**TOWN OF DE BEQUE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 23, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of De Beque was held by virtual means on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was opened by Mayor Gaudern at 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Those present were:

Mayor: Zeke Gaudern

Trustees: Dave Jackson Judy Lake Cindy Farris Shanelle Hansen

 Walter Wood Summer Black Greening

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: David McConaughy Care’ McInnis Toni Vincenzetti

 Shirley Nichols Bob Dalley Lisa Rogers

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

There were none. Ms. McInnis announced her intent to make modified changes to the language.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021 MINUTES**

**Motion:** Trustee Jackson

To approve the minutes of the 2/23/2021 - Regular Meeting

**Second:** Trustee Hansen

**Voice Vote:** Unanimously in favor of the motion and it carried.

March 10, 2021 Minutes – Special Meeting

**Motion:** Trustee Lake

To approve the minutes of the 3/10/2021

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**Second:** Trustee Jackson

**Voice Vote:** Unanimously in favor of the motion.

**BILLS AND EXPENDITURES WITH POSSIBLE CONFLICT: FEBRUARY 2021**

**Motion:** Trustee Black – Greening

To approve the bills for De Beque Country Store

**Second:** Trustee Jackson

**Voice Vote:** Trustee Hansen abstained. Remaining Trustees voted in favor of the motion.

**BILLS AND EXPENDITURES REMAINING: FEBRUARY 2021**

**Motion:** Trustee Hansen

To approve the remaining bills and expenditures for the month of February 2021

**Second:** Trustee Black-Greening

**Voice Vote:** Unanimously in favor of the motion.

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

Ms. McInnis shows no attendees waiting to speak.

She stated that she would be modifying the language in this item as well.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Trustee Hansen apologized to the Board for portraying herself in a disrespectful manner. She stated she had apologized to Ms. McInnis and wants to apologize to the rest of the Board as well. She does not want to be that kind of Board member.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

At the last meeting Ms. McInnis explained capacity requirement for the community center and feels there may be a need to clarify capacity. She explained the formula used and gave comparisons.

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She was thankful that a constituent reached out directly to her, during regular working hours, and not on Facebook, or passed on through a messenger/Trustee or distributed anonymously.

Last month she had reached out to the County and met with Dr. Kuhr. We are still in the blue zone but there is not much distinction between the blue and green. This means the meetings will be either hybrid, all zoom, or if matters move forward, as hoped, maybe in person. The County Commissioners hope to move on to “Free to Choose” by April 16th.

An application for a $400,000.00 grant has been submitted. We should hear about this in May. We will meet later this week to apply for matching grant funding/other loans. We have a need with or without the grant.

The project will not happen overnight. It is a long process with lots of planning from funding. engineering, etc. She has weekly meetings with others to keep up on monies that become

available for the ask.

The Town has accepted the SOQ (statement of qualifications) submitted by Westwater Engineering for our water and sewer projects. Steve LaBonde is in touch with lots of funding sources and has been involved with De Beque for a long time.

Ms. McInnis has been meeting with Colorado Middle Water on coordinating emergency monitoring and collection of data for river mitigation, flooding, etc.

 She is also collaborating with Colorado Rural Water -SWPP- on the prevention of pollution of lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater that serve as sources of drinking water. They are working on a $5,000.00 planning grant that Colorado Rural will prepare and submit. The matching funding will be in-kind, most likely through staff attendance at meetings.

The scholarship committee meeting has been scheduled. We are using the same eligibility standards as in years past.

Cares Funding: This is money that was spent before December 2020. Thanks to Toni and her many hours of work, we have received a 100% reimbursement.

We will be holding Municipal Judge interviews on April 1st.

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Parks and Rec Department: Marge is working on the Easter Egg Hunt and T-ball and Wild Horse Days.

We are still working on our website and especially on the forms. This is a free service through SIPA, but it is taking a very long time and the forms need improvement.

Ms. McInnis went on a tour last week with GJEP, GJEP Reality staff, and Senator Hickenlooper’s aide. She will be going on a tour with the County Commissioners next week. It is very important that we collaborate with these people.

Ms. McInnis asked the Trustees to encourage citizens to air frustrations, or direct any inquiries they may have, directly to her, rather than through an individual Trustee. She cannot respond when they are anonymous. “As each Board member doesn’t act individually but rather as a board, you all should not have to bring citizens’ concerns or rumors to me during a board meeting.” This should mitigate distribution of false information in the Community. She does respond 100% of the time. She continues to be thankful to all citizens that reach out directly to her.

American Recue Plan: This is another Federal Stimulus Package. We are hesitant to throw out any numbers at this time, as they could change. We can point out grant opportunities, but businesses must apply. These grants have helped the Country Store and the Wild Horse Roadhouse, with a Town match.

We have been advised of 2 possible fraudulent unemployment claims against the Town.

The I-70 sign has been moved. This will create less confusion.

There will be a change in the agenda wording. We cannot add action items to the agenda and act on it on the same night.

We have some tax forfeiture items that we can sell after we have had them for a certain length of time. We have some ancient mopeds that need very expensive batteries. Ms. McInnis would like to purchase two of them and fix them up herself. Ms. Mcinnis asked if there were any objections and indicated that if any Trustee objected, she would not purchase the mopeds. There were no objections to her purchase of the mopeds.

We need ADA compliant sidewalks, gazebo roof, Town Hall, and Old Firehouse roofs. We will be putting these out to bid soon. Trustee Hansen asked how old the Old Firehouse is and if we could get a grant to make it an historical site.

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The County will be doing the resurfacing of the Town streets this year, we are not sure what date they will start.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING: Approval for unbudgeted spending for equipment and technology to accommodate hybrid in-person and virtual board meetings rather than solely virtual board meetings.**

Delta spent approximately $35,000.00 for IT for their Board Meetings. If the Board would like to pursue technological improvements similar to those in Delta, Ms. McInnis is seeking a vote from the Board to get bids to do the IT for in-person or hybrid meetings, and this will require a supplemental budget for the unbudgeted funds.

However, New Castle has a system that consists of 360-degree camera and speaker system (OWL). This system plugs into the computer and the Board could be 6 feet apart in person with the public being on zoom. This system costs approximately $1,000.00 plus an additional $500.00 for a big screen TV. Everyone could be 6 feet apart and wear shields instead of masks if they choose. Mr. McConaughy explained how the “Owl” system works, that the TV is for the Board to see who is talking to you. It was decided to table this issue until the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Trustee Lake

To adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**SECOND:** Trustee Jackson

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

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Approved Date