

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustee

Day
Browning
Day
Lockwood
Madison
Sizemore
Smith

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Admin Asst
Attorney
Comm Dev/Planner

Joy
Massey
Pakuer
Massih (attended by phone)
Thomson

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. A motion was made by Trustee Day to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Day asked for any corrections. Trustee Madison pointed out the acronym GWUDI should also define the entire name of the acronym Groundwater Under the Direct Influence; Rec Center should state ERBM. Hearing no further corrections, a motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of June 16, 2026, as corrected. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated June 30, 2026. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Ann Franklin stated the David Smith Ranch has spent twenty-thousand dollars making improvements on the Town Ditch so the water can flow.

NEW BUSINESS

White River Conservations District Presentation. Mrs. Vanessa Trout was present representing the White River Conservation District. Trout stated she wanted to give an update on the Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency Program. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Colorado Wildlife Defense Grant Program (CWDG). This multi-benefit project

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(CWPP) and Colorado Wildlife Defense Grant Program (CWDG). This multi-benefit project implements activities in priority Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas in Rio Blanco identified in the Colorado State Forest Service Forest Action Plan and the RBC Community Wildfire Protection Plan to assist residents plan for and mitigate against the risk created by wildfire. This work is funded through United State Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant and supports the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, Fire Adapted Communities and RBC Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Services offered are:

- Wildfire risk assessments and mitigation plans.
- Fuels reduction projects and chipping days program.
- Forest stewardship planning and forest health treatments.
- Educational workshops and events.
- Cost-share incentives for forest health treatment and home hardening.
- Neighborhood scale wildfire planning assistance through Firewise.
- Coordination of wildfire adaptation efforts among local partners.

This program impacts:

- 100 site assessments over three priority areas.
- Community chipping day program.
- Wildfire Risk Education & Community planning in three subdivisions through Firewise.
- 30 fuels reduction mitigation projects
- Funding for 2026-2029 \$531,000
- New job positions include Director of Community Engagement, Summer Intern and GIS Analyst.

To help people reduce wildfire risk around their homes, there will be a Chipping Day Program for rural residents (Buford, Crooks Park, Marvine, Papoose/Ute Creek) and In-Town Meeker Residents. Community Developer/Planner Thomson stated she is trying to organize help for elders or disabled residents that might have challenges trimming to the curb for chipping. She will coordinate these efforts with local Youth Groups. Trout also added that this project will be funded for four years.

Youth Zone Presentation. Executive Director Jami Hayes was present representing YouthZone (YZ). Hayes stated YZ provides court, prevention, and intervention services to youth across the 9th Judicial District — from Aspen to Rangely — and are funded annually by eleven municipalities, four counties, and partners including the 9th Judicial District Attorney, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, school districts, and departments of human services. This fiscal year, we completed seven intakes and assessments for Meeker youth. The most common reason for referral was assault and battery. Of these clients, 80% did not reoffend while working with YouthZone, and 100% completed their court contracts successfully. Without this type of support, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice estimates a recidivism rate of 49% for youth remaining in the standard court and probation system. In 2026, the Town awarded three-thousand dollars to YouthZone for our court diversion services. For 2027, YZ would like to respectfully request that the Town of Meeker allocate four-thousand dollars to support our services. While this represents an increase, it remains significantly below the actual cost of services provided to Meeker's youth community.

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Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Day called for a motion. Trustee Sizemore made a motion to donate five-thousand dollars out of the discretionary fund to YouthZone. Second by Trustee Browning. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeker Veterans Community Center. Mr. David Cole spoke on behalf to the Meeker Veterans Community Center (MVCC), VFW Post 5843 and American Legion Post 74. Cole stated (MVCC) would like to request the partnership of the Town of Meeker in helping to launch their first annual MVCC Golf Tournament on September 26th. Dr Kevin Borchard stated that the purpose of this event extends well beyond a single day of golf, the goal is to build a sustainable annual fundraiser that supports veterans, military families, and the broader Meeker community for years to come. There are approximately forty golfers expected, the event highlights will include; community sponsorships and local business engagement; live and silent auctions, contest and community activities and will support a Gold Star Family with 10% of gross profit donated.

Borchard highlighted some of the services the VFW provides including lending medical equipment, such as walkers and wheelchairs, free of charge to area residents. MVCC is requesting a five-thousand-dollar donation to help cover marketing, insurance, event operations and upfront costs that will not be covered through fundraising. Hearing no further discussion Trustee Day made a motion to donate five-thousand dollars out of the Marketing and Economic Development line item. Moved by Trustee Sizemore. Trustee Smith abstained to avoid a conflict of interest. All ayes. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Joy stated:

- Thank you to our police department and the public works/parks team. PD all worked the events, concerts, barn dances, fireworks show, patrol, etc. Both parks and public works team monitored parks, trash, campers, pavilion, lights etc. They are a dedicated team serving our residents. These are the jobs that often go unnoticed but are critical for our residents and guests to enjoy the 4th of July festivities.

Parks Update

- Camping Fees received feedback about the camping/RV fees at Town Park from two or three local campground owners and others stated that charging twenty dollars a night significantly under cuts their campground businesses that are charging forty to fifty dollars a night. They all said that they understand that when the campgrounds are full it is nice to have Town Park as overflow, but a twenty-five-dollar lower rate seems excessive.

Grants

- CHFA Direct Effect for a Business Support Program smaller request to connect startups, as well as other long-term businesses to capital, especially coordinating with the NWCDC resources Carly presented at the last meeting. This would be about a ten-to-twelve-thousand-dollar request and is due next week.

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- Wildfire Mitigation Grant is partnering with WREA to take overhead lines and run them underground within the Town of Meeker. The Town is seeking funds for one or two generators to help keep water systems online in case of an emergency, application is due August 31. The total request is for \$1,250,000 (\$1million in electrical work and \$250,000 for generators) with a \$350,000 match from WREA. If the Town would consider a ten percent match it would be twenty-five thousand dollars and would strengthen our application. This would be a 2027 expense if we receive the grant.

Cross and Culture Relay

- Domínguez-Escalante 250 Commemoration September 10th potentially set up out at Sheep dog Trials. Administrator Joy visited with Maym Cunningham and she is sharing with her team. Because the Domínguez–Escalante Expedition traveled through the White River region during its journey across present-day northwestern Colorado, we believe the Town of Meeker would be an ideal partner in recognizing this important chapter of the expedition’s history. We are reaching out to organizations that preserve and interpret this shared heritage to gauge interest in participating should the project move forward. If there is interest, we envision the relay arriving in Meeker for one day of public display before continuing to Rangely. Located in the White River Valley, Meeker provides a meaningful opportunity to commemorate the journey of the expedition while celebrating the region’s rich history, spectacular landscapes, and the enduring cultural heritage of northwestern Colorado. We believe Meeker would be an important stop highlighting the expedition’s passage through the White River country. The proposed relay would span approximately 1,300 miles over 52 days, connecting approximately 37 communities and organizations across New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah before concluding with the Domínguez–Escalante 250: Crossroads of Cultures commemorative ceremony in Spanish Fork on September 18, 2026. The relay has been intentionally designed to be straightforward and low impact. Coordination would be handled entirely by the Spanish Fork Historic Preservation Commission. At a minimum, participating organizations would simply receive the commemorative display from the previous host and transfer it to the next community along the route. Organizations are welcome to expand their participation through educational programming, temporary exhibits, brief ceremonies, cultural presentations, or other locally appropriate activities, but such programming is entirely optional.

The commemorative display itself is modest in size, consisting only of a 2.5-foot-tall ceremonial cross, a compact pull-up educational banner, and two accompanying flags. Requiring minimal space and setup, the display is designed to be easily accommodated in visitor centers, museums, government buildings, libraries, schools, and other public spaces.”

Noise Complaint and our response

- We have had consistent complaints, even received written complaints from one resident about the noise from kids playing basketball and loud music at Town Park. Our police officers patrol and work with the kids reminding them to be courteous to neighbors and comply with curfew.

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CUSI Water Billing Transition

- New bill format will go out on Friday the 10th.

Library Board and IGA

- Cleaned up and adjusted to be an agreement between Town and Library Board. We will have joint workshop on July 21 at 6:00 to review the IGA and to discuss proposed term structure. The BOCC acted on the term structure at their meeting on June 22, and approved adjustment is existing terms that will get correct term lengths going forward. The BOCC did approved the term structure as the town proposed, which shortens one term and lengthens another term, but keeps terms staggered.

Ute Park East Side for a Wedding.

- Staff are currently creating a Lease Agreement to use the eastern portion of Ute Park for a wedding on September 25, 2027. We are following our reservation process with the other Parks. As well as drawing from the agreement that was used for the MHS Cross County Meet.

Letter of Support for RBC

- Broadband Grant for Middle Mile Connection.

Upcoming Dates

- July 16th: Board Roles and Responsibilities Workshop with DOLA at 6:00pm at Town Hall
- July 21st: workshop with Library Board at 6:00pm followed by the Board of Trustee meeting at 7:00 pm.
- August 4th: Town Board of Trustees at 7:00 pm
- August 11: Best Budgeting Practices Workshop with DOLA at 7:00 pm at Town Hall

MAYORS REMARKS

Mayor Day and Vanessa Trout who was representing the White River Conservation District met with Senator Hickenlooper on how to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) monies.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Madison expressed concern about the lack of discussions on the Robert Street project. Madison feels like the BOT should take a more complete look at the Robert Street approach, that perhaps the BOT is putting the “cart before the horse” and with ex parte in effect he can’t communicate his thoughts. Trustee Lockwood stated that all the Trustees need to be heard.

Mayor Day shared that he felt the process was allowing for more transparency and public input.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

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Attest:

Lisa Pakuer

Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Asst.

Travis Day

Travis Day, Mayor