

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Day
Browning
Day
Lockwood
Madison
Nielsen
Sizemore
Smith

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Admin Asst
Police Chief
Attorney
Comm Dev./Planner
Public Works Supt.

Joy
Pakuer
Thompson
Massih
Thomson
Kilduff

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 Trustee Smith arrived at 7:26 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of March 3, 2025. Second by Trustee Madison. Abstain by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated March 17, 2026 . Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Regas Halandras was present representing the Meeker Sheep Dog Classic. Halandras reported that the Classic is looking into having a drone show in celebration of America 250-Colorado150 Project. They would take off on Cemetery Hill, it would last approximately fifteen minutes.

STAFF UPDATES

- Public Works Superintendent Kilduff stated there were 8,674,944 gallons of water pumped in the month of February; the one-ton truck is done and looks good; Daylon passed his D water license test; crack fill project will start March 23rd; PW received their laptop making it possible for PW employees to do certification testing in conference room upstairs at Town Hall; staff removed the ice rink at the Court House, this space is now ready for Pickle Ball; as soon as street sweeping is completed downtown, staff will then setup the parklets. Traffic counters have been installed at 3rd

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and Main Street and are collecting data. Timberline is building computer components to meet with the fluoride addition upgrade; they are currently waiting on a probe for the analyzer with filter tech. Well's One and Six are currently shut down waiting for repairs. Kilduff did receive a quote this afternoon for the repairs to Well One.

- Chief Thompson reported for the month of February there were a total of four arrests, ten citations, resulting in 214 calls for services. There are counters set at 3rd St and Main and the Police Department are in the process of doing a speed study in this location. Chief Thompson and Officer Hetzel traveled to New Mexico to pick up the new PD truck.
- Community Dev/Planner Thomson stated the update to planning activities is included in the BOT packet; in March the Town hosted the Wildland Urban Interface training (WUI) at Town Hall; the workshop that will be held on April 14th Thomson will go over more WUI implementation and ask for some direction from the Trustees along with some direction on fees that will need to be added to permits; there is a new staff car sitting in the parking lot that has been purchased, it is a 2024 GMC Terrian, it is just over forty-two-thousand miles; the Relocation Guide magazine that was partly funded with AGNC mini grant has arrived, Thomson has started distributing them. Thomson was contacted by Liz Chandler who represents RBC Fire Recovery. Chandler got a request from the State of Colorado Recovery Task Force Office stating that with the state's budget shortfall they are concerned that this office might take a hit. Chandler is asking for a letter of support regarding the Lee and Elk fires recovery. Thomson has a letter drafted and she will email the BOT and have all Trustees sign it as well.
- Town Clerk Cook was not present therefore Administrator Joy reported there have been two applications submitted for the Town Clerk position; Cook has been working on the new iCloud-based accounting system.
- Attorney Massih reported there is no court in March, and she has been helping as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Life Cycle of Nuclear Energy in Colorado.

Matt Solomon was present on the phone to share efforts to submit a proposal to the Department of Energy in regards to potential Nuclear Energy Industry in Colorado. The Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative has explored advanced nuclear energy to replace retiring coal plants. Through the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative, they are conducting site-readiness studies to transition primarily to NW Colorado including Moffatt, Routt and Rio Blanco counties which are heavily affected by coal industry closures. Solomon did a presentation by phone, sharing the process and information to be included in the Request for Information Proposal and asked if the Town of Meeker would write a letter of support to include in the Regional RFI proposal. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Day called for a motion to sign a draft of Solomons request. Moved by Trustee Day. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes Motion carried.

Discussion about Police Department Vehicle. Chief Thompson stated they had to take the Ford Expedition in for an estimate to fix mechanical issues the estimate came back at approximately five thousand dollars in repairs, Chief Thompson asked the mechanics to just do the minimum necessary to get the vehicle running, that repair only lasted a few days. Now the vehicle is having different mechanical issues that will cost an additional amount between seven thousand to twelve-thousand dollars. Thompson requested purchasing a new vehicle at some point in 2026 staying within budget. The BOT approved the request and asked that Thompson keep them in the loop as things progressed.

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MAMBA CPW Grant Support. Regus Halandras and Joe Wilson were present representing Meeker Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA). MAMBA is currently working to improve Meeker's China Wall trail system and purchasing a porta john for the Hill Street trailhead. Halandras stated as far as CPW grant, MAMBA has been awarded the grant of \$112,800.00, MAMBA does not have the contract for this project they are still waiting for federal funding but has been assured it will come through because it is such a low amount. The grant was written and awarded based on an estimate of \$142,000.00 in January 2024. The new estimated repairs for 2026 are \$167,630.00 which is significantly higher than it was in 2024. MAMBA is requesting a donation from the Town of \$5,000.00 to be used for matching funds of the CPW grant of approximately \$112,800.00. Administrator Joy reminded the BOT in September 2025 the Town wrote a letter of support for this project as part of the grant application and she included a discretionary funds spread sheet for the Trustees to see how much funds were remaining in each line item. Trustee Sizemore made a motion to approve a donation of \$5,000.000 to Meeker Area Mountain Bike Association, with the funds to come out of Community Improvements line item. Second by Trustee Smith. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Day called for a motion to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Repairs at Circle Park at Cemetery Hill. Administrator Joy stated PW Superintendent Kilduff has investigated which would be the best route to take in making repairs to the trail leading up cemetery hill. Kilduff reported there is approximately one hundred ninety feet (190') of seeping ground on the trail up to the cemetery, of the 190' there is approximately 130' of that, on Cemetery property. Nearby are 30' of avalanches that need to be cleaned up, this could be done while the equipment is at the site working. After some discussion and sharing ideas with the BOT, Trustee Sizemore suggested Kilduff get in contact with Mike Jones at the cemetery and do some brainstorming and bring back what the approximate costs would be for the perforated pipe. Mayor Day asked Kilduff to see if the cemetery would be willing to help with the cost of improvements to fix the trail. Administrator Joy shared with the BOT that with the tight Parks Budget and limited staff capacity, we might have to take a phased approach, making sure the funding is there for this year, before we tackle the whole project with this year's budget. BOT asked Kilduff to report back to them after he talked with Cemetery staff.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Joy reported the following:

- **Emergency Preparedness Plan:** Staff are in the process of creating an inventory of current practices, relationships and training in regard to Emergency Preparedness and Practices. For example, the Town signed an MOU with RBC in 2020 for the adoption of the Rio Blanco County (RBC) Emergency Operations Plan and that the Town would follow that protocol. We are currently part of the team working with RBC for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, staff has started an outline, Joy had the outline with her if anyone wanted to look at it after the meeting. There is some information on flood plains, and PW already attends several safety plans throughout the year.
- Joy stated for future conversation she would like to plant a seed regarding the safety of staff at the front line. Currently, if a disgruntled citizen or other person is to come into Town Hall the employee sitting at the front desk has no means of protection. To reach the panic button, the employee would have to leave the safety of their workstation area and approach closer to the threatening person to access the panic button.

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- Trustee Browning inquired about the Town's emergency preparedness plan in regard to safeguarding the town's supply of water. Administrator Joy did comment that staff have been looking into that, possibly putting more security cameras out there.
- Trustee Day stated Atmos Energy needs to have an employee living in Meeker, it is part of their contract. It is currently a huge ongoing issue, if there happens to be a gas leak the first step of the process is to contact dispatch, who then must dispatch an Atmos employee to Meeker. This Atmos employee does not reside in Meeker and would most likely be at least 40-50 minutes away. This timeline has the potential of an extremely dangerous outcome. Day would also like to visit with Chief Thompson about collaborating with the schools and Fire Department, doing fire drills with the schools in case of emergency so the children can see how it would work and see the emergency equipment showing up and not be scared.
- Trustee Lockwood mentioned that he would also like to have organizational charts that show who is responsible for which tasks in case of an emergency. All the board members were interested in being able to take the FEMA 100 course.
- **Up Coming Work Sessions:** On April 7th at 6:30 pm there is a planned work session for the Library Board that will be held thirty minutes prior to the next BOT meeting. We are waiting to hear from Vicky Edwards about a possible date for a joint session with the RBC commissioners, with hopes of getting it scheduled in April.
- On April 14th we have tentatively scheduled a workshop to discuss the Parks transition. Public Works had a walking tour with Rec Center staff at each of the parks to talk maintenance. However, our most critical part of hiring Parks Lead needs some assistance, we could use everyone's help in recruiting Parks Lead. We have received applications for the Seasonal positions, but nothing yet for the Lead position. Later this week we will post for the custodian position, and we have one interested candidate for that part-time position. As Carly mentioned, we could talk about WUI and Change of Use Process at this same workshop.
- **Robert Street:** Administrator Joy stated that the team has been visiting about the Robert Street project. This afternoon Mayor Day and PW Supervisor Kilduff went up to the Robert Street site together and did a walk-about to test some of the ideas. They feel like they have a good start to a plan to share with you, so I will turn that over to Jak. Public Works Supervisor Kilduff reported the best option would be to take the maintainer up to site and make a path; start developing a trail; putting gates on each end making sure these gates are wide enough for emergency equipment to get through. Kilduff also stated he would like to create this trail before the town parks are taken over. Attorney Massiah stated there is the possibility of citizens complaining and staff need to be prepared for that. Planner Thomson stated it is platted land that the Town has the right of way.
- **Meeker Sportsman Club:** The Town received a note from the Meeker Sportsman Club about their handgun range improvements. They need road base and the team to spread the road base. It would cost the Town less than \$1,000 for material and time, actual material cost would be around \$500. The Meeker Sportsman's Club has supported our PD officers and let them use the facility for free. Staff would like to give back and with the board's blessing cover the costs for this project out of the discretionary fund/community improvement. The BOT approved this project to be taken out of Discretionary/Community Improvement Fund.
- **Officer Hetzel and K-9 Dak:** Last week Joy had the chance to watch Officer Hetzel and Officer Long conduct a training session with K-9 Dak. They were working with Dak to pull a suspect from the car or catch a suspect on the run. Training a K-9 takes a lot of dedication and time. K-9 Dak must be certified each year, which means he has to go

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through a series of commands and responses to different situations. Like our officers, Dak is expected to stay at the top of his game.

- **Attorney Ed Olszewski:** Administrator Joy is pleased to inform the BOT that we have obtained a ruling of referees in the Town's favor for the above-referenced case (re: Town of Meeker Diligence Case). There is a twenty-day protest period during which potential opposers can file a protest to the ruling, but he does not expect any such opposition. Ed anticipates that the water judge will confirm the ruling within approximately thirty days and then this case will be concluded.

Once concluded, the Town will need to continue working to develop the remaining conditional water rights to their full extent as another diligence filing will be due six years after entry of the decree. As part of the work, the Town needs to complete a 50-year water supply plan, this has been discussed with Colorado River Engineering.

- **Water Department:** Water Clerk Perkins, Water Department Manager Dinwiddie and PW Supervisor Kilduff have made some adjustments on how to notify customers when their water meter needs repair. It has been observed that often customers are slow to return calls and schedule necessary repairs for their water meter. Which raised the thought that customers might fear there would be an additional expense. Staff have adjusted the messaging for meter repairs, and hopefully it will be more effective.

MAYOR'S REMARKS


The Rangely Town Manager has been working on their Emergency Preparedness Plan.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Lockwood wanted it noted in the March 19th issue of the Herald Times for the Library Board Meeting he was listed *Mayor Pro Tem Lockwood*. He was not there to represent the Town of Meeker.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.



Travis Day, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin Asst.

M E E K E R
C O L O R A D O