

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Borchard Day Gutierrez Jehorek Kindall Lockwood Nielsen
Town Staff Present	Administrator Town Clerk Admin Asst Comm. Dev./Planner	Etheridge Cook Pakuer Thomson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Borchard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Trustees were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for changes to the agenda. Administrator Etheridge stated the agenda in the packet will be different than what the Herald Times published due to changes made after the publication deadline. A motion was made by Trustee Day 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 Jehorek to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024, as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried. Trustee Kindall abstained because she was absent.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ayres Associates presentation of Town of Meeker Housing Assessment and Action Plan. Mayor Borchard welcomed Economic Development and Planning Professional Mike Scholl and Western Planning Lead Josh Olhava representing Ayres Associates, and they shared their findings from the Housing Needs Assessment with the Board via power point presentation. Mayor Borchard inquired about the time frame for the strategic action plan, with Ayres hoping by mid-May 2024. After questions and comments from the Board and the public, Borchard thanked Ayres Associates for coming and that the Board is looking forward to seeing them in May.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Meeker Mustang Makeover committee and request for sponsorship. Deirdre Macnab was present representing the Meeker Mustang Makeover (MMM) along with JH Sheridan and Sabine Murray. Macnab started off by thanking the Town of Meeker for their support in the past, stating that the MMM is going into its 6th year with the goal of matching horses with trainers and working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to get herds down to manageable levels. Macnab shared a power point presentation with information on last year's event, stating this year's event is scheduled for August 24th. This year the MMM has submitted a significant federal grant application for funding for a part time executive director but are still requesting support from the Town in the amount of five-thousand dollars to be utilized for marketing purposes. Administrator Etheridge pointed out the status of Board discretionary funds reflecting first quarter of 2024, and support in 2022 and 2023 in the amount of five thousand dollars to the MMM. Trustee Day inquired about taking the donation out of the marketing budget with Etheridge stating that this line item is for any unanticipated opportunities for economic development or marketing related projects. Trustee Nielsen stated he would like to see the MMM getting away from asking for tax dollar donations and eventually get the organization to be more self-supporting. Trustee Kindall said there are also times when in-kind support from the Town doesn't show up as a number on paper.

Mayor Borchard called for a motion. Trustee Nielsen moved to donate two thousand five-hundred dollars to the Meeker Mustang Makeover to be taken out of the marketing budget. Hearing no second Borchard called for another motion. Trustee Kindall moved to donate five-thousand dollars to the Meeker Mustang Makeover to be taken out of the marketing budget. Second by Trustee Day. Aye: Trustees Day, Gutierrez, Jehorek, Kindall and Lockwood. Nay by Trustee Nielsen. Motion carried. Ms. Macnab took this opportunity to thank Trustee Kindall for being on the founding committee, served as the secretary, energy catalyst, is very knowledgeable about the mustangs and is very important to the success of the MMM.

Consideration of donation request from Range Call. Travis Goodwin was present representing the Range Call Committee requesting one-thousand five-hundred dollars for help with the usage fees of the fairgrounds, wrist bands and stage rental. Starting in 2025 the Meeker Fire District will no longer help fund the fireworks for the fourth of July, Range Call will have that expense as well. Rio Blanco County is now charging to use the Fairgrounds for this event. Goodwin shared that this year's entertainment will be Clay Walker. After some discussion Mayor Borchard called for a motion. Trustee Gutierrez moved to donate five-thousand dollars to be taken out of Community Development. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried. The Board requested that one-thousand five-hundred dollars be specifically tagged for the fireworks display.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Circle Park River project.

Administrator Etheridge stated on March 4th the Town received the Technical Memo from GEI, and their recommendation is mostly summarized on the first page of what specific tasks need to be completed before we have construction ready designs. Etheridge pointed out a few of the major points that Michael Scurlock, project engineer noticed during his walk-through:

- Section ii page 2 regarding stormwater and drainage – would consider redesigning the location,
- size and use of the stormwater drain to be less intrusive to the parking area and drain into green instead of piped to the river.
- Section iii page 3 regarding the ADA Riverbank access – would consider doing a surface level ramp instead of an overhang that requires subsurface Geotech engineering. This could be where we might see some cost savings if we go with this alternative design.
- Section iv on page 3 regarding changing the bank stabilization methods – would consider using boulder toe and natural grading and vegetation instead of full soil lifts to stabilize the bank, this is less intrusive to the river, offers greater stability during ice season, and will be consistent with the north side of the riverbank.

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- Section 6.0 goes into estimates for the tasks laid out, Etheridge provided a more side-by-side breakdown of those estimates been inserted after page 7 showing an estimated cost of \$74,380 to certify the design as intended by SWCA and an estimated cost of \$48,060 to certify a re-design with an alternate ADA access plan.
- Section 7.0 pm pages 8 and 9 go into more detail about estimated costs of each task and where some savings and where some additional costs could occur.

Etheridge created a list of three options for the project which are: start over, salvage, or stick with what we have. The sub-committee met on March 11th to weigh these options and discuss the recommendations and estimates from GEI and unanimously felt that we should continue with GEI for the recommended changes, including the alternate design for the ADA access at Circle Park, and allow their engineer to work with our contractor to find the most efficient construction methods available to achieve the desired outcome. In summary, Administrator Etheridge recommended the Board approve the Professional Services addendum as presented, conditional upon receiving the Scope of Work and Fee Schedule intended for Exhibit A in the addendum.

Trustee Gutierrez asked if the Recreation Center has signed off on the project, Etheridge stated as of tonight they had not. Etheridge talked to Tom Smrdel today making sure everything was still in line and ready to move forward, Mr. Smrdel assured her it was. Trustee Jehorek pointed out the permitting fees from page 6 of the technical memo are not included in the addendum. After a lengthy discussion Mayor Borchard confirmed that this addendum was not to exceed fifty-thousand dollars for the scope of work; Borchard then called for a motion to approve the Addendum to the Professional Services Agreement with GEI Consulting conditional on the inclusion of permitting review in the scope of work and receipt of the scope of work and fee schedule from GEI. Moved by Trustee Kindall. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

Administrator Etheridge stated that she has spoken with Brian from Diggin It Riverworks (DIR) regarding the Circle Park Meeker Riverfront Construction Contract. Etheridge was able to negotiate some of the terms of the agreement as previously directed by the Board, including:

- Liquidated damages should not be seen as a punishment, but an incentive to get the project done in due time. DIR stated they could do the five-hundred-dollar liquidated damages with the extended deadline of June 26th.
- DIR did agree to a seventy percent survivability rate for the plants.

Trustee Lockwood asked how much contingency money would be left. Etheridge stated if the contract for \$1,541,610 is approved there would be a remaining balance of \$131,030 to cover contingency and change orders but that did not reflect any additional funds from the Rec District or the Town that the Board previously agreed to add as necessary. Trustee Lockwood suggested downsizing the landscaping to allow for more contingency budget as any landscaping could potentially be done in house in partnership with the Rec District. Trustee Day expressed concerns with GEI's access ramp proposal and discrepancies with DIR original bid proposal for riprap to protect the ramp, meaning there will be a change order and the pricing will go up. Trustee Gutierrez pointed out there is also the committee that will make sure this project is staying on track.

Mayor Borchard called for a motion. Trustee Jehorek moved to approve the Circle Park Meeker Riverfront Construction Contract as written. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. Ayes: Nielsen, Gutierrez, Kindall, Jehorek. Nays: Lockwood, Day. Motion carried.

MANAGERS REPORT

Etheridge stated as a co-operating agency, we are privy to the quarterly report from the BLM on the Wolf Creek Reservoir project which has been included at the end of each Board packet. Heather Sauls shared the reminder that the BLM has moved to quarterly updates rather than monthly meetings while USACE and

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RBWCD are working through the purpose and need discussions and the next planned update will be in June. Trustee Day stated the RBWCD is still including the Town of Meeker logo in the Wolf Creek Reservoir Project presentation and Day asked Etheridge to contact them as a reminder the Town is a neutral party.

MAYORS REMARKS

None.

ELECTION RESULTS (unofficial) by TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Cook stated there were four hundred seventy-two ballots counted and the unofficial results were as follows:

- Mayor
Travis Day – 356 votes.

- Trustees
 - Kathleen Sizemore - 366 votes
 - Jessica Browning - 275 votes
 - Charles Day - 224 votes
 - Trishia Granahan - 152 votes
 - Aubree Perry - 74 votes

Cook stated the official results will be posted next Thursday.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Day attended a White-Water Alliance meeting with a representative from American White-Water Assn (AWWA). AWWA trains boaters on river ethics and wants to work with the landowners from tenth street bridge down river to Shults bridge where there is already an existing boat ramp.


Day also inquired how the Chamber Welcome Banner project was going and Etheridge stated it will be up in May, with WREA installing the poles this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:09 pm Mayor Borchard called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) to conference with attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions. Moved by Trustee Jehorek. Seconded by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 9:34 pm by a motion from Trustee Nielsen and a second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting.



Kent Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin Asst