

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Members Present

Mayor Pro-Tem
Trustees

Day
Gutierrez
Jehorek
Kindall
Nielsen
Lockwood

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Admin Asst
Police Chief

Etheridge
Cook
Pakuer
Thompson

Citizens Present: Vroman, Kelcee; Vroman, Mollee; Borchard, Hanna; Borchard, Tristan; Gates, Tel and Ashlie; Gates, Tinlie; Anderson Teresa; Plumb; Alex.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Day 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 Mayor Borchard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Day asked for changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022 as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Jehorek to approve the disbursements dated September 30, 2022. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Presentation by the Barone Middle School 6th grade class in gratitude for Board support toward their YMCA fieldtrip in August. Mrs. Teresa Anderson, science teacher at Barone Middle School, was present with three of her students to express their appreciation for the Town of Meeker donating \$1,500.00 to benefit their 6th grade YMCA Outdoor Education trip. Each student individually told the Board what they learned, how to cooperate with others and how to apply tolerance of others. Mrs. Anderson stated the Meeker students received high compliments throughout the entire trip on their well-behaved manners and respectfulness. She also thanked Trustee Kindall for her participation as a sponsor and bus driver for the fieldtrip.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid award for electrical upgrades to Town Shop. Administrator Etheridge stated there were two bids received as follows: Ducey's Electric in the amount of \$32,600.18 for the project with an option for the complete removal and replacement of all lighting within Town Shop with LED lights for a price of \$13,515.25; Taylor Electric LLC bid \$37,500 for the project. Both entities were present for the required walk through, and bids were deemed complete; staff recommended accepting the lower bid from Ducey's Electric. When asked about the optional light replacement offer from Ducey's Electric, Etheridge stated that it was not part of the project specifications and therefore not included in the bid. If Public Works chooses to upgrade the lighting they can follow purchasing procedure and request comparative pricing for that project. Mayor Pro-Tem Day called for a motion to award the bid to Ducey's Electric in the amount of \$32,600.18. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Ute Park Permit for Skijor Meeker. Administrator Etheridge stated Mr. Alex Plumb was present representing Skijor. Etheridge stated she based this agreement off the Ute Park Permit used for the Meeker Classic, with alterations made to apply to Skijor and that this permit has been reviewed by both Sam Light with Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) and Town Attorney Massih. The Town requested a completed liability form be signed by each contestant, covering all participants and horse or horses being used. Plumb stated there will be a snow fence put up to keep spectators at a safe distance from the course and the contestants while they are participating. The board requested for Skijor to make sure and clean up Ute Park putting it back to the level field it was prior to competition. After some discussion it was decided to extend the term dates of the permit to December 26, 2022 through January 9, 2023, and any signage announcing the competition may be placed on the Property on or after December 1, 2022.

Hearing no further discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Day called for a motion to accept the Permit as amended. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Presentation of public draft of the Town of Meeker Proposed 2023 Budget and scheduling a public hearing. Town Clerk Cook informed the board that revenues have been budgeted conservatively in both the General and Water funds. Based on past and the current year collections a \$200,000 increase in sales & use tax has been included in the General fund and a \$25,000 increase in water service in the Water fund. Expenses have been budgeted much the same as 2022. Increases include a 5% Cost of Living for all employees, 4.5% increase in health insurance, fuel, natural gas, electricity, and fertilizer in the Parks dept. Salary adjustments have been made in the Public Works Dept. for three employees who may obtain their Class C water licenses next year, accruals for the retirement of Superintendent Overton as well as salary and benefits for one month of the new Superintendent have been included, and an additional \$10,000 has been budgeted in the Police Dept. for employee recruitment.

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Systems Development in the General fund includes all projects discussed in the capital planning workshop with the goal of applying for grants for approximately \$1,525,000 of the projects although, revenue from the grants will not be budgeted until received and it is undetermined what the grant revenue will be to offset the expense of those projects.

Systems Development in the Water fund includes the Garfield Street water line replacement that was slated for 2022 but not completed due to difficulty in obtaining materials, the Town received a total of \$566,040 in ARP grant monies in '21 and '22 to offset the cost of the project. Also included is replacement of the fluoride system equipment, staff anticipates receiving full funding from CDPHE to cover these costs.

As presented the proposed budget reflects reserve amounts needed in the General fund of \$2,176,542 and \$894,548 in the Water fund to balance the budget. Conservation Trust and Abatement funds are budgeted the same as last year except for reserving the income from Conservation Trust to be used for a project in a future year.

Estimated year end fund balances in the General fund are \$5,478,541 and \$1,601,062 in the Water fund (which includes \$566,040 ARP funds).

Hearing no further discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Day called for a motion to accept the budget proposal and schedule the public hearing for November 15th. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of changes to Parks Lease Agreement with ERBM Administrator Etheridge reminded the board that at the September 6th meeting it was decided to strike the last sentence of section 18, this change was not accepted by the ERBM Board of Directors at their September 20th meeting. ERBM Director Sean VonRoenn could not be present for town board meeting, but he explained the reasoning behind the language to Administrator Etheridge. VonRoenn clarified the meaning behind this language is to allow a contract service provider to operate on Town property under the Rec District's Discretion. This would also allow the District to be creative with programming and have ability to contract with service provider if desired. Customary park management practice would be to have that ability to contract with concessionaires for park use. Under District policy the providers always have to have liability coverage and when necessary, requests for proposal is required for fair practice. Etheridge presented 3 options to the Board for moving forward:

- 1) Make a motion to accept the original language of section eighteen in the new Lease Agreement which would effectively put us under the guidance of a new and updated agreement.
- 2) Table the discussion until Sean and/or ERBM Board members can be present.
- 3) Stand by the original motion made September 6th to strike the last sentence of section eighteen from the new agreement and until the district agrees to those terms continue to operate under the current lease.

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After further discussion Mayor Pro-Tem called for a motion to accept option 1) accept the original language of section eighteen in the new Lease Agreement which would effectively put us under the guidance of a new and updated agreement. Motion made by Trustee Kindall. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Administrator Etheridge informed the board there are two vacancies on the Planning Commission Board to be filled.
- There is now a position open in the Public Works Department after the resignation of Nick Smith. Starting wage is \$20.49/hr with a Class D and the new employee will have to obtain a CDL license and a weed license.
- There will be a Land Use Code review meeting Wednesday night at 7:00 pm.
- On October 20th there will be a public outreach meeting at 7:00 pm for the river project.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Pro-Tem Day thanked Administrator Etheridge and Building Inspector Padilla for attending the County Commissioners meeting regarding the state plumbing inspector.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Day adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.



Travis Day, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant