

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Borchard
Day
Gutierrez
Jehorek
Kindall
Lockwood
Nielsen

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Attorney

Etheridge
Cook
Massih (by phone)

Citizens Present: Turner, Niki.

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. Administrator Etheridge stated the agenda had been revised by adding Item E, Consideration of Letter of Support for Xcel Energy. A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023, as submitted. Second by Trustee Jehorek. Ayes: Trustees Gutierrez, Jehorek, Kindall and Lockwood. Abstain due to their absence: Trustees Day and Nielsen. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, Special Meeting as submitted. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the disbursements dated March 21, 2023. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid opening for Housing Assessment and Action Plan. Administrator Etheridge stated six bids were received, explaining one of the companies did not follow protocol as they emailed the bid because FedEx could not guarantee delivery by the deadline, that bid was from Ricker Cunningham. The Board agreed the bid should not be considered. Bids received: CREA Affiliates LLC - \$99,900; Ayres Associates - \$59,930 with optional activities in the amount of \$6,500; Thomas P. Miller & Associates - \$69,322; Clauson Rawley Associates - \$59,955 and Bohannan Huston - \$59,991.97. Administrator Etheridge stated she and Planner Thomson will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

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Consideration of Resolution #03-2023 approving Rohn Ridge Sketch Plan. Administrator Etheridge explained the resolution was drafted by Attorney Massih which sums up the consensus of both the Board and Planning Commission after the joint meeting on March 13th which approved the PUD sketch plan and other topics that were discussed at length. The resolution is intentionally vague in order to not create any kind of commitment or requirements from the Board other than our Code requirement of submitting the Preliminary Plan Application within 24 months.

Mayor Borchard asked for questions or comments, upon hearing none called for a motion to adopt Resolution 03-2023 approving the Sketch Plan for Rohn Ridge PUD. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding certified weed-free hay at Ute Park. Administrator Etheridge stated after the request at the last meeting for this agenda item she contacted permit holders at Ute Park to find out how the requirement of weed-free hay would affect them and recommended tabling an in-depth conversation until the Ute Park Workshop later this spring. Trustee Lockwood asked to hear what permittees had to say. Etheridge stated Maym Cunningham with the Meeker Classic said it would create a slightly higher cost for them to feed the horses used during the event, the hay they use now is essentially weed-free but it is not certified; SkiJor would not be affected as the horses used for the event are required to be lodged and fed at the Fairgrounds; David Smith said the hay he uses is the hay grown at Ute Park unless they run out and then it is hay from their other properties. Etheridge said she talked with Superintendent Overton about specific invasive weeds and he believed most of the species growing at Ute Park are not considered in the requirement of the weed-free certification. The Board concurred to postpone further discussion until the workshop.

Discussion regarding Wolf Creek Reservoir. Mayor Borchard said he was contacted by BLM and asked to meet with an independent consultant who is required to conduct public outreach with stakeholders prior to the NEPA process and shared with the Board information regarding the proposed reservoir in comparison with other similar projects in Colorado and across the nation regarding size, location, timelines, and cost estimates; he questioned whether the time frames and cost estimates for the project were reasonable.

Mayor Borchard stated his concern is the Colorado River, with huge issues going on in the system right now he said he can't imagine the government will fund this project. Also, the Town of Meeker is listed as a financial partner and had submitted a letter of support in 2017. Borchard said the question before the Board is, do we want to change our letter of support? Trustee Nielsen commented the Town's letter of support is pretty vague. Mayor Borchard said they are continuing to use the Town and our good name in their marketing efforts when we may now have different questions regarding the project, do we want to reconsider our letter of support? The Board concurred to have Administrator Etheridge draft a new letter with specific questions to bring before the Board for approval prior to sending it to the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District.

Consideration of Letter of Support for Xcel Energy. Mayor Etheridge said Xcel Energy is applying to the US Dept. of Energy for a Grid Resiliency and Innovation Partnership Project for wildfire mitigating activities. Trustee Nielsen made a motion to approve the letter of support for Xcel Energy. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator Etheridge reported some department heads were on vacation due to spring break and their reports are included in the Board packets; 9.8 million gallons of water was pumped last month, and we have experienced some traffic sign thefts over the past two weekends.

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Town Clerk Cook reported the Water/AP Clerk position had been advertised beginning last week, it closes on April 12th, interviews will be conducted the week of April 17th with an anticipated start date of mid-May.

Town Manager had nothing further to report.

Town Attorney had no report.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Lockwood stated nationally we have the largest bucket of money available that there will ever be, the Town has a lot of infrastructure needs and he stressed we should be talking and strategizing about it now and not at year end. Administrator Etheridge replied that the Town currently has several grants, and she has looked into other grants such as Safe Routes to Schools and spoke with our DOLA rep. regarding an Energy Impact grant for the overlay project this summer and was told were not good candidates for an overlay project as it is considered maintenance, but staff continues to monitor funding available with current projects searching for a good fit.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.



Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Cook, Town Clerk