RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Day
	Trustees	Browning
		Day
		Lockwood
		Madison
		Sizemore
		Smith
Town Staff Present	Administrator	Joy
	Town Clerk	Massey
	Attorney	Massih
	Comm. Dev./Planner	Thomson
	Public Works Supt.	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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Trustee Smith 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 Sizemore to approve the minutes of October 6, 2026. with changes made to the mayor's report. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Trustee Smith and Trustee Day abstained due to their absence. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS
A motion was made by Trustee Madison to approve the disbursements dated October 20, 2026. Second by Trustee Browning. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Dr. Dennison – Plateau Valley Animal Hospital. Dr. Dennison stated he has a clinic in Rifle and Collbran, he has been doing veterinary medicine for thirty years. Dr. Dennison had noticed the influx of approximately thirty Meeker clients that have been coming to his practice due to the community's present veterinary void. He visited with Animal Control Officer Melissa Fellows about coming to Meeker possibly one day a week and she informed Dennison there is potential for that. He was encouraged to come and visit with the BOT. Dennison stated he would like to do small animals (vaccines, wellness checks, low-level diagnostic) in the morning for half a day, one day a week. And would provide ambulatory large animal services in the afternoon. The business cannot afford to rent or buy the vacant Meeker veterinary building. Dr. Dennison asked if the town would be interested in finding a way to combine with his practice to lease space at the animal shelter. Dr. Dennison is open to suggestions and is open to working with the town to expand.

Mayor Day asked what they would offer. Dennison stated they would start out with all small services like vaccines and routine check ups, the clients with larger procedures would be recommended to their Rifle

facility. The goal is to figure out a situation or arrangement to get things started, small steps at a time. Chief Thompson and Animal Control Fellows have investigated how it would work keeping the already housed animal shelter dogs separate from the incoming clinic animals. Dr. Dennison noted that he carries liability insurance for veterinary practices and that would supersede what would be required for a shelter. The town needs to investigate the government's aspect of leasing and licensing. Attorney Massih stated there would need to be an agreement however since there is such a demand for this service it will be easier to get going. Mayor Day would like to double-check the statues. Trustee Day suggested a possible six-month trial run; Dr. Dennison agreed, stating him and his staff would keep the shelter sanitized for each visit before and after their procedures. After further discussion it was decided that staff would pull together the particulars.

Colorado Main Street Presentation. Wendy Gutierrez, Chamber of Commerce President, and Executive Director Sarah Stephenson were present for Meeker Chamber of Commerce. Gutierrez started out by thanking the BOT and the Town of Meeker for their financial help, what the Town donates is equal if not greater than the memberships dues. The mission is to support all the Meeker businesses, the Chamber is looking forward to the Road Ahead and other upcoming Chamber activities, some of which include:

- *The Veteran Day Luncheon* that has been happening for twenty years. This year it will be held at the Middle School, and the food is donated from local businesses. The student council will be hosting, and Trustee Smith is helping from the Veteran's side. The format has been changed so that students are going to each lunch with the Veterans for more one on one interaction.
- *Rural Philanthropy Day* and working with Margie. This conference can generate around sixty-thousand dollars which goes back into the business.
- *Chamber Bucks* can be used at any local business except for the Dollar Stores.
- *The Chamber of Commerce Board* includes:
    - Wendy Gutierres-President
    - Emily Gerloff-Vice President
    - Joshua Harrison-Treasurer
    - Michele Morgan, John Snyder, Jenna Holt, Teresia Reed,
    - Kim Colflesh- Advisory Board
    - Sarah Stephenson-Executive Director
    - April Ruiz-Marketing &Tourism Coordinator
- *Halloween Eats and Treats* are put on by ERBM for all local businesses to participate.

Gutierrez concluded by pointing out the Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for the Meeker businesses.

Meeker Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Update. Executive Director Sarah Stephenson for the Chamber of Commerce was present. Stephenson updated the BOT on the following Chamber involvements:

- *Classes:* Chamber offered classes on Social Media, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Bookkeeping.
- *Golf Tournament*: This event made two thousand dollars in profit for the Chamber.
- *Farmers Market*: There were three Farmers Markets during the summer in 2026 with thirty vendors setting up at each one.
- *Range Call Parade*: For the Fourth of July there were thirty entries for the parade.
- *250/150 Event*: The Chamber helped put on these events.

- *Chamber statistics currently reflect:*
    - Chamber membership sits at 200
    - 100 Visitors assisted
    - 100 Visitor Guides distributed
    - Collected 175 Sheep Dog Trail surveys

- Video Marketing Campaign lasted five months
- Social Media activity hits were at 770,000
- Town of Meeker social media hits equaled 6,400
- YouTube video views 60,000

Stephens also mentioned various other activities and events that the Chamber has taken part in. Hearing no further concerns or questions, the BOT thanked Stephens and Gutierrez for their time.

STAFF UPDATES

Public Works

Public Works Supt. JAK Kilduff reported there were 16,738,944 gallons of water pumped in September, compared to 2024 which reflected 24,903,936 gallons and 2025 was at 20,700,000 gallons; Wells three and five are waiting for repairs on the automatic transfer switches. Timberline is not sure what the problem is; PW is winterizing all the parks this week weather permitting and with the help for ERMB; GO on Services is going to split the cost of the porta potty on 6th Street until the conclusion of Mustang Football season. Staff is working on the Robert Street project and installing new fence panels at Town Hall. Trustee Sizemore reported her neighbor Brian Conrado complemented JAK and the Public Works crew on how great all the parks look.

Police

Administrator Joy stated Chief Thompson has been at training in Steamboat Springs and sends his regrets he couldn't attend. Joy reported that the Police Departments statistics for the month of September are in each BOT packet; there is a vacancy in the Police Department since Officer Amick was pulled over to the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. The PD are in the interview process to fill Officer Amick's vacant position; Chief Thompson did a taser class at Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) for the Park Rangers Program. Trustee Smith wanted to express thanks to the PD staff for their involvement with taser class at CNCC.

Community Development/ Planning

Community Dev./Planner Thomson stated each BOT packet includes the projects that are currently happening; Thomson has been busy preparing for The Road Ahead Event to be held in Meeker on November 4th; Thomson and Vanessa Trout attended the Rural Philanthropy Training in Hayden. The Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC) is onboarding a new director. Town of Meeker was awarded two grants from Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). One to sponsor The Road Ahead at $2,500. The second for $10,000 dollars for the town 2027 Business Support Program.

Town Clerk

Clerk Massey gave a quarterly financial update stating that everything looks good in regard to the town funds and that the board has the information in their packet. She updated that CEBT is still the best option for health insurance as she received other bids from other companies. Massey stated that she has been working with Chief Thompson to get an auction process going to get rid of some old police vehicles.

Town Attorney

Attorney Massih stated she had researched in the Town codes and State statues, and they are consistent for the correct procedure for appointing or electing a new Mayor.

- Option 1: The BOT can fill the vacated position by appointment, if that is the case, the newly appointed Mayor will hold office until the next regular election. Then the successor to win the election will take the seat after he/she is sworn in.

- Option 2: The BOT has the power to fill the vacancy by ordering an election to fill the vacancy, until the next regular election and a successor has been elected and taken the oath of office.

These options only last 60 days after the vacancy of a position. If the BOT does not fill the vacancy after 60 days, then it will automatically revert to the BOT being required to order a special election to fill the vacancy. The BOT should declare a resolution for vacancies and state how they intend to fill the position. Qualifications for a person to run include; 18 years of age, resident of Meeker, not serving a sentence in any prison, U.S citizen and registered to vote. Attorney Massih suggested appointing someone with some experience, reminding the BOT that the Mayor Pro Tem is to cover when the mayor is not available however, the Mayor Pro Tem does not automatically go into Mayor position.

Mayor Day stated if the BOT decides to appoint a current BOT into the mayor position, then that BOT position will need to be filled by appointment. Mayor Day stated his last BOT meeting will be after the adjournment of the first January 2027 meeting. After some discussion it was decided to start drafting a resolution for Mayor position and possibly filling vacated BOT position.

Attorney Massih stated there is scheduled court for October 28th.

OLD BUSINESS

Micheal Erion – Colorado River Engineers – Water Usage.

Micheal introduced himself, stating the purpose of the presentation is that the town water attorney recommends an assessment of water usage. In an overview of the presentation, he said there are requirements by the state that all water providers update a water supply plan every 5 years. This is also for customers and for potential development. He showed the board on a map where Town water rights are located and the overall distribution system including the wells and a number of storage tanks. The town's primary rights are Meeker Waterworks Pipeline dating back to 1925 and Meeker Water System Pipeline in the 1950s. Both senior water rights total 6.73 million gallons a day and can be diverted among the 8 wells that the town has. Well water rights decreed individually in the 1970s and 1980, he discussed their history and how they work. In 2020, the state put together a list of water rights that should be abandoned and the Town had 2, which the town opposed but the state abandoned. In recent years the reservoir at Rangely has been placing a call to their hydroelectric water right which is senior to the town's conditional junior water rights. Well permits issued are all permitted with limits of 4,750 gallons per minute. Well diversions historically versus now, they are pumping .78 million gallons per day. The treatment plant capacity is 4 million gallons per day and has a peak daily treatment of 1.2 million gallons.

The Town's current population is around 2,300 and can serve up to 8,400 people at the treatment plant. There has been steady slow growth, with the whole county having 1% growth for future development. Pumping capacity at the well reflects 8,000 population and treatment for 8,000 people and water rights are capable of a 12,000 population. There is potential for a call on some of the Towns' senior water rights of the Meeker Water System Pipeline and some irrigation water rights. Some of the irrigation rights are potentially from the 1800's. The Circle Park pond evaporation and irrigation is a junior water right from Beaver Reservoir that covers the evaporation and irrigation demands. The Town could start to look at a water right dedication program for land that is might be annexed or for out-of-town residents that want service. Town could dedicate senior rights as water use or cash fee in lieu of water rights.

The Town could purchase water rights or storage to address a call if needed or to be prepared. There wasn't a call on the river this year even though Rangely was short on water, everyone worked together to conserve, but it makes sense to include an ordinance that includes a portion of the town's senior water rights. The Town is in a good position, but Michael recommends dedication in the form of an ordinance for new water use as growth continues.

Michael mentioned that the City of Rifle enacted regulations geared toward a data center with water. He recommends the town should have a policy addressing data centers in regard to their water usage.

Nothing is senior to the Colorado River Compact, which is from 1922, and upper basin states have requirement to deliver so much water every year to the Colorado River Compact, and it has become

difficult for them to deliver in recent years with the drought. He said the worst-case scenario is that they will request the Town cut back on irrigation but will never cut off water to the Town. The Board discussed water tap fees and that there are not enough to make raising the fees impactful as a revenue source. They agreed that it would be better to get the water rights ordinances put in place sooner than later and document that the town is growing and will continue needing the water in the future. Micheal clarified that the lieu in cash for use of water would be on top of the water tap fees. Mayor Day spoke about potential water rights and storage options and other organizations the town could work together on. Trustee Lockwood asked Erion about well drying up, he responded that his other municipalities he works with are positioned differently but have the ability to contract water rights and they also have historic users pool protection that Meeker does not have which protects their junior water rights. Those municipalities still have room for growth without historic protection. For Meeker on the south side of the river there are a lot of senior water rights with irrigation.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Joy stated that the Friday Chat email had a letter from the Library Board informing us that the Town's appointed seat will not be filling their term. The town needs to be prepared to make an appointment in December. Joy updated the board on the bids for HVAC mini splits for Police Department and the boardroom, pricing at $39,800 with Tolin Mechanical which we were comfortable with the higher price instead of $150,000 for a new system. Joy verified that the Board was still okay with that because it is higher than what was anticipated and Mayor Day said he is good with the decision and we will have more control with the mini splits.

We received notice that Mineral and Energy Impact Funds will have two cycles coming up for application with the first-round deadline in December. The Town would seek funding for the pavement of Garfield Street or the water line replacement. We hosted CDPHE to show them the fluoride system; we then submitted a grant to them for the SCADA system for up to $30,000. Carly and Leif at the county created the new, large map here in the boardroom.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Day stated that Rio Blanco County has their Library Board Application online. There is a possibility for CCITF emergency grant this fall. The Commissioners do not want CCITF balance to go below 20 million dollars. Day suggested possibly asking for some funds to help with the SCADA system, which could potentially become a serious emergency. The spare lawn mower was asked about, and the board would like it to move on to Rangely.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm.

Attest:

Dannie Massey, Town Clerk

Travis Day, Mayor