

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at Town Hall.

## Members Present

Mayor  
Trustees

Borchard  
Creecy  
Day  
Gutierrez  
Kindall  
Lockwood

## Town Staff Present

Administrator  
Town Clerk  
Admin Asst.  
Police Chief

Etheridge  
Cook  
Pakuer  
Thompson

Citizens Present: Olson, Solveig.

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## ROLL CALL

All Board members were present except for Trustee Nielsen.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for approval of the revised agenda, stating there was an addition under New Business, Item D. A motion was made by Trustee Creecy to approve the revised agenda. Second by Trustee Kindall. All ayes. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021, as submitted. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Creecy to approve the revised disbursements dated August 31, 2021. Second by Trustee Kindall. All ayes. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Solveig Nay expressed her appreciation of the Board of Trustees.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Request from Hope West for Special Event Liquor Permit for Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser at RBC Fairgrounds 4-H building, 700 Sulphur Creek Rd. on September 25, 2021.** Mayor Borchard opened the public hearing at 7:06pm stating Solveig Olson was present representing Hope West. Town Clerk Cook informed the board the permit for the Cornhole tournament is from 9:00am to 7:00pm, the licensed perimeter will be fenced and signed "no alcohol beyond this point", IDs will be checked at the bar, the County Commissioners granted permission for use of the 4-H building and ballfield, Chief Thompson has no objections to the permit and staff recommends approval. Mayor Borchard asked for further discussion, hearing none he closed the public hearing at 7:08pm and called for a motion to approve the request from

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Hope West for a Special Event Liquor Permit for a Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser at RBC Fairgrounds 4-H building, 700 Sulphur Creek Rd. on September 25, 2021. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of contract for Bulk Water Building Remodel.** Administrator Etheridge stated the contract for the bulk water remodel has been prepared by Attorney Massih and signed by Regas who will start construction tomorrow. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Borchard called for approval of the contract with Regas K. Halandras for the bulk water building remodel. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Draft budget proposal.** Town Clerk Cook gave a summary of the 2022 budget stating mineral lease and severance payments were budgeted significantly lower than in year's past; health insurance will increase by two percent; no increase in wages has been budgeted although the consumer price index for the Denver/Boulder/Greeley area was 1.9 percent for last year; line items for fuel have increased due to the rising cost; Public Works salaries reflect three employees that may obtain their Class C water licenses resulting in a wage increase; electricity in the Parks Department increased by \$3,000 to include Sanderson Hills Park, but the \$9,500 request from ERBM to contribute toward their liability insurance was not; the position for a Community Development/Planner has been included for \$70,000 as well as benefits for the position, if the position is filled professional services will decrease in this department from \$50,000 to \$2,500. Police Department line items include the addition of Deputy Assistance for Fourth of July coverage; regular salaries are slightly higher due to payout of accruals for a retiring employee. a grant expense line item has been included for \$100,469 which will be offset by a revenue line item. As presented, the General Fund department will require \$2,719,897 of reserves to balance the budget noting Systems Development is at \$2,944,800.

Cook continued, the Water Fund is much the same as 2021 except for a transfer from the General Fund of the ARP Funds for the water line replacement on Garfield St.; as presented, the Water Fund will require \$287,986 of reserves to balance the budget and noted Systems Development is \$855,400.

The Board discussed capital projects for the coming year and decided against funding the Building Incentives program beyond 2021; omitted the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> St. overlay project completing the engineering in 2022 and budgeting the overlay the following year; after lengthy discussion regarding the amount of contribution to the Circle Park Project Phase II the Board concurred to reduce the amount from \$450,000 to \$250,000; and to reserve the Conservation Trust Funds instead of transferring them to the General Fund, not only for 2022 but for 2021 as well.

The Board also reduced the Recycling Center contribution from \$15,000 to \$7,500. Administrator Etheridge asked the Board to consider giving a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the employees which would amount to an additional \$25,000 in wages. The Board agreed. Trustee Day suggested the increase should be an equal amount across the board to each employee instead of each employee receiving two percent of their current wage as this seems fairer to the lower income earners.

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**Discussion regarding partnering with ERBM for park maintenance costs.** Mayor Borchard stated discussion regarding partnering with ERBM for park maintenance costs was previously discussed under the New Business agenda item concerning the draft budget proposal where it was agreed to pay the electricity for Sanderson Hills Park but not the \$9,500 for liability insurance.

**Consideration of letter in opposition of CDPHE vaccine requirements for Health Care Facilities and workers.** Mayor Borchard stated he drafted a letter to the Colorado State Board of Health (CDPHE), expressing concern over the state mandated mandatory vaccine requirement for all health care workers and the effect it will have on small rural hospitals like Pioneers Medical Center (PMC), stating the mandate will cause a great reduction in the standard of care provided by our hospital, impacting the safety and welfare of our citizens, and may cause further economic hardships as qualified health care workers leave Meeker and seek employment in other states where the vaccine is not mandatory. Mayor Borchard asked the Board of Trustees for approval to submit this letter to CDPHE and Governor Jared Polis. Upon hearing no further discussion, Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve the submittal of the letter to CDPHE and Governor Polis. Moved by Trustee Day. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. Aye: Trustees Kindall, Day, and Gutierrez. Nay: Trustees Creecy and Lockwood. Motion carried.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Administrator Etheridge reported the match for the Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant (REDI) with the Colorado Northwest Development Council will be \$1,085; there were 48 applications from across the state submitted for the Main Street Open for Business grant affecting 380 businesses that could benefit, the forty-eight applications total twenty-one million dollars, however the available funds for this grant total only six million dollars; Hadley Franklin a senior at the high school is coming to town hall during her seventh hour Monday-Thursday for work study and will be working on the Town's social media presence. Administrator Etheridge stated she and Town Clerk Cook will be attending an AGNC Economic Summit in Rifle on Thursday and expressed her gratitude to Cook for her hard work on the 2022 budget, also to Building Inspector Padilla and Cook for their contribution to the Land Use Code update.

## **MAYOR'S REMARKS**


None.

## **OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**


None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

  
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Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant