

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at Town Hall.

## Members Present

Mayor  
Trustees

Borchard  
Day  
Gutierrez  
Jehorek  
Kindall  
Lockwood  
Nielsen

## Town Staff Present

Administrator  
Town Clerk  
Admin Asst

Etheridge  
Cook  
Pakuer

## 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 Gutierrez to accept the revised agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024 as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. Ayes: Kindall, Gutierrez, Lockwood, Nielsen. Abstained: Jehorek and Day due to their absence from meeting. Motion carried. Trustee Gutierrez thanked Town Clerk Cook for her proficiency with the complicated January 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes.

## APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the disbursements dated January 31, 2024. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*Annual Report from the Eastern RBC 911 Emergency Telephone Service Board.* Rio Blanco County dispatch supervisor Rhawnie McGruder handed out 2024 budget to the Board, stating it is very similar to the 2023 budget; there was an increase in traveling expenses and miscellaneous; the 911 surcharge for 2023 was \$1.97 and it will be increased in 2024 to \$2.05 which will result in an eighty dollar increase in revenue for 2024; this was approved by the Public Utilities Commission; there are no capital projects or upgrades scheduled for the year. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Borchard thanked McGruder for coming.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Consideration of Special Event Liquor License for Meeker Lions Club.* Mayor Borchard opened the public hearing at 7:06 pm. Town Clerk Cook stated Mark Rogers was present for the Meeker Lions Club; Donald Blazon is the events manager; the special events license is for the Meeker HS baseball and softball

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auction and banquet fundraiser. The event will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Rio Blanco County 4H building located at 700 Sulphur Creek Road from 4:00 pm–11:00pm; Chief Thompson has no objections; the public hearing was advertised, and property posted. This application is complete, and it is the staff's recommendation to approve the Special Event Liquor License pending letter of approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Hearing no further comments, Mayor Borchard closed the public hearing at 7:08 pm and called for a motion to approve the Special Event Liquor License for Meeker Lions Club conditional of BOCC letter of approval. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

***Appointment to the EMS Council. Form letter Thompson and Deitrick.*** Administrator Etheridge asked for approval from the Board to appoint Edward Thompson with alternate Thomas Dietrich as representatives to the Emergency Management System (EMS) Council for 2024. Hearing no questions or concerns Mayor Borchard called for a motion to appoint Edward Thompson and Thomas Dietrich as representatives to the EMS Council. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of Donation request from MHS Baseball & Softball.*** Ms. Jessica Browning and Coach Kendal Bergman were present with a group of MHS baseball and softball players. The players asked the Board for a \$700.00 donation to help with extra expenses and to be used in purchasing auction items from local businesses. Coach Bergman stated that the \$1,000.00 the Town donated in 2023 helped with purchasing new uniforms and bats for the softball team, and she specified it was very much appreciated and needed. Trustee Gutierrez asked if these funds would go strictly to baseball and softball, Coach Bergman assured them they would. Administrator Etheridge reminded the Board there is twenty thousand dollars in the discretionary fund for the 2024 year, and this will be the first request for donation though there will be other anticipated requests. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Borchard called for a motion. Trustee Nielsen made a motion to donate \$2,000.00 to the MHS baseball and softball teams. Second by Trustee Jehorck. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of MOU with MAMBA for grant partnership.*** Administrator Ethridge stated Regas Halandras, Carly Anderson and Joe Wilson were present representing Meeker Area Mountain Biking Association (MAMBA). Etheridge reminded the Board that ERBM stepped down as a partner on this project so the Town was asked to get involved as a fiscal agent. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) grant administrator clearly stated that as the fiduciary agent the Town should be aware of and support any decisions made by MAMBA with regards to the project. Etheridge stated that the project and the application were both worthy for consideration and requested direction from the Board on appropriate structure of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MAMBA so that it could be reviewed by legal and ready for consideration at the February 20th meeting.

Mayor Borchard asked if the grant would be for all funds and not split; Halandras stated it is an all or nothing grant, and attached to the Board packet is an overview from Gumption Trail Works, estimating the project's approach. Ethridge asked if the Board supports MAMBA's contracting process with Gumption with no procurement policy and no price guarantee with the Board concurring that they would rather defer to MAMBA for all project management and oversight. After a lengthy discussion the Board instructed staff to continue forward with the MOU making sure it includes a waiver of all liability to the Town. Trustee Jehorek asked about the BLM's NEPA planning process in regard to work on the trails and Halandras

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confirmed these are existing, already built and approved trails that are covered in the original Environmental Assessment (EA). Etheridge asked whether the Board would support an additional contribution for matching funds to the grant application and Mayor Borchard called for a motion to donate five thousand dollars to MAMBA partnership contingent on the grant being awarded. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Consideration of Library Board Application(s).*** Administrator Etheridge introduced Dan Olson as an applicant for a three-year term on the Library Board. Mr. Olson stated he is very happy about the opportunity to serve; he has been in Meeker approximately five years; his five boys enjoy reading and he views the library as a huge community resource. Trustee Lockwood asked Mr. Olson if he would be in favor of banning any books. Olson replied that banning books is very difficult topic to address; the information needs to be out there so the people can make their own decision as to what type of books they want in their public library through informative public forums or a petition being signed; if the community feels very strongly about certain books not being in the library, Olson feels that those books should not be stocked in the library. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Borchard called for a motion to appoint Dan Olson for a three-year term on the Library Board. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

***Bid opening for Public Works vehicle.*** Administrator Etheridge stated this bid is for a 2024 GMC pickup for the water department's vehicle replacement schedule. This is an approved budget item for \$50,000 in Systems Development, the bid invite and specs were emailed on January 9<sup>th</sup> to Turner Automotive GMC dealer in Montrose, Red Rocks GMC in Grand Junction, and Northwest Auto GMC in Meeker. The bid language was taken from previous invitations, specifically the last two public works trucks that were purchased in January 2017 and March 2016. The new truck will go to Public Works superintendent Willey, the 2012 Dodge Ram will go into rotation for the shop truck, and the 2002 Ford truck will be sold. Mayor Borchard stated there is one sealed bid submitted. The bid is from Northwest Auto in Meeker in the amount of \$50,115.00 for a 2024 1500 Sierra, Double Cab, 4-wheel drive, GMC pickup. Staff will look over the bid and report back at the next board meeting on February 20th.

***Consideration of Resolution #01-2024, Finding that a Petition for Annexation is in Substantial Compliance with CRS 31-12-107(1) and Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Conrado Annexation to the Town of Meeker.*** Administrator Etheridge stated this Resolution is the beginning of a process for a multi-faceted project and is simply for the Board to accept a petition for annexation as substantially compliant with State and Town regulation and schedule a public hearing for the consideration of an annexation.

The owners of the proposed application are Daniel Conrado and Ellen Conrado, Joe Conrado Trust and Kelly Conrado Trust. The result of this overall process will be to have all property on the West side of Rio Blanco County Road 4 belonging to Daniel and Ellen Conrado, everything from Joe and Kelly Conrado's fence line South and East of County Road 4 belonging to the Meeker Highland Cemetery, and the Town boundary line to run along County Road 4.

Etheridge read from the narrative in the application submitted by Betty Kracht of White River Consulting: "The Annexation is to include that small portion of land that Conrado currently owns into the Town of Meeker City Limits to allow for conveyance to the Cemetery. This property is of importance to the Cemetery and the Town as it acts as the access from Rio Blanco County Road 4 to the Cemetery. There are no access easements or agreements in place for access at this point, there will be no infrastructure changes or additional building or development."

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After some discussion the staff was directed to schedule a public hearing for March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Borchard called for a motion to adopt Resolution #01-2024, Finding that a Petition for Annexation is in Substantial Compliance with CRS 31-12-107(1) and Set a Public Hearing Date for the Conrado Annexation to the Town of Meeker for March 19<sup>th</sup>. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

## MANAGERS REPORT

Chief Thompson has put quite a bit of time into researching options for the K9 Unit that was budgeted for this year and has decided to go with Complete K9 Training out of Brighton, CO. A breakdown of comparative pricing is in your packet. Later this month he hopes to take Officer Hetzel, who will be the K9 officer, over to the Front Range to look at the facility, reserve a dog, and pick up the new K9 ready police truck. Hetzel would then attend a 6-week training with the new dog sometime this spring.

Etheridge provided an update on the cricket control plan, having attended last week's meeting to continue the discussion regarding the cricket infestation of Moffat and RBC. The Conservancy Districts are spearheading the abatement efforts with the County as a major partner, and Jane Turnburke with County Weed & Pest Control as the current contact point. They have secured grant funding with a match provided by the County and the Districts to contract for aerial spraying this spring as they hatch. They are in constant communication with the BLM and the USDA's APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services) to coordinate efforts as well. The current plan is included in your packets – next steps include a PR push to get private landowners on board with spray agreements and encourage the public to report sightings/locations of the hatch. Leif Joy with the County has created a map of reported locations to help with targeting. They are planning to hold an informational public meeting on Wednesday, February 21 in Meeker to continue soliciting public input and volunteers.

Etheridge stated she will be out of the office Thursday and Friday and will send the weekly update next Monday.

## MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

## OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

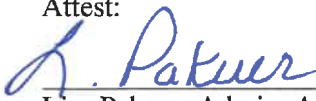
Trustee Lockwood requested that the Town seek out information on Fire Interface. Rio Blanco County Inspector Matt Franks stated he sits on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) board and has attended two meetings and they are involved with the state currently developing that Urban plan.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

  
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Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant