

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
September 22, 2020
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Second: Trustee Lake

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion.

Motion: Trustee Farris

To approve the bills and expenditures for the De Beque Country Store.

Second: Trustee Jackson

Voice Vote: Trustee Hansen abstained; all others voted in favor of the motion.

5. ITEMS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE – NOT ON THE AGENDA: (3 min.)

Town Administrator Care' McInnis stated that we have received an anonymous note and she had been asked by the sender to read it at the meeting. Ms. McInnis noted that we do not read notes. That a person must come in to be heard. She also stated that we were not having a public hearing tonight.

5. BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Farris gave kudos to the office staff for putting things together under stressful times – everyone is trying to improve things during these modified times.

Ms. McInnis read a note from Trustee Wood saying he appreciated the hard work of the Town Manager and the staff during Covid and the fire. He stated that he had no issues with the Roadhouse, and they should be allowed an extension. He is aware that there is a pending issue in Mesa County courts for Beer Mugs and Bar Stools and is waiting until the Public Hearing to discuss this.

6. TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Ms. McInnis introduced our new employee, Deputy Jaeda Cannizzaro. All welcomed her to De Beque.

It was noted that we have demobilized the contract with the fire team. They were allowed to use any and all the water they needed.

The Town has received a notice of violation on the treated water and the State has confirmed that this is a non-emergent situation. A notice will be sent out to all water users with their water bills. We have until October 11th to send these notices out. We exceeded the level of trihalomethanes (TTHM). This was due to extreme temperatures in the water plant and on a long line with only one resident. The air temp went

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up to 112 degrees one day. We have flushed the hydrants and instituted a regular flushing program and have also installed a swamp cooler in the water plant.

We were very lucky that there was no loss of life from the fire, although there were devastating loses, and it is a fact that more die from post fire issues like debris flow and floods.

Care' was able to fly over the area to evaluate any issues and assist in mapping the area for long term remediation. We should be getting that report soon. There is also the fear of debris flow from the Grizzly Creek Fire. We need to prepare for a possible impact of water flows as we do not have an alternate source of water. One concern is mercury – we could be forced to shut down the plant. We need to create an emergency plan and apply for any available grants. Our tanks will always be full. Each water user must be willing to conserve. The 2 bulk water fill stations would be shut off first. Mr. Honaker, from Beers Car Wash, was very gracious and understanding. Ms. McInnis has negotiated a backup plan with our neighbors.

Trustee Hansen asked, “why mercury and from where?” Ms. McInnis explained she was not completely sure but will follow up with the water operators and that it could possibly be from the water shed. The estimated time of duration of the shutdown would be dependent on what or how much flow there is.

As a result of the fire, Covid and water issues there is a lot of funding available. With all that is going on we may need some help applying for grants. Trustee Hansen said that Barb Reed has some grant writing experience. Ms. McInnis and the Town staff are swamped with work.

The Cares Act funding has approved \$87,000.00 for the Town of De Beque. We must meet the following criteria: it must be Covid related, not in our current Budget and must be expensed from March to December 2020. We do not have the expenses that larger towns do. It is very hard to spend all that money so the group has decided that if any towns do not spend it all, we will reevaluate and spread it out and not send it back to the federal government. We must substantiate all the purchases with the Covid money, so we do want to continue with the Zoom meetings. The Cares funding is focusing on technology and since the staff, including Ms. McInnis is still working remotely, we need to continue with the virtual meetings.

We are monitoring Grand Junction since they are considering legalizing marijuana. In the last 2 weeks the council voted to evaluate the effect on Grand Junction. This will have an impact on De Beque.

We are receiving numerous inquiries on properties in De Beque.

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It is 2021 budget time. We are hoping to do it the same way that we did last year. Someone will contact each trustee to schedule a meeting during the week of October 19th through the 24th. We are hoping to have the budget close to final for the October meeting and pass a final budget in November.

Our new website should launch this evening. Marge Mackey and the Marshal have been working on it.

Ms. McInnis explained that we have 2 attorneys here for 7A and 7B. Mr. Sands is here to prosecute the matter and Mr. McConaughy to advise the Board, to assist with any questions and to draft any findings. Also, it was noted that the Roadhouse does not need an extension to continue to serve.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. and B. Setting a public hearing for the WildHorse Roadhouse. There will be no evidence presented tonight. The Town Clerk has decided to opt out of the review and let the Board of Trustees hear the renewal. We need to set a special meeting for both hearings. Trustee Hansen asked why this was including the Roadhouse as they only had a mask issue. Care' again stated that no evidence has been presented, but that the mask issue is from the State liquor licensing. Ed Sands stated that he would be presenting evidence under oath from the State liquor Licensing and the Marshal. Any time there are charges pending all evidence must be presented including undercover work. A notice must be posted 10 days prior and advertised 10 days prior. Mr. Sands suggested that we do not do the hearing on a regular board meeting night as it can take a couple of hours and that all witnesses can be cross examined. Patrons and citizens can make comments also. We can do them both on the same night or on separate nights.

It was decided to do both hearings on the same night. Trustee Farris suggested they do the 3rd week of October. This would give plenty of time for the notices. The hearings will be held on October 20th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Mr. Sands stated that this is a quasi-Judicial hearing and not to talk to the licensees or others and to base their decisions on the evidence presented at the hearing. Board members should read the hearing procedures in 2.08 of the Municipal Code and in the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Sands left the meeting at this time.

C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION NO 2020-20: ADOPTION OF THE 2020 MESA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

After the wildfires and the possibility of flooding Ms. McInnis suggested we may want to mitigate this by reducing the amounts of fuel that is piled up.

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Motion: Trustee Hansen

To adopt Resolution 2020-20, the 2020 Mesa County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Second: Trustee Farris

Voice Vote: Unanimously in favor of the motion.

D. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION CONCERNING TEMPORARY CANCELLATION OF DEBRIS PILE BURN PROGRAM/CLOSURE/SIGNAGE

Ms. Mcinnis suggested temporarily suspending this program until next spring. She also talked about a woodchipper project that would be very expensive. We could possibly close the gate since the burning is such a high risk for the Town.

Trustee Hansen does not support suspending the program. She feels that “we have learned through Covid that once you take something away, you don’t ever get it back. We need to keep it open. The Fire Department has said that it will help with the burn. There are still permits available at this time. This is beneficial for all the De Beque people. This is part of what makes De Beque unique. The best possible scenario is to burn down there because of all the mitigation that has been done. This is the time of year that people are really going to use it.” She does not support taking this away.

Trustee Farris is concerned about where she will take her leaves and if the Fire Department will help monitor this, she does not want to end the program.

Trustee Black-Greening does not support shutting this down, even temporarily. This is a huge asset to the Town, and we can burn when it is safe to do so.

Trustee Lake agrees also except that other major businesses up and down the valley are dumping here, and this should be open only for the Town.

Trustee Hansen said that signage is needed “For Town use only” or put up game cameras to see who is dumping and ticket them. She does not want a gate as that stops those from using the river.

Trustee Lake suggested signs with clear penalties.

Ms. McInnis said she would look into signage and cameras.

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Motion: Trustee Hansen
To Adjourn

Second: Trustee Farris

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Approved

Date

