

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Borchard
	Trustees	Gutierrez
		Jehorek
		Kindall
		Lockwood
Town Staff Present	Administrator	Etheridge
	Admin Asst	Pakuer

Citizens Present: Rogers, Mark; Blackwood, Robin; Macnab, Dierdre.

## 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 Trustees Nielsen and Day.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for changes to the agenda. Administrator Etheridge stated there is an addition to the agenda item (d) Consideration of Letter for Support for RBC grant application for Congressional District Spending through the Department of Energy. A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to accept the agenda as amended. 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 February 21<sup>st</sup> as submitted. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. Trustee Jehorek abstained due to her absence. All ayes. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the disbursements dated February 28<sup>th</sup>. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Consideration of special event liquor license for Lions Club on March 25, 2023 at RBC 4H Building for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner.* Mayor Borchard opened the public meeting at 7:05 pm. Administrator Etheridge stated Mark Rogers was present representing the Meeker Lions Club; the permit is for March 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 12:00 am; the application is complete; the event will be held at Rio Blanco County 4-H Building; notice of the public hearing was posted; Chief Thompson has no objections; the RBC board of Commissioners approved use

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of the property, staff recommends approval. Mayor Borchard closed the public hearing at 7:06 pm and called for a motion to approve the request for Special Event Liquor License for Lions Club on March 25, 2023 at RBC 4H Building for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner. Moved by Trustee Jehorek. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

***Consideration of donation/sponsorship request from Meeker Mustang Makeover.*** Administrator Etheridge stated Robin Blackwood and Dierdre Macnab were present to represent the Meeker Mustang Makeover (MMM) request for a donation of five thousand dollars from the Town of Meeker toward marketing the 2023 event. Dierdre Macnab thanked the Board for their continued support reminding the Board of the presentation given at the last board meeting explaining the accomplishments of the MMM. Trustee Jehorek mentioned that the dates in August for the event may coincide with High School sports. Trustee Jehorek also asked Macnab how the MMM works with the BLM regarding the local wild horse population. After a lengthy discussion, Trustee Kindall made a motion to donate the requested five thousand dollars to the MMM, stating that there were actually three events being held in 2023. Motion seconded by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of Resolution #02-2023 supporting the GOCO Grant application.*** Administrator Etheridge stated the GOCO grant is due March 20<sup>th</sup> and is close to being completed, there are just a few minor documents yet to receive; attached in the board packet is a check list of what is required for the application. Once the letters of support and resolutions have been received from the governing body of each applicant, it will be sent to the GOCO representative for proofing. Administrator Etheridge stated that she would share the full draft application with The Board in digital format. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve Resolution #02-2023 supporting the GOCO grant application. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Approval of Contract with TDA Construction for Shaman Trail Water Valve project.*** Administrator Etheridge stated that per the bid award to TDA Construction at the last Board meeting, the agreement now needs to be signed and approved; a notice to proceed will indicate a start date for the project. Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve the Contract with TDA Construction for Shaman Trail Water Valve project. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of Letter of Support for RBC grant application for Congressional District Spending through the Department of Energy.*** Administrator Etheridge informed the Board that Rachel Gates from Pioneer Medical Center (PMC) is helping with grant writing for Rio Blanco County and is working on an application to the Department of Energy for enhanced cybersecurity infrastructure. She has requested a letter of support from the Town of Meeker to be sent to Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennet. Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve the Letter of Support for RBC grant application for Congressional District Spending through the Department of Energy. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

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## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Administrator Etheridge shared that Rachel Gates just yesterday also requested another letter of support for a Congressional District Spending request on behalf of PMC. This would be for enhanced cybersecurity infrastructure and IT at the hospital. The Board approved for Etheridge to proceed forward with the letter, and Mayor Borchard will sign it upon completion.
- On October 2021 the Board signed a MOU with the Attorney General's office regarding an opioid settlement for the State. This MOU would allow the State to maximize its settlement agreement with three opioid pharmaceutical companies and include the Town in the distribution of the settlement amount. There is a new settlement being reached with 5 other entities including Teva and Allergan as pharmaceutical opioid manufacturers and Walgreens, Walmart and CVS as pharmacies, in order for the State to maximize the State's share of these settlements, the Town is being asked to participate in the agreements. If enough entities (municipalities and counties) participate the settlement could be up to \$300M to go towards efforts in battling the opioid crisis in Colorado. Upon request, the Board authorized Etheridge to submit the new agreements to the State.
- Progress is being made with the upstairs remodeling project. Etheridge reminded the Board that this project is funded through the OJT grant that was applied for last March to expand the Business Center. The award was for \$34,500, but because the contract was not completed until October, much of the remodel was already complete and paid for through OEDIT and Tri-State/WREA grants so the OJT money has only paid for the audio/visual upgrades to the conference room so far. The remaining funds are contracted to pay for the rest of the expansion of the upstairs for additional Education and Development space, including carpeting and connectivity (internet).
- One of the major land use applications Carly mentioned at the last meeting was received last week and deemed complete. It is for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) and the first step in that process is to hold a joint Planning Commission/Board meeting to review the sketch plan. This is an overview of the project to determine whether it fits with the vision and goals of the Master Plan for Meeker. Upon further conference with Attorney Massih regarding process, the Board will have packets for the sketch plan prior to the joint meeting scheduled for Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

None

## **OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

- Trustee Kindall asked about regulations for having chickens in town, commenting that Meeker General Mercantile (MGM) selling out of baby chicks and planning to order more. Administrator Etheridge stated she would investigate that and inform the Board in her weekly update.
- Trustee Jehorek suggested the Board consider implementing a policy stating only certified weed free hay can be used on Ute Park. It was decided to put this item on the agenda for next meeting.

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- Trustee Lockwood asked if there were any updates on the County's fire break project. Administrator Etheridge said she did not have any recent update but would reach out to Eddie Smercina at the County and report back.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.



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Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



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Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant