

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 22, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:00p.m. in the community center, 381 Minter Avenue, De Beque, Colorado. Present were the following:

Mayor: Shanelle Hansen

Trustees:	Cindy Farris	Judy Lake
	Sarah Hambrick	Dave Jackson
	Walter Wood	

Also present: Town Administrator Care' McInnis, Interim Town Clerk Lisa Rogers, Fire Chief Forest Matis, Incoming Trustee Vern Bruse, Town Attorney Christine Gazda and members of the public.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was present.

DELETIONS AND ADDITIONS:

Town Administrator Care' McInnis asked if Board could pull item #11B, Discussion and Action concerning appointment of Town Treasurer.

PRESENTATION:

Maggie Seldine is the founder and director of High Rockies Harm Reduction. The organization's goal is to service rural communities from Denver to Grand Junction. This program is committed to providing services to help reduce substance abuse and more specifically fentanyl and prescribed opioid overdoses by focusing on mental health. This program offers mental health support, peer support groups, distribution of syringes, wound care, hygiene supplies, test strips and the administration Narcan. The peer group support and syringe services are support by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Statistics show that people who utilized these programs are five times more likely to enter a treatment program and three times more likely to end drug abuse altogether. Ms. Seldine stated there has been a significant increase in the abuse of fentanyl since the pandemic. Fentanyl is a drug that comes in the form of a white powder, its known to be ten times stronger than heroin and one hundred times stronger than morphine. High Rockies Harm Reduction has offered their services from Aspen to Rifle in the past six months.

Ms. Seldine has been collaborating with Garfield County to push the distribution of Narcan. Since June of 2021, there has been one reversal with the use of their supplies and that happened in De Beque.

Ms. Seldine would like permission from the Town to offer their services one Wednesday per month for a period of four hours.

Ms. McInnis asked for a further explanation of Narcan. Narcan is an opioid overdose reversal medication, administered in a nasal spray form. It was approved in 2015 by the FDA and many law enforcement agencies carry it.

Mayor Hansen asked if Ms. Seldine had a place in mind to distribute her supplies. Ms. Seldine said she was open to collaboration with the Town, but a resident has offered a space ("Old Bar" building) but would like to communicate with the Town on what is best. The Marshal said there may be a potential of using one of the Towns buildings. Ms. Seldine expressed appreciation of the suggestion but felt that maybe the citizens would feel more comfortable in a residence or business than in a Town owned building. Deb Fache suggested the "Old Bar" building may be more comfortable. Ms. Seldine went on to explain that she has safety protocols in place for herself, employees, and participants.

Mayor Hansen asked if there were any further questions. With none being stated, Ms. Seldine was thanked for her presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no questions or changes.

Motion

Trustee Hambrick motioned to approve minutes of February 22, 2022.

Trustee Wood seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS AND EXPENDITURES

#A Motion: Trustee Wood motioned to approve expenses only pertaining to County Store. Trustee Jackson seconded. Mayor Hansen abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hansen asked to entertain a motion to approve of all remaining financial transactions. No questions.

#B Motion: Trustee Farris motioned to approve remaining financial transactions for February 2022. Trustee Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Derek Hansen resides at 4637 Bass Lake Court in De Beque. He was concerned about not being able to locate Board meeting minutes on Town website. Mr. Hansen would like to verify the process. Town Administrator McInnis stated that until the minutes have been approved by

the Board, they will not be available. Once approved, they will be uploaded to website, The Town can send a copy if requested.

There were no other public comments.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Wood has attended several meetings recently that involved members of motorcycle associations that travel down I-70.

Trustee Wood stated the motorcycle associations had expressed interest in De Beque as a possible stopping point on their Poker Run. Trustee Wood stated he would like to see the vendor license fee set.

Mayor Hansen agreed that it was a good idea and is sure the town would be open to promote additional revenue.

Town Administrator Ms. McInnis said that the fee had been approved for \$20.00 per day with a limit of 3-day maximum, but if the Board would like to revisit, we can.

Trustee Hambrick was approached by a concern citizen regarding the plans for removal of the gophers that a currently residing where the new Community Hall building is to be built.

Mayor Hansen stated they would need to contact Mesa County as they are now the property owners.

Trustee Hambrick approached by a citizen about the possibility of installing a concrete pad in front of the water facility to provide better footing.

Mayor Hansen stated that there are still additional improvements planned.

Trustee Wood suggested that Mr. King could pack some milling in the area around the bulk water area.

As Mayor Hanson asked if there were any further comments, the owner of the Reckless Roadhouse stated he would like to speak. Public comments were reopened.

Russel Klase with Reckless Roadhouse expressed agreement with Trustee Wood's comments about the popularity of motorcycle groups around the area and would like to help if needed. He also introduced Brian Lamaestra.

11A. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: De Beque Fire Protection District request for De Beque Board of Trustee's support on proposed mill levy increase.

District Fire Chief Forrest Matis addressed the Board regarding concerns for the De Beque Fire Prevention District's operating cost deficiencies. They have requested a 50% increase on the mill levy to cover operating costs. The district has not had a property tax increase since its formation in 2008. The revenue generated from the district is not enough to sustain the operation. They are unable to meet The National Fire Protection staffing recommendation of 4

responders every 48 hours, can only staff 2 at this time. The district has three trucks still out of service. EMS calls alone doubled in the last year. This figure does not include traffic accidents.

The increase will cover staffing shortages, building repair costs, vehicle maintenance, and equipment replacement.

Ms. McInnis asked that if Board is in support, they give direction to staff.

Mayor Hansen stated she figured the increase would be a small price to pay for having the Fire District located in De Beque.

Trustee Hambrick stated that Fire District covers 767 sq miles, the increase is insignificant for the services that they provide.

Trustee Farris says she feels very fortunate that they are close, concerning it's a 30-to-45-minute drive to a hospital in Grand Junction

Trustee Wood is in support.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Ms. McInnis reported that noon whistle has been re-wired. Roll off dumpster will be available first week of April and we are prompting Code enforcement.

The Opioid board that Ms. McInnis is involved with continues to meet monthly. They are narrowing where the dollars will be used.

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Trustee Hamrick, Mayor Hansen and Ann Kuhlman. There will be three scholarships awarded this year. Two for \$2,000 and one grand prize of \$3,000. Information has been distributed to students and application deadline is April 8th.

Sewer Lagoon update is progressing. It contains a lot of details and Ms. McInnis has asked Steve La Bonde to provide The Board with an update.

No word yet on the Sidewalk Grant. We anticipate hearing shortly about the Planning Grant for boring project under I-70 as the deadline is April 8th. We are attempting to being added to a congressional priority list and have reached out to Senator Hickenlooper.

Ms. McInnis spoke with Mayor Hansen regarding which business would benefit with a store front and has also reached out to Stephanie our grant writer. The modification of store fronts must be community driven by business owners that are interested. This would require community participation.

UC Denver will be here Friday April 1st. Staff is scheduled to meet with Chris Enderson, whom you met at the joint Planning and Board workshop. They will be bringing students in the engineer program, to give conceptual recommendations regarding the river front and other areas.

The PNA regarding the water plant has been submitted. Staff has asked DOLA to re-evaluate the designation of De Beque as a disadvantaged community, to apply for additional key funding, as some loans are forgiven, which means they become grants.

Additional benefit of preparing the PNA is that it gives a twenty-year forecast of the water and sewer rates. The Board will likely see this information again when considering raising utility rates based on the current short fall.

Municipality dinner will be held April 21st. Attendees will be members of other Municipalities in Mesa County. The Board of Trustees are invited, please let us know if you are interested in attending.

The bulk water machine is still a work in progress. We are working on getting bid to replace the machine, the first bid received was for \$54,000. The problem is abuse of machine. We are trying to monitor it by posting signs. Mayor Hansen suggested the possibility of extending the surveillance and security from the water plant to extend over to bulk water station.

Mesa County will be utilizing a surveyor for the Community Hall property. Ms. McInnis asked while they were in town, if it would be possible for them to survey property lines in area of Roan & 204. Survey markers are missing. Ms. McInnis, the Town Attorney and Public Works plan to meet with constituents to answer any questions or concerns.

As there was not a quorum, the Planning and Zoning meeting for March was not held. P & Z hopefully will be moving forward with changes in land use code. Davis Farrar has completed an overall audit but needs the Planning Board to review. We also anticipate three project applications to be submitted. Ms. McInnis wanted to emphasize that she understands the applicant's frustration and concerns with deadline guidelines. However, the deadline guidelines are set forth in the Town code and State statutes.

Karaoke night was a hit with at least 50 participants being in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING on DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING Ordinance 2022-517 AN ORDINANCE FOR THE REGULATION OF TAXES IN THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE, COLORADO, BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE A DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC CODE; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO SUCH CODE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

First reading was held on February 22, 2022.

This is the second and final hearing for approval. Mayor Hansen opened public hearing at 7:17p.m.

Ms. McInnis explained this code is just adopting a newer version of the Model Traffic Code. The Town's code is outdated. The only question proposed was regarding the prohibit use of golf carts, it will not.

Motion

Trustee Hambrick motioned for approval of Ordinance 2022-517.
Trustee Jackson second the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

11C. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: Likely designation/appointment for the position of Mayor Pro Tem in advance of the April regular meeting for the purposes of banking and administration paperwork.

Ms. McInnis stated that this is an unusual request for the sake of logistics. With the time frame between the existing Board's approval of minutes and the new Board being seated in the same time frame, it does not allow for sufficient time for administration to update signers on the bank accounts. As any change requires all signers to sign documents, when making any change. Staff is seeking guidance for who may be appointed as the new Mayor Pro Tem.

Trustee Lake suggested nomination for Trustee Farris

Mayor Hansen asked Trustee Farris if she would oppose the appointment. Trustee Farris stated she would be honored with the nomination.

11D. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING: Vacation of Right of Way between Town and County property.

Ms. McInnis asked for The Board's view on vacating the right of way between the property just purchased by the Mesa County and the Town owned parcel located on 4th Street. This was a request made by Mesa County to see if the Town would be interested. The Board would need to determine that there is no need for public access. There was a potential concern that the vacation would remove a potential additional emergency escape route. Christine Gazda explained the Board would have to consider all data, as the Town does not have separate regulations set in the code and would at minimum have to follow state statutes.

11E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING: The De Beque Board of Trustees evaluation and determination of current and future water rates for the Town's Water Haul Sales.

Ms. McInnis said she has reached out to the neighboring communities for bulk water rates, in order to provide the Board with comparable data. De Beque bulk water rate is currently \$10.00 per 1000 gallons which is generally used by out-of-town residents. To get a better comparison, De Beque's residential rates are \$9.24 inside city limits and \$12.95 for outside city limits. Rifle bulk rate is \$12.95 Parachute only offers bulk water in the private sector, which is \$14.00 per 1000 gallons. and Silt is \$25.00.

Motion

Trustee Hambrick made a motion to approve an increase in the water haul rate to \$13.00 per 1000 gallons to take effect as of May 1, 2022.

Trustee Farris seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

11F. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING: Engagement of Garfield & Hecht P.C. to provide legal services as Interim Town Attorney for the Town of De Beque.

Ms. McInnis explained that Garfield & Hecht did not submit a proposal to renew their contract. Mr. McConaughy resigned as of April 1, 2022. This leaves a gap period before a new Town Attorney can be appointed. Staff is seeking the Boards approval to of a contract modification to allow the Mr. McConaughy's services until a new attorney can be appointed. It would also allow for Mr. McConaughy to finalize projects already in the works.

Motion

Trustee Farris made a motion to approve the contract with Garfield & Hecht P.C. to provide legal services as Interim Town Attorney for the Town of De Beque.

Trustee Hambrick seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

11G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE 2022-518: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE, COLOARDO AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN TITLES 1, 6, 9 AND 10 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OFFENSES.

Christine Gazda presented a memorandum to the Board outlining changes being made to the Town Municipal Code concerning Municipal offenses. These changes will bring the Town Code up to date with State Statutes.

Motion

Trustee Hambrick made a motion to accept ORDINANCE 2022-518.

Trustee Farris seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Lori Malsbury, Town Clerk

Shanelle Hansen, Mayor