

Minutes of the Town of Marble
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 7th, 2023

A. Call to order and roll call of the regular December meeting of the Board of Trustees. – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra at 7:02 p.m. Present: Tony Petracco, Amber McMahill, Emma Bielski and Ryan Vinciguerra. Absent: Larry Good. Also present: Alie Wettstein, administrative assistant and Terry Langley, minutes.

B. Mayor's Comments – Ryan thanked the board for carrying on while he was gone.

C. Consent Agenda – Amber McMahill made a motion to approve the bills. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Approval of the minutes was tabled until next month because both Ryan and Tony missed the November meeting so there was not a quorum for that vote.

- a. Approve November 2nd, 2023 Minutes
- b. Approve Current Bills, December 7, 2023

D. Administrator Report

a. Marble Wetlands Management Plan - Pat Willits & John Armstrong – Pat and John attended by phone. Pat spoke to the issues raised at the October meeting concerning the management agreement and the management plan. They are working with Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT) on a draft of the management plan and hope to have it for the January meeting. The time line, enforcement language and intent, indemnity, and the conservation easement are all things to be addressed. John said that everyone has a common goal and he looks forward to everything moving forward. Ryan agreed. Amber spoke to the beauty of the draft management plan and how it recognizes the special place that the wetlands property is. Tony asked about the difference between a management agreement and a management plan. Pat explained that the plan is a guiding document and the agreement is an actual agreement with the town giving the town management authority to carry out what is prescribed in the plan. It seeks to limit impact. John thanked the town, AVLT and Pat for all the work being put in.

b. Michael Gorman, Campaign Manager, Wilderness Workshop – Michael came to ask the town to officially support the work to protect the Thompson Divide from oil and gas development. He presented some maps, information and spoke to the history of the work. The Thompson Divide encompasses the land west of the Crystal to the county line, over McClure Pass, down around the Raggeds over to Crested Butte. Over the last 10 plus years, the surrounding communities have been working to protect the area from oil and gas development. This includes undeveloped land, wildlife, grazing, mountain biking, hunting, and clean water. The terrain is rugged and oil and gas development would mean major infrastructure and impact. The best way to protect the area is to permanently protect/close from oil and gas development is through mineral withdrawal. The core act includes but is not limited permanent mineral withdrawal. It passed the House of Representatives five times. They got a hearing in the Senate but the current political situation has resulted in delays. In the meantime, the Forest Service and BLM can do an administrative mineral withdrawal now with the Secretary of the Interior finalizing it for 20 years. They are in the middle of what is a two-year process. There are two ways the Town of Marble can help right now. First, there will be an opportunity for public comment on the draft withdrawal which should be coming soon and will be open for 30 days. Second, the town can

provide a letter of support for the Thompson Divide portion of the core act. Emma asked for a sample letter. Ryan asked if anyone on the board was opposed to the proposal and everyone supports the effort. Michael will send some templates for both the public comment and support letters to be sent to the congress. Tony proposed passing a resolution at the next meeting. Angus Barber asked if the core act is the permanent solution and how long it has been proposed. Michael explained that it is the permanent solution and was first introduced in 2019 and has to be reintroduced each session of congress because the House and Senate have not lined up and agreed. Emma asked if Alie could include this in the next newsletter and on the website, encouraging public comment.

E. 2024 Municipal Election

a. Consider appointment of Ron Leach as 2024 Election Official – Amber McMahill made a motion to appoint Ron Leach the 2024 Election Official. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider approval of Polling Place Resolution – Alie explained that this was to approve a physical polling place rather than a mail in election. Emma Bielski made a motion to approve a polling place. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Hub was named as the polling place and a resolution will be prepared for the January meeting.

F. Public Hearing to consider approval of 2024 Budget – Tony Petracco made a motion to go into public hearing. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Discussion points included:

-Emma spoke to giving \$5000 to AVL T for the Children’s Park.

-Amber asked about the office expenses. It is listed at \$17,000 and includes the bookkeeper services. Ryan would like to see that separated and listed in professional services.

-Emma asked about the jail foundation. Amber said that \$5000 is included in the park fund.

-Angus Barber asked about the legal expenses. Alie said that it had been lowered by \$1,000 at Larry’s request.

-Amber said that campground expenses would also be separated out.

-Amber suggested taking the \$1,000 previously in legal expenses and taking some from the civic engagement fund and putting that toward the AVL T needs for the Children’s Park. Ryan would rather see some of the increases listed for labor expenses reduced to \$17,500 and \$2500 moved to the park expenses to support AVL T and the Children’s Park.

-Alie said that the county has not finalized the assessed valuation of property amount and that will affect the town’s budget. The state has postponed the deadline for filing the budget to Jan 10. Ryan proposed leaving the budget hearing open to next month. Tony made a motion to table the public hearing. Emma said she had some more items to discuss. The motion died for want of a second.

-Amber proposed adding \$1000 to the \$2500 previously proposed to be taken from wages and donated to AVL T to complete the Children’s Park beautification project, bringing the total to \$3500.

-Tony Petracco made a motion to table the public hearing and adoption of the budget until the January meeting. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

-Emma brought a suggestion from Mike Yellico to move forward with the paid parking plan in order to reap the financial benefits. He suggested increasing the lawyer’s fees to protect that action.

a. Consider Adoption of 2024 Budget – Ordinance # 2023-1 – tabled per above motion.

b. Consider approval of 2024 Mill Levy – Ordinance # 2023-2 – Amber McMahill made a motion to table this approval until January. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

G. Committee Reports

a. Parks Committee – no meeting until next week. The Millsite Park has been groomed. There has been no discussion in the Parks Committee about the New Year’s bonfire.

b. Master Plan Committee – Alie sent the results of the survey to the board. Amber suggested some more data manipulation, such as separating full and part time residents. She asked how it was sent out. Alie explained that the county sent a list of property owners down to Darian ranch. There were approximately 400 sent out and 165 were returned. Amber said the largest response group came from owners of vacant land. She suggested one last push and Alie said she is still giving them out. The next meeting is Dec. 14 and the committee will work on goals and objectives. There will be two meetings in January to review the surveys in preparation for the public meetings.

H. Old Business – Discussion of the open seats for the upcoming election and how to encourage people to run. Richard spoke in favor of incentivizing serving by paying the board. Alie reported that petitions for board positions will be accepted from Jan 2 – Jan 22. Alie is publicizing the election through social media and the town website. There will be ads in the Echo as well.

Tower is up near the fire station. They are still pulling fiber and will begin linking to houses soon.

I. New Business – Ron is doing well following his surgeries.

J. Adjourn – Tony Petracco made a motion to adjourn. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Langley