

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Etheridge
	Trustees	Omer Mills Waldref Strate Gerloff
Members Absent		Halandras
Town Staff Present	Town Administrator	Day
	Town Planner	Smith
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Town Attorney	Viscardi
	Chief of Police	Hervey
	Public Works Super.	Overton
	Admin. Assist.	Niemi
Citizens Present	Nikki Turner	RB Herald Times

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Etheridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

All Trustees present except for Trustee Halandras. Trustee Gerloff arrived at 7:05 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Etheridge asked if there were any changes to the agenda, with Administrator Day stating Items A and B under New Business needed to be removed as the presenters had cancelled because they were not ready, and would be back at a later time.

A motion was made by Trustee Omer to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Trustee Waldref. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mayor Etheridge asked for changes or revisions to the minutes of February 17, 2009. Planner Smith stated on page three, the word "to be" struck from the last sentence in paragraph two. She stated on page four, fourth paragraph, strike the words "but they may be able to" and add the word "cannot" so the remainder of the sentence would then read "it cannot advertise the sheep dog trials, cannot say "welcome to the sheep dog trial participants". Day stated on page six, the motion should include parenthesis and the words "see attached motion" for the recording of the motion with the Escondido Subdivision.

A motion was made by Trustee Strate to approve the February 17, 2009 minutes with noted revisions, seconded by Trustee Waldref. Ayes of Trustees Omer, Waldref, Strate and Gerloff. Trustee Mills abstained. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Administrator Day left the room due to conflict of interest. Mayor Etheridge asked for questions or comments regarding the revised set of vouchers dated February 28, 2009. She inquired about the costs for the well, asking Public Works Superintendent Russell Overton if it was for materials. Mr. Overton stated that was correct and

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work was progressing. Trustee Omer inquired if the cost was for materials and labor with Mr. Overton stating it was materials only.

Mayor Etheridge inquired about Item #40, the employee payment to Samuelson's with Town Clerk Cook stating it was an employee wage garnishment.

A motion to approve the revised set of vouchers dated February 28, 2009 was made by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Omer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Administrator Day returned to the meeting.

**DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

**Public Works** ó Public Works Superintendent Russell Overton stated the insulation of the shop had been completed, along with weather-stripping, and other work to make the facility more energy efficient.

**Water Usage** - Mr. Overton stated water usage was at a 10 year low, with 7,935,000 gallons pumped and had not been that low since 1999. Mayor Etheridge inquired as to why it had dropped off and if it was due to the new rates. Mr. Overton stated he didn't know. Administrator Day stated less bulk water was used due to the slow down of the industry. Trustee Mills stated it could be due to the new monitoring system on the meters which catches leaks faster. Mr. Overton agreed, and stated with the electronic reads they can monitor it all year long and has been in place about three years.

**Tennis Courts at Sage Hills** ó Mr. Overton stated the tennis courts are in need of repair, stating the nets are rotten and cracks are fairly large creating a hazard. He stated the Town either needed to repair them or consider closing the courts. He also stated there had been talk the previous year about doing something with the Middle School and their courts. Trustee Omer inquired about the length of time the courts had been there, with Mr. Overton stating since the early 80's or late 70's and had been resurfaced once or twice. Discussion focused on the type of surface on the courts, the expense associated with fixing the problems and maintaining the courts, the motivation for installing tennis courts in that area, and various complaints over the years regarding noise and lights.

Trustee Omer inquired if the Town was obligated to make the improvements and maintain the courts, or could the area be turned into green space, or a park. Day stated the Town would need to look at the subdivision improvements agreement. She stated if it was decided to abandon the courts, possibly the school would consider a coalition to keep theirs going, and the Town could move the lights from Sage Hills to the school. Trustee Omer inquired about official comments or feedback from neighbors for or against maintaining the courts, with Day replying there had been a couple of calls last year stating the courts were in bad shape. Mr. Overton stated other complaints about the noise and the surface being in bad shape had been about 50/50. Consensus from the Board was for Staff to gather facts on the issue and have it as a future discussion item on the agenda. Mr. Overton will close the tennis courts to eliminate potential accidents until a decision is made concerning the future of the courts.

**Ute Park Fence** ó Mr. Overton stated the new fence for Ute Park had been ordered. Day stated Mr. Overton had also ordered the materials to install the fence between the mobile home park and the Town's water load out area as the Town had agreed to do several years ago (when the recycling center was constructed) and further said the Public Works crew would be installing the fence.

**Police Department** - Chief Hervey stated in 2008, the PD had 1050 more calls than in 2007. He also stated they had a total of 452 Summons issued and arrests made. Chief Hervey stated for January of 2009 there were 226 reports: five Traffic summons, 19 criminal, with 16 arrests, and 15 animal calls, and it hadn't slowed much in January.

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Chief Hervey informed the Board that Lt. Glen Wilson had resigned and the department will be looking to fill the position.

**Planning Department** - Planner Smith stated she wanted to clarify the sign code information in the minutes (from the last meeting). In the minutes she had stated off-premise signs were not allowed in the current Town code. She stated she should have clarified that off-premise signs would not be allowed in the proposed draft for digital signs. She also stated current code does allow off-premise signs in the Highway Commercial Zoning District. Planner Smith stated that could cause a potential conflict and outlined the reason. Discussion focused on off-premise signs, state criteria, the Town's criteria and what the sign can display.

Trustee Mills stated if the Town allowed an off-premise digital sign, no other businesses within 1,000-feet could have a (digital) sign and would inhibit other businesses. He inquired if it was 500-feet each way, with Planner Smith stating it was 1,000 feet each way. Discussion focused on the 1,000 feet criteria and a couple of scenarios.

**Additional Updates** - Planner Smith stated there were no Certificate of Occupancies (CO's) issued for February. She stated there were two new residential remodeling permits (issued) and the Escondido Final Plat had been recorded on 3/3/2009.

**RV's** - Planner Smith stated the RV parks within town limits had vacancies (spaces) available. She stated Staff had sent letters to those residing in RV's on private property, giving notification that they had 45 days to move to an RV park (in compliance with the Town's code) and at this time, two have complied with the remainder pending. She stated March 28, 2009 was the deadline to comply before the Town enforced the code. Trustee Omer inquired if it was understood by those individuals, that if/when a space in an RV park opened, they had to relocate within 45 days. Planner Smith stated she was unsure if those residing in RV's on private property had checked on the requirements. Discussion focused on the requirements on residing in an RV on private property, the responses from individuals, and the property owners, documentation of the situation by the Town and resolving situations with certain individuals, without giving preferential treatment.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Consideration of request to re-appoint Chief Hervey to the 911 Board.***

Administrator Day stated Chief Hervey had been serving on the 911 Board and recommended his re-appointment. Mayor Etheridge inquired as to how long an appointment was, with Chief Hervey stating it was a two year term. Mayor Etheridge asked for comments or questions, with none noted.

A motion was made by Trustee Omer to approve the re-appointment of Chief Bob Hervey to the 911 Board, seconded by Trustee Strate. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Discussion concerning joint meeting with the Town Boards of Rangely and Meeker and the Rio Blanco County Commissioners.***

Mayor Etheridge stated joint meetings with the Towns Boards and Rio Blanco County was something that had been done in the past, bi-annually and had fallen by wayside. She stated she felt it would be good to begin again and asked Administrator Day to provide some history. Day outlined the history and reason for the meetings; the Boards of Rangely and Meeker met to discuss regional issues.

Mayor Etheridge stated with the developments on the Taskforce and the good momentum going on, along with a

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greater need for communication, it would be a good time to reinstitute the meetings and keep the lines of communication open. She asked the Board for their input with Trustee Mills stating he agreed. He stated he had met and spoken with Rangely's Town Manager at a recent event in Rangely, stating they had lots of good ideas and projects in the works. Trustee Gerloff stated he felt this should happen more than once or twice a year. Mayor Etheridge stated there had been meetings in the past with the County Commissioners and felt spring and fall would be a great time to meet. Consensus from the Board was for Day to get potential dates for a meeting, and coordinate with the other entities.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORTS**

Mayor shared a thank you note from the Chamber of Commerce, thanking the Town for their support of the Annual Dinner.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORTS**

**Collective Bargaining Bill** - Administrator Day stated she had emailed Kevin from CML and he had stated the bill was in another committee and recommended the Town send a letter in opposition. Day stated it is an interesting bill as it takes in all home rule (cities and statutory towns) and doesn't give any choices. She also stated all Fire Districts and Police Departments would be affected if the bill passed.

**Girl Scout Proclamation** ó Day stated the Town had received a letter from the Girl Scouts, asking if Mayor Etheridge could declare March 8<sup>th</sup> ó 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 as Girl Scout Week. The proclamation would be posted on the Town's website after Mayor Etheridge signed the document.

**Energy Impact Grant** ó Administrator Day stated a new road was needed between Sulphur Creek Road and the driveway for the new elementary school. Day stated it had been discussed with other entities regarding joining forces and submitting a joint Energy Impact Grant to put the road in. She stated the school district would write the grant and has the cash match that's required. She also stated the Town and the County would lend in-kind support. Day stated confirmation from the Board was needed to move forward. She stated the grant was due April 1, 2009 and was a great opportunity as the Taskforce has been talking about collaborative projects for over a year and half. She also stated this wouldn't be the end of needing things for the new school as curb, gutter and sidewalks along Sulphur Creek would also be needed if the Town decided to extend 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Trustee Gerloff inquired as to which road. Day stated it would be the road past the Recreation District, which would be widened, and improved with sidewalks, curb, gutters and bike paths. She stated the road is important as they aren't able to start construction on the school until the road is constructed. Trustee Omer stated he understood that Superintendent Evig had stated at the Taskforce meeting, the school had funding for the bridge, but not the road, and asked for clarification. Discussion focused on what funding the school had available and what it had been allotted for.

Trustee Omer stated it would be helpful to see a layout. He also inquired as to how much of the road need was on other entities property. Day stated she was unable to answer that at this time, but stated it would be a public road when finished. Trustee Omer stated he understood and supported the idea for funding. He inquired about the improvements along Sulphur Creek Road, asking if it was on Town property or other property and where funding would come from on the project. He also asked about how much planning had been done, as there was a great deal of work to be done, and how would it be funded. Day stated there was a great deal of work to be done in the area, and this would be the first step. She stated the problem is that the road needed to be in place so construction of the new school could begin. Discussion focused on the grant time table, the project time table, other entities support/involvement, and additional in-kind services for a better match. Day stated she would do some checking and get the information to Board before the grant is submitted.

Mr. Overton asked Day for clarification on putting the road in before the school facility was started. Day stated

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that is what she had been told, so they could get construction equipment to the site. Mr. Overton stated they could rough a road in before the building was started, but if asphalt was laid during the construction of the building, it would be torn up by the heavy equipment. Discussion focused on installation of a rough road, the process, and type of materials that could be used, the entities working together and future projects for Energy Impact funding. Consensus from the Board was to move forward with the project, with Day keeping the Board apprised of the project.

**Water Source Protection Plan** ó Mayor Etheridge stated the Board had been given a CD of the final draft for the Water Source Protection Plan. She stated it had a great deal of mapping, geology and scientific data and mapped out the area of water protection for drinking water. She complimented Colleen Williams, Colorado Rural Water, for her work on the project and for getting the Town some funding for educational materials, and implementing signage along County Road 8. Mayor Etheridge stated the County had been involved in the planning process and would include the information in their Master Plan. Administrator Day stated the plan needed to be adopted by resolution in the future.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORTS**

None

**OTHER TOWN BOARD BUSINESS**

**Substance Abuse** ó Trustee Strate stated he has had numerous complaints about substance abuse issues, and inquired if the topic could be on the agenda for a Board workshop discussion. Mayor Etheridge stated the discussion/workshop should include the Police Department. Day stated it could be the topic for the April workshop. Trustee Strate stated he would try to get others involved from the school, and Trustee Waldref inquired if Build a Generation (BAG) should also be included. Discussion focused on getting more information regarding substance abuse, data to back it up, how to get the data, where it starts, and substance abuse being a social issue.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Street Feasibility Study** ó Trustee Mills inquired about the feasibility study, where it was at, and what was taking place. Day stated the engineer had sent a couple of drawings to her and Mr. Overton and the best way to handle the situation would be a conference call with the engineer at the next meeting so he could talk with the Board. She stated more information was needed, with Mr. Overton stating the engineer had provided a few ideas for the site. Trustee Mills inquired if there was room at the site, with Mr. Overton stating there was room to do something, but costs and how it was done were important. Discussion focused on the Town picking a couple of options to study, costs of the project, and looking at all the options presented.

Day reiterated the workshop topic would be 2nd Street on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the Substance Abuse workshop in April.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Etheridge adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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Mandi Etheridge, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa Cook, Town Clerk