum, and returns nutrients back into forest soils in a usable way.

With the only access into this area being the narrow road from town to the upper reservoir, improving access to the reservoir is essential for successful project implementation and future activity on the property. To reduce risks associated with heavy equipment operations it is necessary to easily get machines and vehicles to the landing area. Miller Timber intends to use a backhoe equipped with a rock hammer to improve short portions of roadway. By removing debris and parts of rocks along the road, the narrow spaces will be widened. This small amount of roadwork allows equipment to safely use the road and emergency vehicles to access the site.