

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor Trustee	Day Browning Day Lockwood Madison Smith
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Town Staff Present	Administrator Town Clerk Admin Asst Attorney Comm. Dev./Planner Public Works Supt.	Etheridge Cook Pakuer Massih Thomson Kilduff
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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 except Trustee Sizemore.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Administrator Etheridge requested that under New Business strike item (d.) Consideration of Resolution No. 12-2025 approving CRA Agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Smith to approve the agenda to include changes. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Day asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Trustee Madison pointed out the last paragraph of page five there are two commas side by side. Mayor Day called for a motion to approve the amended minutes of November 4, 2025. Moved by Trustee Day. Second by Trustee Madison. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated October 31, 2025. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Annie Long, residing at 236 Water, stated she was present at the August 5th Board meeting and was doing a follow up tonight on their requests that were made in August. These requests were:

- to consider setting hours of operation on the bulk water plant availability for customers instead of having it open to public 24/7.
- Putting up a dead-end sign for traffic between Second and Third Street to possibly help with the backup of thru traffic.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – November 4, 2025

Administrator Etheridge informed Long that staff have been working on her concerns and suggested that she come into Town Hall to visit with herself and PW Superintendent Kilduff. Long also requested the Town look into drainage on Water Street at space #203. Administration Etheridge assured Long that it will be investigated as well.

Ann Franklin, residing at 56 County Road 8, stated she wanted to make sure the Town was aware of the discrepancy of the location of applications for Library Board openings, these applications can be picked up at the library. The interview process for the County appointment is going to be held during the day, which will exclude some working people from being able to apply. The Board thanked Franklin for coming in.

Colorado Main Street Presentation. Mayor Day introduced Matt Gordon and Larry Lucas representing Colorado Main Street Program (CMSP). They did a presentation on goals and accomplishments of CMSP. In 2023 Meeker moved up a level from Designated and was accepted as a Graduate Community in the CMSP and follows the Main Street approach which includes Organization, Promotion, Design and Economic Vitality. The Meeker Board for CMSP consists of Bailey Waldref, Teresia Ruckman-Reed, Carly Thomson, Niki Turner and Sara Stephenson. Uplift Meeker, Meeker's Main Street Program, has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America program to meet rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach. Both Gordon and Lucas commented on the improvements they had seen pointing out the dark sky compliant lighting downtown. Mayor Day thanked Gordon and Lucas for their presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding request from Meeker Historical Society. Teresia Ruckman-Reed shared some accomplishments with the Board in a handout and thanked them for their continued support and apologized on behalf of the Meeker Historical Society (MHS) for being late on requesting a 2026 donation. Reed stated the past donations from the Town have allowed the museum to remain open seven days a week during the summer month and to have a staff on-call on Sundays in the winter. In the past the town has donated five thousand dollars. Mayor Day asked if there were any questions or concerns, hearing none he called for a motion. Trustee Day made a motion to donate to the Meeker Historical Society a total of ten-thousand dollars; five-thousand dollars to come out of marketing/economic development and five-thousand dollars to come out of community improvement. Second by Trustee Browning. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution No. 10-2025 authorizing the Town of Meeker to conduct a mail-in ballot election on April 7, 2026, appointing the election official, and establishing the voter precinct. Administrator Etheridge stated this resolution is a required step that must be done before the elections in the spring of 2026. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Day called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2025 authorizing the Town of Meeker to conduct a mail-in ballot election on April 7, 2026, appointing the election official, and establishing the voter precinct. Moved by Trustee Smith. Second by Trustee Browning. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution No. 11-2025 authorizing the Town Clerk to appoint election judges and personnel. Administrator Etheridge stated this resolution is the next required step that must

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – November 4, 2025

be done before the elections in the spring of 2026. Trustee Smith suggested changing the verbiage from *her* to *their*. Hearing no further questions of concern, Mayor Day called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-2025 authorizing the Town Clerk to appoint election judges and personnel. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of an IGA with County and Library District to establish standard procedure for Library Board appointments. Administrator Etheridge stated that earlier this year the Library District attorney reached out to Attorney Massih as well as Attorney Steerman with Rio Blanco County (RBC). The goal was to discuss creating a clear and consistent way of library board appointments between RBC and Town. Prior to this discussion, RBC and the Town each had their own way of handling appointments, and each had their own separate qualifications, separate applications and the interview processes were different. In the past the Library Administrator had not had any involvement in the application process. Therefore, the discussions between the legal team led to a well-defined and uniform process to the appointments, and this agreement will bring in the Library Administrator to maintain the uniformity. Etheridge pointed out to the Board the terms in this IGA, and that they reflect the consideration of the mutual covenants and promises. All applications will be the same for RBC appointments, Town appointments, and joint appointments, and all applications will be filtered through Library administration. Attorney Massih stated once RBC and the Town approve the agreement it will be official. Trustee Lockwood expressed some concern with item (b) in the Removal Process. Attorney Massih stated she would contact the Library District attorney and discuss this further. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Day called for a motion to approve Consideration of IGA with Rio Blanco County and Library District to establish standard procedure for Library Board appointments, conditional on striking Removal Process item (b). Moved by Trustee Madison. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Amendment to Lease Agreement with ERBM: Administrator Etheridge stated in the Board packet is a revised amendment for the lease agreement with ERBM. Staff's recommendation is to approve the amendment as written, which provides for funding of up to \$175,000 to the District for half of the Operating and Maintenance (O&M) of Town Parks (this figure is half of the \$350,000 as demonstrated in the updated budget sheet). This staff recommendation will allow ample time for Town staff to consider the financial, personnel, and administrative logistics of taking back O&M of the parks for the Town of Meeker in 2027.

Mayor Day pointed out that ERBM shows in their budget spreadsheet \$25,000.00 for water measuring at Circle Park and \$14,000.00 for pumps in supplies and equipment. Day stated he feels the Town needs to oversee these two items. The water rights belong to the Town of Meeker, therefore the town should oversee measuring, and also need to be in charge of the pump at the Town Park. Trustee Day asked for clarification on how long ERBM needs to maintain the parks if the lease is terminated and Etheridge stated under the current lease there is a termination clause that states there is a six-month window.

After some discussion regarding terms of the lease, timeline, and thoughts on the joint meeting with the ERBM Board of Directors, Etheridge reiterated that due to the reported decline in finances of the District, it is assumed that the Town will likely end up taking over the parks however it would be better to budget \$175,000 and allow the District to continue to maintain the parks in 2026

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – November 4, 2025

while the Town prepares to take them over than to budget \$350,000 and have to scramble to take them over sooner. Regarding shared costs referenced in the lease amendment, it was clarified that the electric expenses were credited to the Town in the latest budget sheet.

After some discussion regarding the District's motives, Trustee Madison stated he would be ok approving the Amendment if they pay half the water expenses. Trustee Lockwood asked for clarification regarding having to amend the budget. Clerk Cook stated that the original idea was to budget \$175,000 out of the Systems Development budget, then suggested adding the expense to the Parks departmental operational budget instead. At the suggestion of Mayor Day, Etheridge recommended decreasing the Systems Development budget by \$300,000 from the Mobility Plan and adding it to the Parks budget. Trustee Lockwood then stated he would be ok with the Amendment if the District made a good faith effort to meet halfway on the water credit.

Mayor Day asked for any further questions or concerns; Trustee Browning shared a concern over the District's labor hours, stating that it felt high; Trustee Smith asked about supporting staff in the transition; Trustee Day made a motion to take this version of the Amendment to Lease Agreement back to ERBM and ask for credit back to the Town of Meeker for water. The Town will pay half of \$350,000.00 minus the credit for water in the amount we figure the number to be. If ERBM does not agree to this, they can provide written termination to take effect in six months per agreement. Second by Trustee Madison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Extraterritorial Agreement for Bulk Water Users. Administrator Etheridge stated that municipal definitions by ordinance is what the town currently requires as far as extraterritorial water and tap fees. With the declaration of over appropriation of the White River earlier this year, there has been some concern as water providers on how to properly distribute the bulk water. Currently customers are being charged twenty dollars for the use of a key to access the bulk water plant, in turn the customer is charged for water based on the amount of their usage. There are over two hundred users of bulk water, some users are active every month while some use it very periodically, eighty percent of the users have a Meeker address. Things to take into consideration are possibly introducing a service agreement, it was suggested to refer to the bulk water as Extra-Territorial Bulk Water because if a person is using the bulk water, they are taking it out of the Town's municipal boundary. However, there are a lot of questions that need to be answered, for example how to adhere to the municipal code, and will this apply to new builders only or should we include customers that have been using bulk water for years. Mayor Day stated it should include all users, especially because people that are purchasing or building a house and need financing must provide a guaranteed source of water to get financing, and the bulk water is not considered a guaranteed source; whereas, under an Extra-Territorial Water Service Agreement the applicant that is applying for financing could provide proof of a guaranteed/secured source of water so they can get financing. Trustee Day suggested setting the price to purchase a water key at \$2,500.00 which would be half the price of a water tap fee. After a lengthy discussion Attorney Massih suggested tabling this discussion for a workshop, adding that she will talk to Attorney Olszewski and get some input for a more in-depth discussion.

MANAGERS REPORT

Nothing to report.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – November 4, 2025

MAYORS REMARKS

Mayor Day attended a Water Commission meeting regarding funding for the water measurement device required at Circle Park. In speaking with Water Commissioner Kracht we got approval from the state for combination weir. There is not any state funding available for government agencies.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Madison confirmed with Administrator Etheridge the registration for upcoming CML workshops. Madison questioned whether water fluoridation would be put on the ballot for April 2026. Trustee Lockwood asked it be put on the agenda for next week.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 9:23 pm.

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Asst.



Travis Day, Mayor