**TOWN OF DE BEQUE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 25, 2021**

The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. In the Community Center, 381 Minter Avenue, De Beque, CO 81630. Present were the following:

Mayor: Zeke Gaudern

Trustees: Dave Jackson Judy Lake Cindy Farris

Shanelle Hansen Walter Wood Summer Black Greening

Staff Present: Marge Mackey Care’ McInnis Toni Vincenzetti

Shirley Nichols Bob Dalley Lisa Rogers

Guests Present: Mesa County Commissioners: Scott McInnis Cody Davis Janet Rowland

Mesa County Road Supervisor: Rudy Bevan

Mesa County Public Health Executive Director: Jeff Kuhr

Mesa County Administrator: Peter Baier

Mesa County Public Works Director Scott Mai

Mesa County District C Maintenance Manager: Casey Holt

Municipal Judge Bruce Joss

Associate Judge Inga Haagenson Causey

Associate Judge Angela Roff

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gaudern at 6:00 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

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

Ms. McInnis announced her intention to move the Judicial Oath of Office before the Presentations on the Agenda. She also wants to remove item #2 under new business.

**JUDICIAL OATH OF OFFICE:**

The following Judges were sworn in by Mayor Gaudern:

Presiding Municipal Judge Bruce Joss

Associate Judge Inga Haagenson Causey

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Associate Judge Angela Roff

**MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Janet Rowland, Cody Davis & Scott McInnis**

**MESA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Pete Baier**

**MESA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR: Dr. Jeff Kuhr**

Annette Tanner asked the Commissioners to take a drive down the frontage road on the far side of the highway. It was explained that this is Highway frontage and not part of the County.

Dawn Palmer spoke on economic development in the area and the Town. We appreciate you helping out the little towns, especially with the chip and seal.

Walter Wood talked about Road Maintenance. He asked about the hole by Kum and Go that got bigger after the last fix. This road is in the Town, and it was originally fixed with a cold mix and this time it will be with a hot fix, which will last longer.

Mr. Wood also asked about the recall of the Governor. How do we keep it fair? Commissioner Rowland said that this would be through the election’s office, and she has full confidence in them. Commissioner Davis explained the Logic and Accuracy testing. Commissioner Rowland explained that Mesa County has been doing mail ballot elections for decades and we do not have the problems that others are just now working out. Commissioner Davis said that they are scrubbing the rolls of those that are deceased or have moved on. Commissioner McInnis invited all Trustees to tour the office, no one is more scrutinized that the County Clerk.

Cheryl Miller spoke about the Postal Service. She has had 8 packages returned. She also stated that she had to renew her address with the street address and the P. O. Box. Commissioner Rowland stated that they have no authority over the Postal Service which is Federal. Commissioner McInnis suggested she contact Lauren Boebert or the Senate Office.

He also stated that the Commissioners feel a strong allegiance to the rural areas, including water issues and law enforcement projects. We support all these and have a great pride in partnership with the Towns. Just like the Fire last year, we had a coordinated effort to keep traffic moving through De Beque. He said they were cognizant of the drainage problems and wants to continue the collaboration between the County and the Town.

Public Health Director Jeff Kuhn gave a status report.

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The CDC has said that Mesa County is the 2nd worst county for Covid. There have been 38 cases of the India Variant. A teenager died last Saturday. She was exposed at school. Mesa County has had a very low vaccination rate. This teenager was hospitalized prior to being able to get vaccinated. This strain is very transmissible and is hitting the young. They are doing contact tracing on all new cases. They had 42 new cases in one day. We are in our 2nd wave, there has been 4 waves nationally. People need to be tested if they have symptoms and need to get vaccinated.

Since June 1st – 222 people have been hospitalized and only 9 of those were fully vaccinated. 78 were partially vaccinated. There have been 73 deaths of which only 3 were fully vaccinated and 9 partially.

Town Administrator Care’ McInnis stated that on June 31st the vaccine bus would be returning to De Beque to do 1st and 2nd vaccines. They will be setting up additional visits.

If you were infected and have been well for about 8 months, the CDC recommends that you get vaccinated. 80% of the infections in the schools have had no or mild symptoms.

Trustee Hansen thanked Mesa County for their intervention in the “Right to Choose”. Thank you also to the County for helping with the streets.

Trustee Lake thanked them all for coming and said that their work in the Town was recognized.

Mayor Gaudern thanked them all for the coming. The guests all left at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **APRIL 27, 2021, MINUTES**

**Motion:** Trustee Farris

To approve the minutes of the 4/27/2021 with changes.

Trustee Farris had some questions on the 401 and the 457 plans.

**Second:** Trustee Jackson

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

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

**Motion:** Trustee Jackson

To approve the bills for De Beque Country Store

**Second:** Trustee Lake

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

**BILLS AND EXPENDITURES REMAINING: April 2021**

**Motion:** Trustee Jackson

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

**Second:** Trustee Hansen

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

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

Cheryl Miller asked the Mayor about taking the bus to town again. She would like to see this started back up again. Mayor Gaudern stated that they would have to discuss that.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Trustee Black-Greening talked about the possibility of the Kiosk that was discussed in the past along with a grant. She stated that we talked to Davis about working in all the parks and also about the Kiosk and the grant. She would like us to do something next month about the empty lots and park names and hours. She feels Davis may be addressing this.

Mayor Gaudern stated that there were many projects in town that were dropped with all the changes going on and he feels that we should follow up on many of these.

Trustee Wood said that he would like to see a kiosk like Parachute or Palisade. He said that Lance had come up with a rock sign and that we were going to look at cheaper options but it all just stalled out. We need to move forward on this again and also for names for the parks. Trustee Hansen said we need to identify areas as parks or open areas. All Trustees agreed that we need to revisit these issues.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

Ms. McInnis explained that the Comp Plan is on the agenda tonight. She already explained when the Vaccine Bus would be returning.

The sewer lift station by the Kum and Go is in great shape now. This was a big fix of $12,000.00. There was a delay in getting parts due to Covid.

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There is no absolute answer on the Town Van. We will check into the swim bus. The yearly grant is tied to the Senior riders. We will check into the costs incurred with only 2 riders on the bus the last two years.

Trustee Hansen said that historically there have been only 1 or 2 consistent riders and the van is a Godsend to them. Trustee Farris said that this is a high maintenance bus. It seems to be a big expense for a few people. Maybe we can find someone to volunteer to take others to Town with them. Trustee Hansen would rather provide the service as a Town instead of asking someone else to do it.

Ms. McInnis stated that we have had great success with the dumpster. We kept it longer to help with Code Enforcement, which is going very well. The dumpster will end this week as it is needed in Parachute for an event. There has been a lot of compliance with the violations. This is a seasonal position.

The Kobe Water Authority has been pumping out of the ditch for the month of May and we have pulled out of the river. Kobe will pay for the electricity for the pump. They will stop pumping on June 30st and we can choose where to pump from. At that time, we will probably continue to pump from the river.

There has been lots of interest in development recently, including residential and business. We have received a number of pre-application plans.

Xcel Energy Substation has easements and will be building new transmission lines and adding new equipment.

The Schlumberger property with the sewer lift station, was sold to a family. This has become a complex issue.

Bob Jones, Wild Horse Subdivision, has been sent a Notice of Default.

Rec Director Marge Mackey has had one meeting of the Wild Horse Days Committee. There are lots of excited volunteers. As a Town, we must be sure we are running everything through our CIRSA Insurance Coverage and getting all that is needed.

We have new Judges now and are reviewing the court processes and forms. We are looking to improve.

In the financials you will see two checks that involve Care’ McInnis. All full-time employees can defer income to the 457 Plan. All software will cut off when an employee has reached the max that they can

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defer for that year. Caselle, our software, does not. Ms. McInnis deferred too much income for the year. ICMA returned these funds to the Town, and we returned it to her.

We are changing the policies on debit cards. All employees will have a Town debit card with their own name and limits. The supervisors will watch over the employees.

We are anticipating a great audit and it should be here next month.

We received another result on the TTHM’s and the numbers are great.

Ms. McInnis spoke of a legislative update that will impact the Town. There would be no court fines given to the Town, they would instead be donated to a non-profit. This would also impact the Marshal’s office as any arrests would have to be arraigned within 48 hours.

We have applied for 4 grants.

Main Street Revitalize grant will hopefully help with ADA corners and sidewalks.

Eco Recovery – Conservation plan for recovery.

Rate Study

State Revolving Fund – if we do not get the grant.

Redi Grant – has been closed out.

COVID Relief Round II

Electric Charging Station in Town Grant

Energy Impact Grants

We are trying to get a grant for the Water Treatment Plant and low interest loans. The County is getting 30 million dollars and we are asking them to give some to the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING: Approval of Flower Collective Parking and Landscaping Agreement.**

Davis Farrar led discussion and explained that they want to move the parking for Employees only. All construction will be done prior to the CO for Stage 2. Mr. Farrar is confident that the Town will be protected. Staff recommendation is for adoption. The Flower Collective has a built-in market for their product through their stores on the front range. They will not be competing for sales.

**MOTION:** Trustee Hansen

To approve the Parking and Landscaping Agreement for Leif Eriksson Realty, Ltd.

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**SECOND:** Trustee Farris

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

1. Pulled from the Agenda.
2. **DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: Town of De Beque Comprehensive Master Plan- Overview concerning updates, future growth, and scheduling with the Planning Commission.**

Ms. McInnis explained that there have been many development inquires. This is happening everywhere, with inquires from 5 lots to 500. There are inquires for the Elkhorn commercial property. Schlumberger property is zoned half AG, not I or II and part Industrial. The original Comp Plan shows a business park which needs to be current and there are discrepancies in the zoning map that needs to be corrected to be accurate.

Utilities and Park and Recreation all need to be rolled into one comp plan.

There is also the question of who owns the sewer lift station on the Schlumberger property.

Elkhorn property wants to tie into some portion of the sewer main under the highway as the Fire District is tied into this.

The Canyons at De Beque and the Bluestone Subdivision and other properties are annexed but we cannot get sewer service to them.

We need an overall Utility Master Plan. The Elkhorn property will connect when the sewer is within 1500 feet. There is an Improvements Agreement to recap the costs.

We have annexed beyond what we can serve, like the Riverbridge area and areas along I-70 towards Grand Junction.

The Land Use Code needs to be updated after the Comp Plan. Most of the Land Use works pretty well but we may want to look at the lighting and landscaping areas. Public input on the Master Plan is an important process.

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1. **DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: Board of Directors Retreat- Overview and Scheduling.**

Ms. McInnis explained her idea for a Board of Trustees and a Planning Commission Retreat. She would like to do 2 – ½ days and would like some direction from the BOT. We will need a facilitator, maybe through CML. The public would be welcome but there would be no public comments.

Trustee Black-Greening stated that she cannot commit to anything during business hours, 6 days a week.

After discussion, Ms. McInnis explained that she would be sending out a survey so that everyone could note their preferences for what works and what does not.

Dawn Palmer would like to see the Planning Commission meet more often, even when it is not needed for plan approvals. They can work on these items. It was noted that continuity of knowledge has been dropped between Boards and Board changes. The Planning Commission needs to be more helpful to the Board of Trustees.

1. **DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: Hybrid Board of Trustee and Planning Commission meetings.**

The hybrid meetings could be used with certain individuals and consultants. There seems to be improved attendance with virtual meetings and less travel for everyone. There is enhanced productivity for the staff, especially for pre-app meetings. Nothing replaces face to face meetings. In virtual meetings it is so much easier to behave inappropriately. The standards seem to be lower. For executive sessions and public hearings, in person meetings are much better. Technology does fail at times.

There is an increased cost for monitoring meetings. Also, the Clerk that is needed for notes and another for the Zoom and it only allows for one speaker at a time. Quieter people may speak more at an in-person meeting.

With Zoom meetings, many join by phone and you really do not know who is there. People want to be here and in the Town Hall. Many could not get into the zoom meetings. There is also the added expense of routers, ubiquities, and monitors. There will be a need for a policy for Board members and constituents. Currently the community wants in person meetings, and to Zoom in visitors.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Trustee Lake

To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**SECOND:** Trustee Jackson

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

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Approved Date