

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor Pro-Tem	Halandras
	Trustees	Gerloff Cook Strate
Members Absent	Mayor	Etheridge
	Trustees	Mills Omer
Town Staff Present	Town Administrator	Day
	Town Planner	Smith
	Town Attorney	Viscardi
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Admin. Assist.	Niemi
Citizens Present	Nikki Turner	RB Herald Times
	Lynn Lockwood	Smoking River Pow-wow
	Liz Turner	Smoking River Pow-wow
	Colin Cochran	Kami Cochran
	Dr. Bob Dorsett	

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Halandras called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All present except Mayor Etheridge, Trustees Mills and Omer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras asked if there were any changes to the agenda, with Town Administrator Sharon Day stating the addition of the Approval of Previous Minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Cook to approve the agenda with the addition as noted by Day, seconded by Trustee Strate. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras asked for comments, questions or revisions to the July 7, 2009 minutes. Day stated some revisions had been made to the minutes but had not reprinted them for the meeting. She began on page 2, stating in paragraph one "Mayor Etheridge had inquired about the window cleaning and that she was opposed to it." Day stated it should read "she was approached." She stated Shults Drive had been misspelled in two places and under the Planning Department update for Meeker Drug, "fire damage repair" was added in parenthesis. Planner Smith stated it should also state there were "two detached" garages, not "attached."

Day stated under Public Works Superintendent Russell Overton's statements, it was added he had stated they had been chipping limbs and that he was assisting with the magnesium chloride, not putting it down. Day stated on page three, top paragraph, first line, the word "then" was replaced with "than." She stated on page four, it should read "Mayor Etheridge had asked if the Smoking River Pow-wow had something like "Philanthropy Days," instead of the "flowerpot sponsorship." She also stated in the above section, it had stated "given the Pow-wow Committee the park" and should read "the use of the park." Day stated on page five, in the grant section, line five, should state "weren't" instead of "were." She stated under the liquor license section, the last sentence

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ödrinkö should be ödrinks.ö She also stated on the last page, first paragraph, öit would be publishedö, öin the paperö was added. Day stated under the motion it should read ömotion by Trustee Gerloff to accept the transferö (application) removing öapprove.ö She stated under the Historical Assessment it should be öStateö not öTown. She also stated in the last motion, öto accept JSC, Inc. estimateö removing the word öbid.ö Town Clerk Cook stated it had been discussed the Town needed to recognize that Trustee Katelin Waldref is now Trustee Katelin Cook due to her recent marriage. She stated it would be added under the Roll Call section of the July 7, 2009 minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Cook to approve the July 7, 2009 minutes with the revisions as noted, seconded by Trustee Gerloff. Ayes ó Trustees Gerloff and Cook. Trustee Strate abstained. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras asked for questions or comments regarding the revised set of vouchers dated July 21, 2009. Administrator Day left the room due to a conflict of interest.

Trustee Cook inquired about Item #9 under the General Fund ó Mountain Cross Engineering, Sage Hills construction project and what it involved. Attorney Viscardi replied it was the engineering work for the project.

Trustee Gerloff inquired about Item # 22 under the General Fund ó DOT physical for a Staff member. He asked if that was a Town requirement for CDL licensure. Town Clerk Cook stated she believed the Public Works employees who drive snowplows and the maintainer had to have a CDL license. Trustee Gerloff inquired if the employees had Class B licenses, with Clerk Cook stating she believed so but was not certain.

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired about Item #10 ó Timberline Electric for the Computerized Central Control System asking what it was for. Town Clerk Cook stated it was approved by the Board last fall in the water systems development budget and replaces old equipment with new telemetry and computer equipment. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired if that was the new billing system, with Clerk Cook stating no, software was purchased for the billing system and this equipment is used to run the water system through Town, i.e. to pump it, measurements, etc. and part of it is also used at the well site.

A motion to approve the revised set of vouchers dated July 21, 2009 was made by Trustee Strate, seconded by Trustee Gerloff. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bid award for Concrete Project – Sage Hills

Administrator Day stated only one bid for the project was received from Anson Excavating in the amount of \$39,950.00 and Staff recommended approval. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired as to what type of work was being done. Day stated it was concrete gutters, and work where the drainage was coming apart.

A motion was made by Trustee Strate to accept the bid from Anson Excavating in the amount of \$39,950.00 for the concrete work at Sage Hills, seconded by Trustee Cook. All ayes, motion carried.

Consideration of Smoking River request to install underground electricity at Ute Park – schedule Public Hearing.

Administrator Day stated a public hearing needed to be set for the underground electricity request and asked Lynn Lockwood (Smoking River Pow-wow Committee) if she would like to speak about the sponsorship. Ms. Lockwood stated she would be happy to answer questions the Board had and they were still seeking a sponsorship

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from the Town. Trustee Strate inquired if the item had been tabled at the last meeting with Day stating that was correct. She also stated there was approximately \$6,000.00 left in the Community Development Fund line item for 2009. She stated the Public Hearing would need to be scheduled for August 4, 2009.

A motion was made by Trustee Gerloff to schedule a Public Hearing for August 4, 2009 to consider the Smoking River Pow-wow request to install underground electricity at Ute Park, seconded by Trustee Cook. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired of Ms. Lockwood if they had a cost for the underground electrical work. Ms. Lockwood stated according to Chuck Mills who has been working with staff from Ducey's Electric and White River Electric Association, they would cover all costs. Trustee Cook inquired if Ms. Lockwood just needed the Board's approval to move forward, with Ms. Lockwood stating that was correct. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras explained the project could not begin until after the Public Hearing had been held.

Donation/Sponsorship Request ó Mayor Pro-Tem Halandras asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the sponsorship request. Day stated the Board had in their packets the different levels of sponsorship information. Trustee Strate clarified the Committee was asking for \$2,000.00 with Ms. Lockwood stating yes, she would like to see that amount as that is what was received from each of the two Ute Tribes. Ms. Lockwood then outlined the sponsorship benefits. Trustee Cook stated the previous year the Town had contributed \$2,000.00 and have done some improvements at the park, which doesn't just benefit the Pow-wow and felt it wasn't fair to pin all that on them. Trustee Strate stated the Town had contributed \$5,000.00 to the Meeker Classic for the first five years, with Trustee Cook agreeing.

Trustee Strate inquired as to what items were left to pay out of the Community Development Fund. Clerk Cook stated the Senior Picnic, the purchase of Halloween Candy and the Employee Holiday party were items left. She stated everything the Town normally did had been paid. Trustee Cook inquired if the hunting project was in there, regarding the dumpsters. Clerk Cook stated she thought the funding had come out of Public Works, under the Trash line item. Trustee Strate inquired as to how much was given to Philanthropy Days, with Day stating it was \$500.00. Trustee Strate stated obviously they should give more to the Pow-wow as it is in Meeker. Trustee Cook stated she felt the Town should give the Pow-wow Committee the requested \$2,000.00, even with the other work that had been done at the park as it was for the betterment of the park, not just the Pow-wow Committee. Trustee Gerloff stated he shared Trustee Strate's idea of not shorting another organization for funding. Trustee Strate stated he was comfortable with the \$2,000.00 request. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras stated he wasn't comfortable with \$2,000.00 and felt \$1,000.000 was more realistic. Trustee Cook asked even though the Town gave \$2,000.00 the previous year and almost the same amount the year before last? Mayor Pro-tem Halandras stated correct and that sooner or later projects need to carry themselves.

A motion was made by Trustee Gerloff to give the Smoking River Pow-wow Committee a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for a Gold sponsorship, seconded by Trustee Strate. Ayes ó Trustees Strate and Gerloff. Nay-Trustee Cook. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution urging Congress to preserve the exemption for hydraulic fracturing in the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Dr. Bob Dorsett stated he had studied hydraulic fracturing and it seemed the Town's interest would be to primarily assure safe drinking water for the community. Dr. Dorsett stated from what he has gathered in information, the process of hydraulic fracturing is proven safe in the rock formations at Piceance Creek, but we don't know for sure as the aquifers haven't been monitored since the 1980's, and companies haven't reported their own internal studies if hydraulic fracturing as performed does actually protect the aquifers. Dr. Dorsett stated the Piceance Creek rock formations are different than in the Town of Meeker and the question of immediate concern to the Town is if the Town and the wells sit on coal formations and if there would be coal or methane

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production specifically around the well fields. He stated hydraulic fracturing in near surface production is problematic based on EPA studies, explaining the information he had read. He also stated it would be in the Town's best interest to learn more before lending support to a national lobbying effort. He stated in terms of recommendations, the Town should seek out additional information, the effects, if any on the Town's municipal water supply and to encourage companies to help provide information, including the composition of fracturing fluids that might be used in the area so it can be monitored. Trustee Strate stated he would like to see information Dr. Dorsett had available.

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired of Day as to the status of the proposed bill. Day stated there was some discussion to amend the Bill to study it for a year before anything was done, but hadn't heard anymore on it. Trustee Strate stated from what he heard, Garfield County, Rifle and Parachute didn't support a resolution. Day stated Garfield County had, but was unsure about Glenwood Springs. Discussion focused on the various counties and cities that passed resolutions. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras stated due to the lack of information, he felt the idea of a study would be a good way for the Town to go and inquired as to what they needed to do. Day stated it would be best to wait and get some additional information. Dr. Dorsett stated there were two sources of information that were due out soon. The first one would be the Colorado Geological Survey which just completed the geological map of the Meeker's quad angle, and was due out in September. He also stated the USGS is re-initiating its monitoring sites, including the White River and Piceance Creek basin and data from those studies would be available March 2010. Trustee Gerloff stated it was odd that major corporations with disposal wells which are heavily monitored, not the fracturing process, but in a situation where they are pumping stuff into the ground, the Town should have heard something if there was a contamination issue. Discussion focused on rock formations, the fracturing process and how it is contained, the lack of data on aquifers and the governmental control/regulations. Board consensus was to obtain additional information.

Appointment of Planning Commission member to fill vacancy on Planning Commission.

Administrator Day stated one letter of interest from Jerry Belland had been received. She stated she didn't call to have him attend the meeting for the Board to interview him before appointment due to time constraints, and being short a member on the Planning Commission, Staff recommended the appointment.

A motion was made by Trustee Strate to appoint Jerry Belland as the newest member to the Planning Commission, seconded by Trustee Cook. All ayes, motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Introduction to "Lean" Training Administrator Day outlined the program stating it was about processes that work. She stated EnCana had offered funding for the training for the community and an introduction meeting would be Monday, July 27, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the County Commissioners meeting. She stated the training would be free to everyone except some time commitments and felt it was a wonderful opportunity. Day stated she planned to attend the meeting and would get the Board more information on the training.

RE-1 School District - Jim West Day stated Mr. West had contacted her regarding where the Town wanted to accept ownership of Ute Road. Day stated she had spoken with Public Works Superintendent Russell Overton who stated his preference was to accept Town ownership from the edge of the bridge (west edge) to Sulphur Creek Road. She stated however, the Town would not know where the edge of the bridge would be until after it was built, regarding the legal description. Day stated Mr. West had stated he would like to move forward with the County to get the legal description done and then revise it if it wasn't correct. Day stated her recommendation would be to wait until after the bridge was built to determine ownership. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired as to what the hurry was. Day stated it had to do with getting the bridge in and the hold up with that was the FEMA process. She stated the Town cannot issue a flood plain permit until FEMA approves the structure. Mayor Pro-tem Halandras inquired if it mattered if the legal description wasn't there, with Day stating no, and it would be better to wait and not have to go back and do it again. The Board concurred to wait on determination of

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ownership.

Historical Assessment ó Day stated she had spoken with Rich Sales regarding the historical assessment for the Elementary School. She stated he had stated he had spoken with Suzanna (who was performing the historical assessment) who planned to have the entire historical assessment report done by September 1, 2009 and could move forward after that. Day stated the first meeting to discuss the Elementary School would be about the assessment and then move forward with the process of hearing proposals. She also stated another thing to think about was if the Board wanted to try to obtain an engineer and get some of that work out of the way. Day stated she had asked Mr. Sales if he knew any engineers who did historical assessments. Day stated she would try to gather more information before the August 4th meeting and it could be discussed further at the Capital Planning meeting.

Capital Projects ó Day reminded the Board the drive around town to review capital projects would be before the August 4th 2009 Board of Trustees meeting and if they would be available to begin at 5 p.m. The Board concurred to meet at the designated time.

Meeker 125th Anniversary – 2010 ó Day stated Rio Blanco Herald Times owner Mitch Bettis was in town and had spoken to Day regarding the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Meeker, as well as Range Call and Rio Blanco Herald Times anniversaries. She stated he had stated it might be an opportunity to do something about history and recognition of the occasion. Day stated it could be discussed more in the future and would be nice to show how the Town has been on the cutting edge since the beginning. The Board concurred.

ATTORNEY’S REPORTS

None

OTHER TOWN BOARD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-tem Halandras adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Regas Halandras, Mayor Pro-tem

Attest:

Lisa Cook, Town Clerk