

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Borchard
Creecy
Day
Gutierrez
Nielsen
Lockwood

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Admin Asst

Etheridge
Cook
Pakuer

Citizens Present: Smith, Davey.

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 Kindall.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for changes to the agenda and reminded the Trustees there would be a workshop at the conclusion of the board meeting regarding phase II of the Circle Park project. A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Creecy. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of October 19, 2021, as submitted. Second by Trustee Creecy. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the disbursements dated October 31, 2021 Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. David Smith was present representing the David Smith Ranches Inc. Mr. Smith asked for the Board's consideration to lease the pasture at Ute Park for approximately one month this fall for 60-67 head of heifers stating this would help clean up this year's fall vegetation, making way for better, more productive growth next spring. Smith Ranches would pay \$20.00 per head per month. After further discussion it was decided to put this item on the agenda for the November 16th meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request from Chamber of Commerce for Special Event Liquor License for the Annual Chamber Dinner on December 3, 2021 at the Hugus Building, 594 Main Street from 5-10 pm. Mayor Borchard opened the public hearing at 7:07pm. Town Clerk Cook informed the board Stephanie Kobald is the event manager and applicant; the event will be held from 5:00pm to 10:00pm on December 3rd; property owner Mary Kay Kruger has granted permission for use of the Hugus Building; Chief of Police Thompson has given permission; ID's will be checked at the bar, and staff recommends approval. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Borchard closed the public hearing at 7:09pm and called for a motion to approve the request from Chamber of Commerce for Special Event Liquor License for the Annual Chamber Dinner on December 3, 2021 at the Hugus Building, 594 Main Street from 5-10 pm. Moved by Trustee Creecy. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution #11 authorizing the Town of Meeker to conduct a mail-in ballot election on April 5, 2022, establishing the voter precinct, and appointing an election official. Town Clerk Cook stated that by authorizing a mail in ballot it will likely increase voter participation. This resolution also establishes the voting precinct as M-1, which is the incorporated boundaries of Meeker. Voters will have the options of leaving their ballots at the outside drop box found at the Court House; leaving their ballots in the drop box located inside Town Hall at the front counter; and if a voter chooses to vote on site at Town Hall, we will provide private accommodations for them. Mayor Borchard called for a motion for the consideration of Resolution #11 authorizing the Town of Meeker to conduct a mail-in ballot election on April 5, 2022, establishing the voter precinct, and appointing an election official. Moved by Trustee Day. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution #12 authorizing Town Clerk to appoint election judges and personnel. Town Clerk Cook informed the board by approving resolution #12 she can have authorization to appoint election judges for the upcoming election in April 2022. Mayor Borchard called for a motion for consideration of Resolution #12 authorizing Town Clerk to appoint election judges and personnel. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Creecy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of donation request from Pioneers Healthcare Foundation for Jingle Mingle fundraiser event. Administrator Etheridge stated there is no specific dollar amount being requested from Pioneers Healthcare Foundation for Jingle Mingle. This is an event that raises money for the foundation, the event will be held December 1st after the parade of lights. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Borchard called for a motion and Trustee Gutierrez moved to donate \$1,000.00 dollars to the Pioneer Healthcare Foundation for Jingle Mingle fundraiser event. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Consideration of Town of Meeker 2022 Holiday Schedule. Administrator Etheridge presented to the board the 2022 holiday schedule, asking if BOT would like to consider adding a new federal holiday called Juneteenth. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of African-American slaves to be observed on June 19th. After further discussion it was the Board's consensus not to add Juneteenth to the 2022 holiday schedule. Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve the Town of Meeker 2022 holiday schedule as presented. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Day. Aye: Trustees Creecy, Day, Gutierrez and Nielsen. Nay: Trustee Lockwood. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Etheridge reported there were four finalists interviewed for the position of police department secretary/evidence technician. This person will start the position on November 29th giving them four weeks training before Kathy Sizemore's retirement; the town has purchased additional insurance coverage with CIRSA for the police department for detainees' medical, a precaution taken due to the longer times a detainee is in custody now that they are enroute from Meeker to the Craig jail. This will be approximately an additional \$3,000 per year expense to the town; currently there are two town employees out for COVID related reasons, fortunately nobody else on the staff was jeopardized. Last Friday, Etheridge met with Meghan the environmental specialist with SWCA for the aquatic resources inventory on the White River.

MAYOR'S REMARKS


Mayor Borchard reported at the time of this board meeting there were 103 positive COVID cases in Rio Blanco County.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Gutierrez was approached by Mr. Rob Baughman who was representing our local Veterans of Foreign War (VFW). In 2021 during the COVID pandemic Meeker lost two veterans of WWII and unfortunately due to COVID restrictions our veterans did not receive the proper recognition deserved to them. The VFW would like to propose naming the Circle Park Bridge and the 10th Street Bridge after these two individuals. After some discussion the BOT decided to have the VFW come before board and do a formal request.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.



Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant