

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 29, 2025**

The regular meeting/public hearing of the Board of Trustees was held on April 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center, 381 Minter Avenue, De Beque, Colorado. Present were the following:

Mayor: Shanelle Hansen

Trustees: NJ Fulmer, Vern Bruse, Walter Wood, and John Giffin

Absent: Cindy Farris and Sarah Hambrick

Staff Present: Town Manager Care' McInnis, Town Clerk Lisa Rogers, and Town Treasurer Katherine Boozell

Also Present:

CALL TO ORDER:

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. McInnis asked to discuss having another Board member participate in the scholarship committee. There were no other deletions or corrections.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AN ANTICIPATED CHANGE ORDER TO THE FIBER ROUTE REDESIGN (UP TO \$80,000):

Ms. McInnis explained that this item had been on last week's agenda but was tabled due to unanswered questions. The cost of the entire project is \$922,000.00. The project thus far has been grant funded with a \$464,00.00 grant from DOLA and \$464,000.00 was funded with Mesa County ARPA funds. See packet for specifics. There was a change order submitted for a different and longer route due to the railroad. Karen and John from NeuComm were here to ask questions. Trustee Wood questioned why there was no contingency plan. Ms. Diack explained that NeuComm has worked with the railroad many times and has had great success. The challenge for De Beque is that there is both a bridge and a switch that must be worked around. Ms. Diack stated that the switch has not been used in over 50 years. Ultimately, the railroad has final say. Should there have been a contingency plan from the beginning? Maybe, but that would have also added to the bottom line of the project and NeuComm was trying to keep the cost as low as possible for De Beque. The work around includes an extra 410 feet of distance to make the project work. Mahogany has been generous, and with their property a solution was found. Ms. Diack stated that they have worked out the change order for the worst-case scenario. She does not

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2025**

want to have to come back and have this discussion over the project again. She understands the financial constraints of the Town. Trustee Fulmer asked if someone has sat down with the highest person at the railroad and tried to explain to them the issue. Ms. Diack assured the Board that they have escalated the situation as high as they could go. Ms. Diack stated that it seems like the railroad doesn't even want to deal with the issue. Trustee Wood verified with Ms. Diack that this change order included absolutely everything. Ms. Diack stated that yes this does include everything that could possibly happen not just what they expect to happen. Mayor Hansen stated that the agenda line item asks for up to \$80,000. Ms. McInnis stated that that amount came from previous discussions before they had gotten the change order total cost down as low as they could. Trustee Giffin asked how this would affect the Town budget. Ms. McInnis stated that funds would have to come from the General Fund. Ms. Boozell stated that there might be almost \$12,000 left from ARPA, but it would be a hit of close to a \$28,000 to the budget. She stated that there may be a chance for some left-over DOLA funds, but that is never a guarantee. It has been informally vetted, and it doesn't look promising. Trustee Wood stated that either they approve the hit to the general fund or put the project on hold. Ms. McInnis stated that it is not uncommon to come in and ask for a supplement when something comes up. Mayor Hansen stated that if they put the project on hold—it would cost the Town more money. Ms. Diack stated that there is exciting news as the project continues. NeuComm has asked Mesa County for permission to start the site work. The building is ready to go. Just waiting on the State to give their final approval. Mayor Hansen thanked Ms. Diack. She then stated that the Board had a few decisions to make: whether the Board is even ready to make any decision right now, the amount they should approve, and whether to wait for DOLA's supplemental season to come around.

Motion:

Trustee Wood motioned to approve the NeuComm change order for up to \$40,607.

Trustee Giffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING TOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT—MAP KIOSK/SHELTER:

Ms. McInnis stated this was a topic from last meeting that she wanted to revisit as there may be a chance to ask for another AGNC grant even though the bike trail guys were just awarded one. She stated that AGNC only gives you one chance at a grant a year; however, the past few years, the Town has been able to receive a second grant. She stated that she would like to put in another grant request within the next few days. The ask must be a shovel ready project, so she needs to get some specifics from the Board. Discussion ensued with the Board deciding what they would like to see with the kiosk/shelter project. The Board would like to see a wooden structure with a metal sign hanging down with a map of Wild Horse Area on one side and bike trails on the other (metal mesh and polymer maps) with room for business advertising. The structure should be rectangular. The footing at least in concrete. The shelter should be 10' x 12' with house style design. The shelter should be strong enough to hold the sign and protect the sign from wind/elements. Ms. McInnis will run the project by our DOLA rep on Thursday before Court.

Motion:

Trustee Bruse motioned to approve a grant request for the map kiosk/shelter to be submitted to AGNC.

Trustee Wood seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

**TOWN OF DE BEQUE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2025**

INFORMAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Ms. McInnis stated that she was making an informal request for one more volunteer for the scholarship committee. There is one more interview left to conduct due to the student being sick. The last interview will be held on Tuesday. Mayor Hansen asked for a volunteer. As no one volunteered, Ms. McInnis asked that a staff member be able to participate as a non-voting member of the committee. Hopefully, Trustee Hambrick will be able to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion:

Trustee Bruse motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Trustee Giffin seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Lisa M. Rogers, Town Clerk

Shanelle Hansen, Mayor