

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Etheridge
	Trustees	Omer Halandras Mills Waldref
Members Absent	Trustee	Strate Gerloff
Town Staff Present	Town Administrator	Day
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Town Attorney	Viscardi
	Chief of Police	Hervey
	Public Works Super.	Overton
	Liquor Clerk	Sizemore
	Admin. Assist.	Niemi
Citizens Present	Nikki Turner	RB Herald Times
	Suzan Pelloni	Meeker Chamber of Commerce
	Bob Dorsett	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Etheridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

All Trustees present except Trustee Strate and Trustee Gerloff.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Etheridge asked if there were any changes to the agenda, with Administrator Day requesting an Executive Board session at the end of the regular meeting, regarding negotiations and legal advice for the Town's water systems.

A motion was made by Trustee Halandras to approve the revised agenda as presented, seconded by Trustee Omer. All ayes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mayor Etheridge asked for changes or revisions to the minutes of January 6, 2009, stating the word perimeters should be changed to parameters.

A motion was made by Trustee Mills to approve the January 6, 2009 minutes with noted revisions, seconded by Trustee Waldref. All ayes, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Etheridge asked for questions or comments regarding the revised set of vouchers dated January 20, 2009. Mayor Etheridge asked Chief of Police Bob Hervey about Officer Amick's attendance at Firearms School, and if the school was mandatory for all officers. Chief Hervey stated Jim has already received his certification as a rifle instructor and that Officer Amick would be attending this class to become a certified instructor for handguns and shot-guns. Trustee Halandras asked who he would be instructing with Chief Hervey stating it would be the Town's officers as well as the Sheriff's Department officers.

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A motion to approve the revised set of vouchers dated January 20, 2009 was made by Trustee Omer, seconded by Trustee Halandras. Ayes ó Trustee Halandras, Omer, Waldref. Trustee Mills abstained. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Bob Dorsett, 127 Park Street ó Dr. Dorsett stated the Board had suggested, at the meeting two weeks ago, if there were alternatives to the traffic flow down 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (adjacent to Sulfur Creek from Market Street) the Board was willing to consider them and in speaking from those in the Sulphur Creek neighborhood as well as other citizens, he had come up with some suggestions or alternatives. He stated the group had collated a list of possible alternative routes and other suggestions for the Sulphur Creek road situation. He passed out a list to the Board and Staff stating he didn't request any discussion at this time, but would only leave the list for the Board's consideration and possible discussion at a later date.

Dr. Dorsett stated the group had some concerns regarding information the paper had reported two days after the meeting, stating the article said the Town had applied/requested funding specifically for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street project. He stated he and the group were taking the Council at their word and that the project was still in its preliminary stages and no decisions had been made, or that funding had not been applied for. Administrator Day stated no funding had been applied for. Dr. Dorsett stated again that the paper had reported funding had been applied for through the Colorado Municipal Council and hoped that the Board was still in preliminary stages and that they would inform the group of any changes. Mayor Etheridge thanked Dr. Dorsett for his and the group's input and stated she had left a message for Mr. Scherbarth regarding her hopes that the Town would receive the report soon and hoped to have it for the February meeting. She also stated that at this time the Town had not received any further information, nor had the Town pursued any funding. Dr. Dorsett inquired about the engineer's report, with Mayor Etheridge stating they had not received the report yet, but looking to have it for the first Board of Trustees' meeting in February and that information had been relayed to Mr. Scherbarth via phone. Mayor Etheridge stated again she would keep Mr. Scherbarth and the group apprised of any information the Town received regarding the project, and it would be on the agenda when the report was available. Mayor Etheridge asked for comments or questions from the Board, with none noted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

***Board consideration of request from Watts Ranch Market, Inc. to renew 3.2 percent Beer Retail License.***  
Liquor Clerk Kathy Sizemore stated this was the annual review renewal for the 3.2 percent Beer Retail License. She stated there had been 37 calls to the address but does not mean they were to Watts Ranch and none were related to alcohol (many were police vehicle stops on Highway 13 adjacent to Watts Ranch Market). She also stated the applicant's fees and paperwork were completed, with Staff recommending approval for renewal for another year. Mayor Etheridge asked for comments or questions from the Board, with none noted

A motion was made by Trustee Mills to approve the 3.2 percent Beer Retail License request from Watts Ranch Market, seconded by Trustee Halandras. All ayes, motion carried.

### ***Meeker Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Update***

Suzan Pelloni stated the Chamber booklet print would take place at the end of January and had collected all ads and articles. She stated last year the Chamber had raised \$10,000 - \$12,000 on ads and for 2009 is just under \$15,000. She also stated this was a great fund-raiser for the Chamber and the booklet has received a great deal of praise. Ms. Pelloni stated the Chamber had printed 10,000 copies the previous year but was considering decreasing that amount by 1,000 due to the hunting season not being as strong as in the past. Ms. Pelloni stated she will be speaking with the Department of Wildlife to see if it would be advantageous for the Chamber to do that and doesn't want to see 1,000 extra copies laying around. She stated the booklet will be ready for the February 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber Dinner.

Ms. Pelloni stated in December 2008, the Chamber hit their 200 members mark, and when she started 2 ½ years

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ago, the Chamber only had 73 members and have come along way. She stated with that number, the Chamber wanted to restructure to ensure they give as much as they can to the members and still keep expanding. Ms. Pelloni stated a strategic planning meeting was held recently with the Chambers goals solidified. She stated the Chamber is focusing in three areas 1) Membership in the community, ensuring member benefits continue to increase, and community relations to help commerce and create a fun environment. 2) Tourism ó a priority for the Chamber with the Visitor Center and will continue on as in the past. She stated the booklet will continue to be the first and foremost media outlet and the website would be enhanced by adding various tabs linking to other organizations, with the website as a tool not only for visitors but for local businesses as well. 3) Continue working with economic development and to be the leader of three: Town, County and the Chamber, bringing them together to begin discussions as to what the community would look like in 3-5 years and beyond and what needed to be done for businesses in the community, such as incentives or programs that could be started.

Ms. Pelloni stated she had gone part-time as of January 16, 2009 but would stay in the Executive Director position until another person is hired. She stated the position had been advertised but the person who had been offered the position, declined. She stated the position had been re-advertised locally and state-wide and she would be available to continue as is and not lose any ground. She stated ideally once the Executive Director position was filled, then she would move into membership and events management with her job specifically geared to work with Chamber members to ensure benefits are being met.

**Annual Chamber Dinner:** Ms. Pelloni stated the Annual Chamber Dinner would be held on February 12, 2009 and promised a fantastic evening. She outlined the evening's events, a murder mystery taking place during dinner, followed by the annual report, then Small Business, Large Business and Business of the Year awards. The event takes place at the Fairfield Center, dinner is \$35 a plate and RSVP is required by February 2, 2009.

### *Range Call Carnival*

Ms. Pelloni passed out a tentative Range Call Celebration schedule providing them with a sneak peak of events. She stated the information would go for approval the following week to the Range Call Committee and all bands, rodeos and other events are booked. She stated she had been approached by the carnival group that was in town last year, not Browns Carnival, but the smaller carnival. She stated she indicated to the carnival owner the Chamber would only be doing the one-day event, which would be Saturday, downtown, with the rest of the events being held at the fairgrounds. Ms. Pelloni stated the owner has asked that she inquire to the Board their thoughts and feelings about their carnival. She stated they offer a different venue than Browns, and that Browns Carnival would not be able to come back as they have so many rides with the ability to only put up about half of them. She stated the other carnival owner was very eager to be in Meeker during Range Call as it was successful for him the previous year. She also stated she had spoken with Public Works Superintendent Russell Overton and Jerry (Eliason) at the Courthouse with concerns that should be covered before the Chamber says yes or no. She stated the Chamber would be willing to enter into a formal contract with the carnival, rather than the carnival just showing up. Ms. Pelloni stated first and foremost the Chamber wanted to ensure insurance would be in place before the carnival set up, as last year was so last minute. She also stated the previous year, the carnival owner dug holes in the pavement to set up an inflatable slide and after speaking with Mr. Overton, the Chamber felt it would be best the carnival did not drill/dig any type of holes. She stated the carnival owner patched the ones from last year, but communication was lacking and didn't want to create problems for the Public Works department. Ms. Pelloni stated in the contract she would say there would be no holes drilled in any of the streets. She also stated a discussion needed to take place regarding the court-house and the paint-ball stand, as the Chamber didn't want to create a problem with the Commissioners, as that was part of their fund-raising efforts.

Ms. Pelloni outlined other things she wanted to put in the contract; 1) request all carnival employees to wear the same color shirt, so children and parents can identify carnival workers, 2) request that sleeping vehicles be off site. She stated were also their own security guards and understood the reasons for sleeping on-site, but the question was, would the Board be okay with Ms. Pelloni requesting the carnival group to park a City Park or

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should she request the parking lot from the school district. Mayor Etheridge stated there might be major construction at the school and the high school, but unsure what it would look like at that time or if it would even be an option. Trustee Omer inquired as to how much parking area would be required. Ms. Pelloni stated they had about four sleeping vehicles, but wanted the separation between the rides and where the carnival group stayed as it would prevent children from wandering through the sleeping area.

Ms. Pelloni asked the Board if they had any concerns or thoughts regarding the carnival with Trustee Halandras stating he didn't have any. Mayor Etheridge stated she liked having a carnival, but would the new addendums to the contract cover the issues the Town had last year with the carnival group (insurance, holes being drilled, sleeping areas, etc). Ms. Pelloni stated she felt it would be in reason. She also stated the owner was willing to do what it takes to be what the Town wanted him to be. Trustee Omer inquired about feedback from the public. Ms. Pelloni stated it worked out well last year, as a week before the event, they had no carnival. She stated when the carnival came in to set up; everyone was relieved and happy to have one and she didn't hear any negative comments regarding the carnival. She stated people had a great time and the carnival was different than what the other carnival provided. She felt the community was happy, but wanted to ensure the visual appeal was the best the Chamber could do and look organized.

Mayor Etheridge stated again she liked the idea of having a carnival and felt people would be disappointed if it didn't come back, but also felt the particular improvements Ms. Pelloni outlined were a huge step and didn't feel the Board could proceed if they weren't met. She inquired if there were any other major concerns that needed to be addressed with Ms. Pelloni stating those were the concerns she outlined. Additional discussion focused on street closures, times the carnival would be available, the carnival having to create their own draw when Range Call events took place and having a carnival as a nice option for those who don't want to attend the other events.

Trustee Halandras stated Ms. Pelloni might want to speak with the school district regarding the parking lot at the Administration building. Mayor Etheridge stated Ms. Pelloni could check about the other school parking lots to see if they would be available as well. Discussion focused on areas where the carnival group could park their sleeping vehicles. Board consensus was to allow the carnival to set up during the Range Call, with a formal contract outlining the concerns regarding insurance, sleeping area, same color t-shirts and no holes to be drilled or dug on the site. Trustee Omer congratulated Ms. Pelloni on her work with the Chamber and all the achievements made in the past.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – 7:29 P.M.**

***Request from Meeker Lions Club for Special Events Liquor License at the Fairfield Center, 200 Main on February 12, 2009, to serve during the annual Meeker Chamber of Commerce Membership event.***

Liquor Clerk Sizemore stated J. H. Sheridan was present from the Meeker Lions Club and Susan Pelloni, the Event Manager was also present. She stated the license would be used for the Chambers Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner Banquet on February 12, 2009. Liquor Clerk Sizemore stated the license request was from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. with the event taking place at the Fairfield Center. She stated all the paperwork was complete and in order, the property had been posted and Staff recommended approval of the license request. Mayor Etheridge asked for questions or comments from the Board with none noted.

A motion was made by Trustee Halandras to approve the request from the Meeker Lions Club for a Special Events Liquor License at the Fairfield Center on February 12, 2009 for the Meeker Chamber of Commerce Membership Dinner, seconded by Trustee Waldref. Ayes ó Trustee Omer, Waldref, and Halandras, Trustee Mills abstained. Motion carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORTS**

None

**MANAGER’S REPORTS**

**Approval of addendum to Town’s billing software contract with Data West** Administrator Day stated the Town had been in contact with Data West, the billing software company for the Town and the contract addendum (to upgrade the Town’s water billing software) was attached. She stated she was requesting the Board to approve it and authorize Mayor Etheridge to enter into the contract. She also stated the costs had been discussed during budget season and were budgeted in the 2009 budget and the Town was ready to move forward. Day stated it would take about 3 months for the process, stating January’s billing would be downloaded to Data West, with addressing being very important because addresses need to be certified to the U. S. Post Office. She stated that would take about 60-days and then staff from Data West would travel to Meeker to train Town staff for about 4 days. Trustee Halandras inquired if it was the new billing system, with Day stating yes, and would be Windows based versus the current DOS version the Town has used for the past twenty or more years.

A motion was made by Trustee Omer to approve the contract addendum from Data West Corporation and authorize Mayor Etheridge to sign the contract for the software upgrade, seconded by Trustee Waldref. All ayes, motion carried.

**Approval for Mayor to execute agreement with Colorado West Mental Health for 2009**

Chief of Police Bob Hervey recommended approval of the contract for 2009, but brought up some concerns he had regarding Colorado West, and asked the Board to think about some changes for next year (2010). He stated the police department sends 1 or 2 persons a year to the detox center in Glenwood Springs. For the service the Town pays \$3,700 with the Sheriff’s Department paying over \$4,000 but was unsure how many were sent from the Sheriff’s office each year. Chief Hervey stated they have had issues where the center won’t take certain people. For example, if a person is intoxicated, and threatens suicide, Colorado Mental Health would not evaluate the person until they were sober. He stated the detox center would not take that same person, if they were threatening suicide and the police department is in a quandary as to what to do with some of those people, as those who are threatening that type of thing, probably need mental health services, and are generally intoxicated when the police department officer made contact with them.

Chief Hervey stated he had spoken with Margo Rob at Colorado West during the past week, who informed him there are changes that would be beneficial to the police department. He stated the change would allow the Police Department to take a person who is intoxicated, whether voluntary or in-voluntary, to the Glenwood facility, but that the Glenwood Springs facility which is not a lock-down facility, so if they take someone down, within five minutes, the person could walk out. Chief Hervey stated Grand Junction does have a lock down detox facility and recommended the Town make the contract next year (2010) with the Grand Junction facility. He stated it still would be Colorado West, with the charges being fairly similar, but they would be able to take people on a 5 day hold at that facility. He stated he would also like to see mental health involved once those people sobered up and was not the process at this time.

Chief Hervey stated another issue with Colorado West was the lack of providing the Town with their charges for the next year before the Town’s budget was in place. He stated he was unsure how the amount was initiated but the right amount had been budgeted. He also stated that was another issue he had spoken to Margo about, stating she had assured him that it would be corrected, with the billing information to be provided before the Town budget was set. Trustee Halandras inquired as to why the Town needed to enter into a contract with Colorado West, asking if the Town paid per person or just paid the \$3,700 regardless of taking one or more. Chief Hervey stated it didn’t matter how many people they took down, that was the contract price. Trustee Waldref inquired if there were other providers or organizations that provided the same services, with Chief Hervey stating no. Day stated this was the only way Colorado West did business with the Town.

Mayor Etheridge stated she found it interesting in reading of the contract, was that they didn’t know until the first of the year whether they would be able to operate the following year, saying that once everyone was signed on,

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that lets them know if continuation of services would be provided, and felt it was sketchy. Day stated the information was not provided to the Town until mid December. Chief Hervey stated he felt that was true as it seemed the organization was running on a shoe-string budget. He also stated there were staffing issues at the facility. Chief Hervey stated St. Mary's would take some detox people, but were so crowded from Mesa County that it would be hit and miss as to when they could take people. He stated the police have taken people as far as Pueblo and into Wyoming for assistance.

Mayor Etheridge inquired about the cost to the Town, stating not only was the Town paying Colorado West, but also the cost of transportation, with Chief Hervey stating that was correct and if it happened to be a female, there was the cost of obtaining a female detention officer to ride with. Trustee Omer inquired about the connection with the facility being only on referral, with Glenwood Springs under the agreement, was there no access to the Grand Junction facility. Chief Hervey stated no, the Town could use the Grand Junction facility, but is primarily being used for the mental health portion, not the detox portion. He stated the Town's detox contract is through Glenwood Springs, and Colorado West wanted the Town to take them there, and stated "we can take them to Grand Junction if we feel they need that lock up." Discussion focused on what Colorado West referred to as a hospital in the agreement. Day explained that the address in the contract referred to the contract administrator, who is located at the Grand Junction facility. He said that Colorado West also requires that a person being taken to a Colorado West facility must first be taken to Pioneers Medical Center for blood work, which is another expense to the Town. He explained that Colorado West won't take them until blood work or a physical has been completed.

A motion was made by Trustee Mills to approve and the mayor execute the agreement with Colorado West Mental Health for the Town's detoxification program (during 2009) seconded by Trustee Waldref. All ayes, motion carried.

**Colorado Municipal League** – Day stated CML was holding a workshop on Financing Public Improvements on January 30, 2009 and Margie Joy had stated she would like to attend. Day stated she recommended the Town to pay the fee for the event and pay for one night's lodging for Ms. Joy and felt it would be important to the Taskforce. Day stated she would be unable to attend due to a CIRSA work session and had received no response from others. She felt the workshop would be a good deal and Margie was willing to attend. Board consensus was for the Town to pay the fee for the event and one night's lodging for Margie Joy to attend the CML workshop on January 30, 2009.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

None

**OTHER TOWN BOARD BUSINESS**

**Pow-wow Committee Update** – Trustee Mills stated he attended the last Pow-wow Committee meeting and it went very well. He stated they had established parameters for the new mission statement, and spent time getting to know each other. He stated it was a good meeting, with good input and requested to attend more meetings in the future if the Board agreed. Board consensus was to have Trustee Mills continue attending Pow-wow Committee meetings.

**Executive Session**

Attorney Viscardi stated the Executive session was needed to discuss issues concerning the water system and in relation to that, having a meeting with the Town Attorney to receive legal advice under 246-402-4B under the Colorado Revised Statutes and also for determining positions related to matters concerning negotiations under 402-4E of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Halandras to move into an Executive session under the parameters Attorney

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Viscardi stated, seconded by Trustee Mills All ayes, motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Etheridge adjourned the meeting at p.m.

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Mandi Etheridge, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa Cook, Town Clerk