

## **Town of Meeker Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at Town Hall.

### **Members Present**

Mayor  
Trustees

Day  
Browning  
Day  
Jehorek  
Lockwood  
Nielsen  
Sizemore

### **Town Staff Present**

Administrator  
Town Clerk  
Attorney  
Comm. Dev./Planner  
Public Works Supt.

Etheridge  
Cook  
Massih  
Thomson  
Willey

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

All Board members were present.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Trustee Jehorek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Sizemore to approve the minutes of April 1, 2025, as corrected. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated April 15, 2025. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dierdre MacNab representing the White River Alliance encouraged the Board to not conduct aerial spraying for mosquitoes again this year and continue to provide B.T.I., which is more beneficial in killing the mosquito larvae.

### **STAFF UPDATES**

Public Works Superintendent Willey reported 13,881,024 gallons of water were pumped during the month of March; the Garfield Waterline Replacement project has started and today when crossing four service lines they found two of them have been leaking, the new line has already been run between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets under the Town ditch; the department is still short staffed; we have been sweeping the streets and will begin flushing fire hydrants and crack filling the streets will begin soon. Mayor Day asked if the contractor was able to get all the materials, Supt. Willey replied all but the fire hydrants, which they are hoping to have when the project gets to that point.

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Administrator Etheridge stated Chief Thompson's stats were included in the Board packets and that Officer Hetzel and DAK were recertified last week, it went well.

Planner Thomson reported the department updates were included in the Board's packet and that spring has sprung, people are beginning to ask a lot of questions regarding building so the Planning Dept. is ramping up.

Clerk Cook reported a Temporary Tavern liquor license was issued to Piceance Creek Tavern at 723 E. Market St. (the former Caroline's location), a public hearing is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. At the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting she incorrectly reported Caroline's Louisiana Kitchen had surrendered their license when it was Black Sulphur Tavern. Smoking River Brewery's license was renewed and On the Grapevine retail liquor store license was approved by the State. Cook also gave the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter financial report stating the total cash and investments of all funds was \$10,317,686.07.

Attorney Massih said it has been pretty quiet, there will be court next week with Judge Graves to hear the case that Judge Edwards had a conflict with.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

***Consideration of Donation request from Meeker Mustang Makeover (MMM).*** Administrator Etheridge introduced Dierdre Macnab, president of MMM, who addressed the Board stating the organization appreciates the past six years of support they have received from the Town and introduced their treasurer, JH Sheridan, who was present. McNab said that each year the organization tries different things to grow the event, they have had a significant accomplishment this year in obtaining a Federal grant specifically to fund a part-time executive director and they have hired Joe Burtard of Grand Junction for that position who has been exceptional in streamlining the organization.

Burtard was present by phone and thanked the Board for their consideration of the requested \$5,000 sponsorship which will be used for economic development to promote visiting Meeker and had a presentation about the organization. Mayor Day asked if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Nielsen stated he would like the organization to work toward not being dependent on taxpayer dollars. Mayor Day called for a motion. Trustee Day made a motion to award \$5,000 from the Marketing and Economic Development line item. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of appointment to the NorthWest Transportation Planning Region (NWTPR).*** Administrator Etheridge said according to our intergovernmental agreement for a Regional Planning Commission for Transportation, the Board is tasked with nominating a primary and alternative representative to represent Meeker and shared some background information on the organization and its purpose as the new Chair and Vice-Chair are trying to clean up representation for the region and are asking for updated names. The meetings of the NWTPR are quarterly, usually on a Thursday from 9am to noon and are held via Zoom. Staff recommendation is to nominate Administrator Etheridge as the primary and Superintendent Willey as the alternative unless an elected official is interested in taking one of the positions. Mayor Day called for a motion to appoint Etheridge and Willey as recommended. Moved by Trustee Sizemore. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

***Consideration of Meeker Housing Partnership bylaws.*** Community Dev. Director/Planner Thomson addressed the Board stating as a reminder the Partnership is funded through the Local Planning Capacity grant which was awarded to include grant writing support and the budgeted \$20,000 has been earmarked for grant matching funds to form a private/public partnership, and the next step after establishing goals was

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to develop bylaws. Thomson stated that included in the Board's packets were answers to the previous questions and what is needed now is a Board decision to either table, approve or deny the drafted Bylaws.

The Board had several questions with Mayor Day asking how the initial Board will be nominated, who will choose them, will the meetings be run as quasi-Roberts Rules of Order and suggesting the Bylaws contain more information concerning these processes. After more discussion Mayor Day called for a motion to approve the bylaws with adding the language regarding quasi-Roberts Rules of Order and the initial structure of the Board. Moved by Trustee Sizemore. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- One addition to include with the Garfield Street Waterline Replacement project is the purchase of 125 new yokes & meters to go with the new main and service lines for a total cost of \$94,790 – half of which will be paid for by the grant. These parts would be ordered through our regular suppliers – Ferguson for the meters and Core & Main for the yokes – and are a necessary piece of the project to go with each service line as it is replaced. These parts were not included in the bid specs or contract price as they are being installed in-house. Trustee Sizemore asked if this idea was the contractors and Supt. Willey replied it was his as all the current yokes are not compression yokes and installing the new ones will bring the Town up to date on our backflow requirements.

- Met with CRWA technical assistance rep last week to discuss a water rate study which is in the data collection phase. CRWA will use a program to compile all the data for current users, assets, capital projects, reserves, and O&M to provide projections for up to 20 years out and plan to get that all to him this week to stay on track for Board consideration on May 6th.

- Reminder that we have three vacancies – full time Public Works Utility person, part time seasonal Public Works, and a part time Animal Shelter employee. We are also taking applications for appointed positions – three seats on the planning commission are up for appointment and one seat on the Housing Authority has become vacant.

- Administrator Etheridge addressed the Board concerning directives from the workshop prior to the meeting regarding improvements to Robert Street. Mayor Day requested staff get prices for a survey and move forward with it without coming back to the Board if the price is not over \$5,000. Etheridge said there is a line item of \$10,000 for engineering in the Public Works Systems Development budget. Mayor Day said depending on the price of the survey the second phase would be to contact an engineer for pricing on a simple trail/emergency access and called for a motion to that effect. Moved by Trustee Jehorek. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

- Board directed staff to contact Justin Grant and Travis Adams to approach them about returning the excavation work on Town properties to its original state. If they are not agreeable, then engage Attorney Massih.

### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

- Overton recycling was a huge success. The Board requested placing a thank you ad in the newspaper.

- Circle Park Update - asphalt is projected for the first week of May, Third Street access is now complete, and Tenth Street will be finished by end of this week.

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- The County is working on organizing a Roberts Rules workshop for all Board members of every organization. Our Regional DOLA Manager, Dana Hlavak, suggested setting up mock meetings which would teach board members how to react to questions/complaints from the public. The workshop will take place just after the special elections are completed.

**OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

Trustee Lockwood asked how the HVAC project was going. Administrator Etheridge replied that Tolin Mechanical was here last week, the upper level is comfortable, middle level is much better, and the downstairs is too warm, they will be coming back soon for spring maintenance. Etheridge said she is looking at a new geo-thermal company out of Craig to see what could be done here, adding that we will need an energy audit and bid specs in order to apply for any funding.

Trustee Lockwood asked about the sawmill activity on the Edinger property in our Watershed Protection District. Administrator Etheridge said she and Supt. Willey met with Rick Edinger who gave them a tour of the site, they have a waste plan but from the tour and the explanation of the process it was determined it was not an issue as every part of the tree is being used and it is considered dustless, it was an efficient process. Supt. Willey added the tree boughs which seem to be the issue are being disposed of at the Marvine Ranch site, and the operation has done their environmental research. Mayor Day asked if a sawmill is a use by right in our Watershed Protection District, Etheridge replied it is not on the list of restricted activities.

Trustee Jehorek informed the Board the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in May will be her last as she will be moving out of the Town Limits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

/s/Travis Day, Mayor

Attest:

/s/Lisa Cook, Town Clerk