

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center, 381 Minter Avenue, De Beque, Colorado. Present were the following:

Mayor: Shanelle Hansen

Trustees: Vern Bruse, Cindy Farris, Lisa Lippoldt, Sarah Hambrick, Judy Lake, and Walter Wood

Absent:

Staff Present: Town Manager Care' McInnis, Town Clerk Lisa Rogers, Marshal Bob Dalley

Also Present: Paula Stepp and Cole Burger (Middle Colorado Water Shed Council), Diane Sandelin, Jeanette Refior, Roger Phillips, and Evelyn Giertz

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Hansen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

PRESENTATION: "Managing the Middle Colorado Watershed", Paula Stepp and Cole Burger, Middle Colorado Watershed Council.

Ms. Stepp gave a presentation on various aspects of the Colorado River. As De Beque relies solely on the river for the Town's water source, early warning systems for debris flow are important to mitigate any impacts and be able to provide safe drinking water. Ms. Stepp spoke about impacts of wildfires on the Colorado River in this area of the I-70 corridor and the collaboratives that have formed to protect Colorado's most vulnerable asset. Mayor Hansen thanked Ms. Stepp and Mr. Burger for taking the time to keep De Beque informed.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

No additions, deletions, or corrections.

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

Diane Sandelin stated that Oktober Fest was great. Marge did an awesome job. Community Outreach appreciates the donation from the Town. Roger Phillips inquired about the speed limit on Roan Creek Road. He was concerned that there would be an accident soon if the speed limit is not lowered.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Farris brought up Marshal vehicle being parked over by river.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Ms. McInnis stated that several items were pulled from the agenda this month. Both Pine West and the Drinking Water Revolving Fund items were not fully ready to present at this time due to the other parties' issues. October's agenda will be full.

Sergeant Andy Scott will be retiring from the Marshal's office on October 19, 2023.

Ms. McInnis congratulated Evelyn Giertz on her appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Mesa County Community Hall.

Wild Horse Days was a great success. The estimate for proceeds from the surplus sales is \$10,000-12,000.

Ms. McInnis stated that Karaoke Costume Party, Trunk or Treat, and youth volleyball are all upcoming. The Christmas party is also in the planning stage.

It is open enrollment time for the full-time employees.

The fencing and the barbeque grill will hopefully be installed by the end of November.

Ms. McInnis stated that there are several trials scheduled for October and November and one will be a jury trial in Municipal Court. For a jury of 6, 75 summons are needed. It is a lot of work, and the Town has not had one in many years. Also, there is still the case pending where the Mayor may speak on how the Town has been impacted as a victim.

Ms. McInnis stated that she had presented a grant request for sidewalks to the Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District for \$300,000. There is only \$350,000 available in total. She stated that the competition is tough, but the contacts made are invaluable.

Ms. McInnis talked about how impactful collaboration is. The Town is collaborating with Silt on several projects, including finding a certified interpreter for court. The RFP process will include a mock court setup. Ms. Rogers will be attending as will Lucy from Parachute. Mayor Hansen asked whether the interpreter needed to be certified or just qualified. Ms. McInnis stated that they should be certified but will use qualified in a pinch. Recently, the Town of Silt reached out. They replaced their sewer filters and offered us their old ones. Nothing wrong with them, they just upgraded.

Ms. McInnis talked about skinny little street (Rouse Avenue) and how impassable it is when cars are parked on both sides of the street. She would like to investigate turning it into a one-way street. Ms. McInnis stated that she would like to get community input. Trustee Wood stated that it may cause issues with emergency services being able to get onto the street. Mayor Hansen stated that the Town should have a community workshop and invite the residents of Rouse Avenue to discuss.

The sewer bore is moving right along. Mayor Hansen stated that the workers are digging by hand so that they can ensure they keep the grade correct. If you lose grade, you don't get it back. Ms. McInnis

stated that they were at 385/415 feet. When they are holing out on Old Highway 6, the road will be closed, and traffic detoured.

Good news. We have found a solution to get rid of the biosolids from the sewer lagoons. The issue is that we could not get it dry enough to have it hauled off. WestWater has found a chemical solution that will dry it up and then we can have it hauled to the landfill. We can then begin the process of getting the lagoon liners replaced.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** August 22, 2023, and September 05, 2023.
- b. **Bills and Expenditures:** (Expenditures related to the Country Store and/or other conflict items are listed below as part of the regular agenda) August 2023
- c. **Discussion and action regarding the Provision of Animal Services to the Town of De Beque:** 2024 Mesa County Agreement

Discussion Before Motioning on the Consent Agenda:

Mayor Hansen asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. There were none.

Motion:

Trustee Hambrick motioned to approve all items on the consent agenda.

Trustee Farris seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA:

NEW BUSINESS:

REMAINING BILLS AND EXPENDITURES: Expenditures related to the Country Store and Always Something Creations.

Mayor Hansen asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the expenditures related to the Country Store or Always Something Creations. There were none.

Motion:

Trustee Farris motioned to accept the expenditures related to the Country Store and Always Something Creations.

Trustee Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Hansen and Trustee Lippoldt abstained.

Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE:

Ms. McInnis stated that this was just to formally present the 2024 Budget to the Board. If any member has any questions, to please contact her. She went on to explain that the mill levy could change but felt that the budget was close to final. Mayor Hansen asked if anyone had any questions. There were none. Mayor Hansen stated that the Board should review it as she would and come back with questions.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SHUTOFF PROCEDURES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES:

Ms. McInnis stated that Staff will be reverting to the Municipal Code regarding delinquent water and sewer services. The practice internally for years has been a more lenient, time-consuming process. Ms. McInnis discussed the process in depth. She explained that Staff sends out warning letters, red-tags doors prior to shutoff, and makes phone calls to try to prevent the process. Staff will look for abnormalities. Payment agreements are constantly being broken and it is the same set of customers month after month. Ms. McInnis stated that Staff will just revert to following code but will send out a warning letter. Water will be shut off once it becomes delinquent. A payment contract may be an available option if the customer has fulfilled previous contracts. Once a customer has defaulted on one, payment in full will be required. Changes will be effective January 1, 2024. Staff will put the changes in the newsletter and as a bill insert over the next several months letting the public know. Diane Sandelin asked if Staff had emergency contacts to check on the abnormal situations. Jeanette Refior complained that she is not sure if warning letters will work as the Post Office is way behind with deliveries.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK A \$50,000 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT FOR BROADBAND/DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK A GRANT FROM DOLA FOR CARRIER NEUTRAL LOCATION AND OTHER BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. McInnis presented a simple overview of the broadband project. Trustee Wood stated that he worked for a telecommunications company and further explained the broadband loop. Ms. McInnis stated that there is money for the project available, but it is drying up quickly. This is for Community benefit. It is not based on individual carriers, but rather a government collaboration purchasing/installing conduit to communities. It will hopefully be an enticement for carriers to come into smaller rural communities as they are not having to pay for the cost of the infrastructure. Ms. McInnis stated that she is also asking for permission to seek a grant from DOLA for a carrier neutral location and other broadband development. The vault would be on the Mesa County Community Hall's property in the corner of the parking lot. The next grant cycle for DOLA is in November. The Town can have conduit laid during the sewer bore project. Due to the collaboration, the cost estimate for the entire project has gone down from \$180,000 to \$130,000. Mayor Hansen asked for separate motions for the two different grant requests.

Motion:

Trustee Farris motioned to authorize the Town Manager to seek a \$50,000 Administrative Grant for Broadband.

Trustee Bruse seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion:

Trustee Lippoldt motioned to authorize the Town Manager to seek a DOLA Grant for a Carrier Neutral Location and Other Broadband Development.

Trustee Wood seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE 537 (series 2023): AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.22 OF THE DE BEQUE MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO MARIJUANA LICENSING PROCEDURES TO REQUIRE THAT APPLICANTS HAVE AN APPROVED BUSINESS PREMISES AT THE TIME OF LICENSING RENEWAL; AND CLARIFYING OTHER PROVISIONS TO ADDRESS CURRENT STATE LAW:

Ms. McInnis stated she was asking for additional language to be added to the current version of the ordinance/code to include mandatory self-reporting when there is a violation as there was one that the Town was not aware of during the renewal process. The renewal process can be stayed while the investigation is ongoing. Chris McAnany explained other changes to the code. The applicant must have an approved location in order to be issued a license and a license must be productive in order to be renewed.

Motion:

Trustee Hambrick to approve Ordinance 537 with the added language for mandatory self-reporting. Trustee Farris seconded the motion.
Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hansen asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion:

Trustee Farris motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.
Trustee Hambrick seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 20:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Lisa M. Rogers, Town Clerk

Shanelle Hansen, Mayor