

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 23rd, 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 Administrator Care' McInnis, Marshal Bob Dalley, and Town Clerk Lisa Rogers

Also Present: Diane Sandelin, Jeannette Refior, John Giffin, Dawn Palmer, Ethan Shaw, and Albert Romero

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Hansen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

PRESENTATION:

Albert Romero with the Department of Wildlife (DOW) spoke about how hiking, hunting, and ATV riding all impact wildlife and natural ecosystems. If people are responsible those impacts can be mitigated. There are greater impacts during winter and during calving. Ethan Shaw asked about getting more areas open to the public. Trustee Wood asked about how to report wild cat sightings. Mr. Romero gave his contact info for anyone wanting to talk to him outside of the meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Romero for his presentation.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

There are no additions, deletions, or corrections.

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

No Comments

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Farris asked when the cardboard recycling would be emptied as it is overflowing. Ms. McInnis stated that Dependable Waste is having a hard time with labor, so timeframes are now longer. She stated

that the Town would reach out the next day to Dependable Waste to try to get an updated timeline. Trustee Wood inquired as to if we had an update on getting irrigation to the entrance to the Town. Mayor Hansen answered that there is irrigation out there already.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Administrator McInnis stressed how busy Staff is. They have been very successful with grant funding and meeting specific deadlines and regulations. The Town has lots of projects that it is working on. Ms. McInnis doesn't know if the Town has ever had so many projects going on at one time. There are more regulations than ever, specifically regarding our water and sewer plants.

Ms. McInnis announced that the Town has hired a new records clerk for the Marshal's department. His name is Pat Meyer. Hopefully, this will take some of the load off of Marshal Dalley.

Chris Endreson along with his UC Denver team will be here May 24th at 6:00 p.m. to present several further refined conceptual ideas to the Community for review and feedback. The goal is to get the Community to agree on a final plan so that we can then seek grant funding to try to make it happen.

Wednesday, May 31st, the Town will be holding a Use Tax workshop. The workshop can be attended and observed by the Community, but it is still a Board and Staff discussion.

The Town received a public records request from Bass Lake Estates Homeowners' Association today. We will start working on that in the morning.

Ms. McInnis participated in a two-hour meeting with our Economic Development Partners today: DOLA, Town of Collbran, Palisade, Fruita, Grand Junction, District 51, and the Chamber of Commerce all meet to try to prioritize the area's project on a larger scale.

Ms. McInnis emphasized that the Town is dealing with all things water this month. Ms. McInnis met with the new water commissioner Traeton Hittle and former commission Brian Sewell. She stated that these types of relationships are key to De Beque's success. The irrigation is up and going. There are the usual breaks and leaks. Roan Creek was crazy with overflow to the Town. Public Works was having to check the headgate and clear out debris every two hours for a while. Once the ranchers start pulling, they will do more with the headgate. Debris is wreaking havoc on all of our systems. It is ruining the seals on pumps. The hope is that there is not a delay when we need to pull them to get the seals replaced.

Ms. McInnis met with Andy Martsoff with Mesa County Hazard. They are more concerned with Plateau Creek rather than Roan Creek in our area at the moment.

The Wild Horse Gravel Bike Ride took place on May 20th. They had to alter their route due to the water conditions. They did add our logo to their marketing at no charge to the Town—that is always a plus. Ms. McInnis has talked with Chandler and others regarding future collaboration and marketing.

Ms. McInnis stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed projections for growth of the Town for the purpose of supporting the continuation of the Town's conditional water right on the Colorado River. The data has been submitted to our Town attorney and our water engineer to convert the projected population into water use/needs. This info may be used to defend the right in Water Court.

There have been several talks and meetings concerning bike trails and coordination with other entities and local businesses. It gets complicated and political. There need to be lots of behind-the-scenes meetings to make these things happen. The Community needs to be involved for this to happen; the Town cannot make it happen alone.

The water plant SRF funding is set to close on June 15th. Ms. McInnis will be meeting with bond counsel May 24th at 10:00 a.m. The Town must do a presentation for DOLA for the grant funding. Ms. Boozell will be travelling to Golden the week of June 26th to deliver the presentation. The Town is trying to make sure that everything needed such as a restroom for the water plant gets wrapped into the funding.

The design and engineering are done for the sewer bore and we will be closing out the \$50,000 grant for that. WestWater will be holding mandatory pre-bid meeting/walkthrough and bid opening next week.

The sewer liner project is kind of a nightmare. We have reached out to 8 companies to haul the biosolids. No one has the personnel. Mayor Hansen stated that Mr. Kyle Cluff had stated that he would take the waste. Ms. McInnis stated that with all the regulations, it may not be as simple as that. An employee is considering land-applying the biosolids which would help out. The Town hopes to get this project completed this year, but it may have to be set back until next summer.

Mesa County has posted an opportunity to apply for the Community Board for the new Community Hall. There are 4 seats for those who reside within the zip code and there will be one employee from Town.

The legislative session is finally over. We are just waiting to see what Governor Polis will do with all of the bills. He can sign the bills and they will become law; he cannot sign and they will eventually become law, or he can veto.

Property taxes will be a challenge this year. Mesa County notified the Town that many of the notices of valuation for property values were returned because they were addressed to the actual property locations instead of the mailing addresses. The county anticipates lots of protests. Some people do not realize that the valuation period ends June 30, 2022, and the property taxes are paid in arrears. New legislation further complicates the situation as it will be on the ballot in November, but protests are in July.

There are quite a few finance meetings going on behind the scenes. The Town is gearing up for budget season. There has been a significant decrease in revenues due to excise taxes. The treasurer will be moving some of the Town's money within C-Safe to get higher yields. The process will still allow us to remain liquid if necessary. We have approximately 10 items that need to go out for proposal. There are big things like the sewer bore down to small things like the Town sign and BBQ grill. The Town recently signed up with BidNet, an interface between the Town and potential vendors of all types, so that we can make sure that we are following the correct process for procurement. It also gives the Town access to a much greater audience of vendors than simply publishing in the paper. And it is free to the Town and in many respects to the small vendors. We also want to avoid the fiasco that Mesa County Health Department is facing in this regard. The RFP for the Town sign closes June 12th and the BBQ grill was extended until June 12th. The sewer bore is more complex but is also on BidNet.

Ms. McInnis stated that planning and permitting are taking a significant amount of time (more than one might think). The permitting process is difficult. Ms. McInnis asked that if the Board is approached with any questions—that they send the folks our way. General practice is to do a quick zoning compliance review and then it goes to the county (who works on our behalf). They will ensure that there is compliance with the International Building Code and not just De Beque's Municipal Code. For example, 361 W 2nd Street was reviewed recently. Last Tuesday, the Town was notified of significant changes in the plans to include water and sewer. The constituents were ready and wanting to pour concrete. It took a lot of communication between the county, the Town, and consultants. The constituents got their permit by Thursday evening. There may be another Special Review before the Planning and Zoning Commission in the near future.

The AGNC Grant for fencing was prepared by us but submitted by Mesa County as we had already received the max grant for the BBQ grill, and you can't get more the one grant in a cycle. Mesa County had not submitted this season and there was only a small grant left so Mesa County graciously agreed to submit on

our behalf.

Ms. McInnis stated that our grant writer Steph had found a grant that was a good fit for one of our constituents—Joe Keys/Jet Boat Colorado. It was a highly competitive grant process. Steph reached out to Mr. Keys, and he applied. The Town/Steph reviewed his application before he submitted it and helped him fine tune it so that it would ultimately increase his odds of getting the grant. Mr. Keys was awarded a grant that will help with his payroll up to \$23,000.

There has been a rumor going around that Garfield County will be doing mosquito spraying for the Town of De Beque. That is not correct. We will be hiring a seasonal worker to do the spraying. The Town has limited funds for this. We spent \$3,853 last year and have \$4,360 budgeted for this year.

The Town has awarded \$6,500 in scholarships to four students in the graduating class of 2023. The Mayor is scheduled to hand out the certificates Friday at graduation. Many thanks to the Scholarship Committee!

Wild Horse Days meetings continue to happen monthly.

Tee-ball and coach-pitch season have come to an end and was a great success.

The Town of De Beque Community Yard Sale will be June 10th.

Karaoke will be on June 16th.

July 1st will be the Scott Elliot 4th of July Celebration.

Kudos to Marge. She sought out donations for the contest prize pool for Wild Horse Days. Alpine Bank has graciously agreed to cover the entire prize pool of 3,825.

Mayor Hansen asked that Staff remember to put flags out at the Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Mayor Hansen asked that Staff prepare an update to how excise tax is spent. Ms. McInnis advised that it is part of the general fund, but we will prepare an updated letter. Mr. Shaw (Flower Collective) stated that he has customers that are curious. Ms. Palmer (Kush Gardens) stated that she feels it is a slap in the face when people question and have negative things to say about her legal business. She feels that the

community should trust that the Board is spending the excise tax monies wisely.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** April 25th, 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).
 - i. **Financials:** April 2023
- c. **Discussion and action regarding approval of School Resource Officer contract between the Town of De Beque and School District 49JT for the 2023-2024 school year. *Moved to the regular agenda.***

- d. **Discussion and first reading regarding Ordinance No 533 (series 2023): An Ordinance amending the De Beque Municipal Code to adopt updated and comprehensive business licensing provisions, repealing inconsistent provisions, and clarifying exemptions.**

Motion:

Trustee Hambrick motioned to approve all but item c on the consent agenda. Trustee Bruse seconded the motion.
Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA:

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE AND SCHOOL DISTRICT 49JT FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR:

Trustee Wood asked if the contract was the same as last year. Ms. McInnis stated that the percentage calculations are the same. The only change was in the overall salary due to inflation. The calculation is based on the deputy salary with benefits for 75% of the year with the school paying 75% of that amount.

Motion:

Trustee Wood motioned to approve school resource officer contract.
Trustee Farris seconded the motion.
Motion carried 7-0.

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

Motion:

Trustee Farris motioned to approve the remaining bills and expenditures.
Trustee Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Hansen and Trustee Lippoldt abstained.
Motion carried 5-0 with 2 abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE DE BEQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT 49JT ART CONTEST WINNER:

The trustees picked their finalists for the art contest and invited the public to vote for the final winner. The winner was Christopher Landeros drawing. The Town will have an artist copy the art to the Fire House window and Mr. Landeros will receive \$50.00. All of submissions were outstanding.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

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

Motion:

Trustee Lippoldt motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.

Trustee Hambrick seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Lisa Rogers, Town Clerk

Shanelle Hansen, Mayor