

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Borchard
Day
Gutierrez
Kindall
Lockwood
Nielsen

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk

Etheridge
Cook

Citizens Present: McNab, Diedre; Sheridan, JH; Rohde, Cindy; Blackwood-Kelley, Robin; Hightower, John Hampton; Garcia, Jose; Franklin, Anne and Hadley.

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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Kindall to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021, as submitted. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the disbursements dated December 31, 2021, and January 4, 2022. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeker Mustang Makeover presentation. Diedre McNab, President of the organization introduced Robin Blackwood-Kelley, Vice President; JH Sheridan, Treasurer; and Board Member Cindy Rohde who was also a former trainer. Ms. McNab stated the top selling horse last year went for \$8500, there were 10 youth/yearling trainers who participated each receiving a \$500 scholarship from the event, which is community funded and completely volunteer, all money received goes back into the event which brings people to Meeker and Rio Blanco County. In 2021 because of COVID the event was held virtually and more than 27,000 people viewed the online version. Ms. McNab said the event will be held on Saturday, August 27th with the theme of "Celebrating the Colorado Wild Horse", and this year the mustangs will be gathered from the

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Sand Wash Basin. McNab thanked the Board for their \$2500 donation last year and asked the Board to consider a \$5,000 donation for this year.

Discussion followed on how much the Town had donated in previous years and if the organizers knew how many people the event drew to Town. Trustee Nielsen stated he felt the event was beneficial for the community but would like to see the organization wean away from public donations in the future. Trustee Lockwood made a motion to donate \$5,000. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ecology Project International presentation. Project sponsor, Anne Franklin, informed the Board their group had made over \$45,000 for the trip with less than eight percent of that amount from public donations. Jose Garcia, Hadley Franklin and John Hampton Hightower presented to the Board stating there were ten people total on the trip with two from outside of Meeker; John Hampton said they didn't know what to expect, but it was an amazing trip all the way around; Hadley added no one had cell phones which made the students fully engaged in the experience where they learned all about the tortoises, as well as all of the other animals and plant life on the Galapagos Islands. Jose spoke about also learning about one invasive species, the snail.

Mrs. Franklin thanked the Board for their \$1500 donation toward the trip, stating it was a great experience for everyone, the education they got was incredible, their next trip will be in 2023 to Belize.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Etheridge reported that next Wednesday afternoon the consultant hired through the REDI grant will be touring our region and will be meeting with her and Stephanie Kobald as well as the Town of Rangely and the County, then on Thursday she will meet with the NWCDC where the consultant will be present as well to talk about the strategy and what they will be doing for the region.

Etheridge stated she had met with Rio Blanco County, the Chamber, and the Town of Rangely to discuss the Just Transition funds that are available to our region, and that the group will put together a presentation for what our application will be. She will keep the Board informed via email. She also met with ERBM Director VonRoenn, their attorney and Attorney Massih to discuss the wording on signage or precautions to be taken at the Circle Park pond, which is being very well used, stating we want to make sure we are taking the right steps; last week there was a front page article and public service announcement in the newspaper regarding ice safety, yesterday ERBM installed fencing at both the inlet and outlet areas where the ice is thinner and the legal team is working on language for new signage.

Administrator Etheridge informed the Board that to date one application had been received for the vacant Board seat and encouraged anyone who is interested to apply; she and the Board discussed what that interview process would be with the outcome of the interview taking place a few days in advance of the meeting where the applicant would be appointed. Also, petitions are

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available for the upcoming election to circulate beginning today, the vacant seat and upcoming election has been advertised in the newspaper, on the Town's website and social media.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Lockwood asked what the legal consensus was for skating on the Circle Park Pond, as it has been a tradition and the citizens deserve the opportunity even if it means the Town has to maintain it. Trustee Gutierrez replied the park is leased to ERBM and we should encourage them to do that for us. Trustee Day commented the pond has been maintained for skating for the past several years. Consensus of the Board was for Administrator Etheridge to speak with ERBM about maintaining the pond for skating.

Trustee Day pointed out the heading of "Town of Meeker" has not been present on the agendas advertised in the newspaper for several weeks now and that staff needs to actively schedule a meeting with ERBM to discuss the upcoming Circle Park Phase II project.

There was further discussion regarding the fire trail proposed by the BLM along China Wall; a suggestion was made to have banners made with the Town logo on it for upcoming events, and Trustee Day informed the Board that final draft recommendations will be made by the White River Conservation District Algae Project Group for allowed uses in the White River and will be available to the public soon.

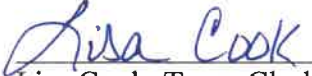
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.



Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Cook, Town Clerk