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motion regarding these sections and the individual Trustee may abstain from voting on the motion. I will then entertain a motion regarding the next Trustee that advised of a possible conflict and so finally, I will entertain a motion for all other matters contained in the financial documentation.”

3, BILLS AND EXPENDITURES:

Trustee Hansen asked to abstain from all bills received from De Beque Country Store.

Motion: Trustee Black-Greening
To accept Trustee Hansen’s abstention

Second: Trustee Jackson

Voice Vote: With exception of Trustee Hansen, who had abstained, all remaining Trustees voted in favor of the motion.

There were no further abstentions.

Motion: Trustee Farris
To approve the remaining bills

Second: Trustee Hansen

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion

4. ITEMS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE – NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Mayor Gaudern asked those participating to begin by introducing themselves and indicating whether they resided within the De Beque Town limits. Those comments will be limited to three minutes.

a. Rewa Gaudern was the first to speak, asking if this meeting was necessary. The recording keeps going in and out and you can’t hear. Trustee Hansen stated that due to Covid-19, everyone needs to know what is coming down the pike.

Ms. McInnis stated we provide a service and it is our duty to continue.

There were no further comments.

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5. BOARD COMMENTS:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any board comments. Trustee Hansen stated not at this time.

Trustee Black-Greening asked to table discussion on the scholarships until after the school has their meeting tomorrow night when she would know more about what their plans were for graduation, etc.

It is item number 7 f on their agenda and she is asking to table that currently. Mayor Gaudern asked her to wait until it comes up and then make her motion. There were no other Board comments.

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ms. McInnis stated that she had a lengthy report. The staff has been working long hours. A special thanks was given to the water and wastewater personnel and the Marshal's office. She has had scheduled meetings, the 5th in two days, with DOLA, the city of Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade, and Collbran.

We are required to follow federal, state and county laws. There are concerns about what we can do about the availability of groceries, medication, etc. The Town of De Beque has limited resources. We have no medical services, but we do have the Fire District and the Marshal's Office.

The City of Grand Junction has an emergency fund of over 30 million dollars and have voted to use this to hire 400 people at a rate of \$15 to \$20 per hour to assist some of those out of work.

We need backup for our IT. We are in the process of getting a new IT provider. At the present time the County IT supervisor will help with our needs. Our second need is backup for our Marshal's Department and the Mesa County Sheriff's Department has agreed to give us this.

Law enforcement including the Marshal's Office is to be given separate screenings/testing.

The answer is that it is the duty of everyone to take responsibility for themselves., Avoid personal contact and follow the advice being given.

Mesa County currently has 5 cases, 160 tests sent, and 50 tests completed. Practice self-care and obey the stay at home order. The County has received masks that they will begin to distribute. The County will follow the Governor's lead.

We have been told that in order to get assistance and receive future funding we need to declare a local emergency. Time sheets are being revised in order to be reimbursed in the future. The State collects

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the Town Sales taxes and there may some delay in our future funds. We self-collect the marijuana excise tax.

There is a change in utilities also. There will be no shutoffs. There will be no evictions. Court this week will be handled by conference call. Public works will be monitoring the water and sewer. Other entities have had problems with people flushing materials other than toilet paper and causing sewer problems. They will be working alone as much as possible. The Marshal' Department is very busy.

In regard to the scholarship fund there are four seniors this year. She is suggesting that they use \$5000 and give one \$2000 scholarship and three \$1000 scholarship. This would leave \$3000 of the original budget item that possibly could be used to assist employees during this time of layoffs

The bid opening for hauling the gravel from Whitewater was done by telephone conference. We will be starting with the lowest bidder but will not be in a rush to award.

Preparation of the Planning and Zoning packets is in the works. We are working on signage and Dave Jackson has been asked for input. She has been working with the scholarship committee. Calls from developers have been received regarding three different areas. The accounts payable and receivable are being handled. The workman's compensation audit has been completed. Contract negotiations for IT services are on-going and a MAPS tablet has been purchased for the public works department. The Marshal is working on his hiring process. The meeting with telephonics went well. The letters required for zoning have gone out and the property has been posted.

Mayor Gaudern stated that the parks in Mesa County have been shut down. He asked about the parks in De Beque. What about kids in the park?

That has not happened in De Beque. At present time it will have to be the Marshal' Department that takes care of this. We may have to rely on parenting.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08, A RESOLUTION DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY:

The Town needs to act in order to be reimbursed in the future. The Ordinance will take effect immediately. Payroll is affected and time sheets are being developed to track personnel hours that may be reimbursable. Rather than having daily Board meetings. Administration can have authority when needed.

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Mr. McConaughy explained that the Resolution officially invokes emergency power. The general consensus is that we will be doing it from this day forward to be eligible for FEMA funds. There is no downside.

The County advises that it needs to be put in place by the end of the week.

Mayor Gaudern stated that the City of Grand Junction passed a similar Resolution last night.

Motion: Trustee Farris
To pass Resolution No. 2020-08

Second: Trustee Wood

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion

a. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 504, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING §7.04.110 AND AMENDING §7.04.120 OF THE DE BEQUE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING WEEDS AND RUBBISH:

Ms. McInnis explained that the previous ordinance had been pulled. It was self-regulating and needed to be cleaned up. Trustee Hansen felt that it was important to do this. Mayor Gaudern stated that it would allow something to be done before winter.

Trustee Reed asked who will enforce this and who will we go to, who will be in charge. Ultimately it will be the responsibility of the Town Administrator. He wants to table this. He wants to know who will do it.

Trustee Hansen doesn't want to limit who can do it. An authorized person from the Town can do it. We do not want to tie their hands.

Rewa Gaudern, a member of the audience, agrees with Trustee Reed.

Mr. McConaughy said it is ultimately about who can sign the notice, not whose job it is. As long as someone from Town signs it, it can be enforced. It can be addressed in the Code.

Trustee Farris said that is her understanding that the Town Administrator is in charge.

Rewa said she had brought issues to Care's attention and was brushed off.

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Trustee Hansen offered to take issues on her behalf and get back to her.
Rewa stated that the Town Administrator should be unfavoring and unwavering.

Motion: Trustee Farris

To approve Ordinance No. 504 with added language

Second: Trustee Jackson

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion

**b. PLANNING RECOMMENDATION AND BOT DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06
REGARDING SETTING THE VALUE FOR DETERMINING WATER RIGHT DEDICATION FEES.**

Trustee Hansen explained that the Colorado River Conservancy District value will be updated and it changes year to year and will not need to be voted on. Mayor advised the Board that if we must pay for water these are the fees we would pay.

Motion: Trustee Jackson
To accept Resolution No. 2020-06

Second: Trustee Farris

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion.

**c. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE NO. 505 REGARDING REPEALING §14.14.040 OF
THE DE BEQUE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY LICENSE.**

Ms. McInnis explained that this is another house cleaning matter. It needs to be repealed or endorsed in a different manner. A license is required by Code but there has never been one issued or paid for. We need to repeal or give direction to staff.

Trustee Hansen asked how this would affect the Latham's. She does not want to take away Latham's rights. She would like to table this and get more information. Ms. McInnis stated that this is a benefit to the Latham's. If no license is required, it will alleviate an additional fee.

Trustee Hansen wants to make certain that this does not keep them from being there. Trustee Black-Greening wants to table this also.

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Motion: Trustee Hansen
To table this until the next Board Meeting

Second: Trustee Reed

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion

d. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 506, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE, COLORADO AUTHORIZING MARIJUANA DELIVERY AND OTHER FORMS OF SALES:

Mr. McConaughy explained that delivery now is recognized for medical marijuana but not for recreational. Yesterday Denver closed all liquor and marijuana shops. Today the Governor gave permission for curbside service and this had been authorized by MED. Law pertaining to delivery will go into effect January 2021.

Mayor Gaudern stated if delivery is not authorized, we will be unable to keep it out of Town. Trustee Black Greening felt it would be in the best interest of the Town to go ahead and vote now.

Motion: Trustee Black-Greening
To pass Ordinance No. 506

Second: Trustee Hansen

Voice Vote: Mayor Gaudern, Trustees Hansen, Black-Greening and Wood voted, yes. Trustees Reed, Farris and Jackson voted, no

Ms. McInnis interjected reminding them that it cannot be passed as an emergency ordinance without a 3/4 vote.

Trustee Farris does not like pot delivery. Discussion ensued on the meaning of emergency in this case. An emergency ordinance takes effect immediately and if passed as a normal ordinance it does not take effect until 30 days after publication. The option is to remove the emergency clause or change item 2 to read this can be repealed with a resolution. At this point, a new vote was taken.

Motion: Trustee Farris
To accept Ordinance No. 506 with changes

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Second: Trustee Hansen

Voice Vote: Trustee Jackson voted, no and remaining trustees voted, yes. Motion carried.

e. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2020-07 REGARDING PUBLIC CENSURE OF MAYOR ZEKE GAUDERN:

Mayor Gaudern stated that it was not right that this came up without him knowing. In reading the minutes when he received his packet he saw where Shanelle had made a statement that he should be notified before getting the packet. He did not get notice, he was blindsided – probably because of COVID-19. The Trustee asking for censure did not address or take responsibility for the notice. He stated that he believes that this was brought on by the administrator. He believes she doesn't like him because he said he did not want to hire her. She refuses to do what he tells her.

This was supposed to be confidential. The CIRSA attorney had told him not to discuss this.

He did talk to the Vendor who had expressed an interest in coming to Wildhorse Days. He had called out a specific employee by name in a letter and implied that she was incompetent because she told him she could only answer the phone. He did talk to the Town Administrator about what he found out while he was the Administrative Authority. He did not use his authority to plant trees.

As for the cost of the investigation, the medical insurance we pay for the employees and their families is more expensive than this investigation.

Trustee Farris apologized for not getting in touch with him before he got his packet. She wanted to speak to him but let it go. She said the issue escalated until the employees filed a formal complaint. She takes full responsibility for this and would like to see it acknowledged and would like to see him and the Town of De Beque support our staff. We need to work together.

Trustee Hansen stated she has weighed this fully and does not like to rub noses in it. The Mayor's apology to the Board of Trustees was enough for her but obviously not for the employees. She has been in the same circumstance and no one stepped up to defend her. She cannot support the public humiliation of the Mayor and asked if there was a path that we can follow to fix this and not pass the Resolution.

Trustee Reed agreed with Trustee Hansen, stating that everyone makes mistakes. Is there some way we can satisfy the employees and not do this?

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Trustee Hansen is not asking that it go away, just that it not ends with this ultimatum.

Rewa Gaudern, a citizen, stated the investigation was done and nothing was found. No criminal findings. No actual acts of discrimination. Yes, there was verbal , but the Mayor has already been punished enough. Trustee Farris said there was no age discrimination.

Dawn Palmer, a citizen, said this should be being done behind closed doors, not in a public meeting. Listening to their discussion is making her cringe.

Trustee Black-Greening wants some type of mutual ground. Neither side should be humiliated. We need a Resolution that will be complimentary to all and move on.

Trustee Farris said that, whether or not we move on with the Resolution, she felt it should be addressed and documented. A vote is not needed, and she takes full responsibility for it. This enough for her.

Trustee Hansen asked how to satisfy the employees. We cannot speak to what they feel – we have acknowledged it.

Trustee Hansen asked if a motion was needed to not censure the Mayor.

Mr. McConaughy replied, no. In respect to the employees, don't censure the Mayor on the grounds that it is excessive. We can just ignore this and not make a motion.

e. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Trustee Black-Greening asked that the Board wait until after the school board meets tomorrow night to see what their plans are. It is uncertain at this time whether the students will be returning to school or if there will even be a graduation.

Ms. McInnis stated that the application had been modified to avoid the appearance of discrimination.

Trustee Black-Greening is asking if the Board feels we are going the right way. She would like to get more information.

Ms. McInnis informed the Board that they need not pass this tonight. We are anticipating \$5000 to be used for scholarships. Trustees Hansen and Farris agree with dividing it up. Ms. McInnis suggested that the remaining funds budgeted could be used to assist three long term part-time employees. Trustee Hansen would like to see the money held for the community with COVID-19.

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Trustee Black-Greening suggested the funds be used to pay the water bills of some elderly members of the community. They are always of concern to those on a fixed income.

Ms. McInnis said this can be discussed at another Board meeting. At this time shutoffs are prohibited. We have the next thirty days to assess the needs of the community. Trustee Black-Greening agrees.

Mayor Gaudern asked if we could waive late fees and was told, yes. Mr. McConaughy said we cannot shut off water and maybe it would be best to wait and weather the storm and look at this later. It's a good plan to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Citizens can put utility payments in the drop box at the front door. Cameras have been installed at this location. Online payments can be made, and the post office is also an option.

Discussion of fees charged on credit card use was discussed. These are fees charged by the State and not the Town. Therefore, we are unable to waive them.

f. DISCUSSION AND APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION REGARDING THE BURN PILE LOCATED ON TOWN PROPERTY NEAR THE RIVER.

Ms. McInnis explained that burning is a liability due to fire danger as well as health due to the smoke. The Fire District is acquiring a fire curtain that can be shared with the Town. This has been discussed with the Fire District. She would value input from the Board.

Trustee Wood would like to look at the use of a wood-chipper and make the material into mulch and used to build up the soil. Ms. McInnis said the problem with this is the big pieces. Trustee Wood said this could be cut up for firewood.

Trustees Hansen and Wood volunteered to be on the committee.

g. BUDGET DISCUSSION REGARDING THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT UPON 3 LONG TERM PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYEES.

This would not apply to employees that are not part time. She would like to pay them on an average basis. They are not able to come in and perform on a regular basis. FMLA days require a fourteen day wait to apply for unemployment.

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Trustee Hansen wanted to know. "What is the ask?" Ms. McInnis said at a federal level not everyone is covered.

Mr. McConaughy said the mandates relate to people with COVID-19 or a family member. Consensus was that they had no problem with it.

Ms. McInnis will take direction .

Planning and Zoning is the next meeting. We will use this same method for the meeting unless we find something different. We will work on posting better next time and add the information on the agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Trustee Hansen
To adjourn

Second: Trustee Farris

All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Approved

Date

