

Minutes of the Town of Marble
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 23rd, 2020

A. Call to order & roll call of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present: Larry Good, Ryan Vinciguerra, Tim Hunter and Emma Bielski. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator and Terry Langley, minutes. Attorney Kendall Burgemeister attended by phone for the sales tax portion and executive session portion of the meeting.

B. Approve previous minutes – Ryan Vinciguerra made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20 special meeting. Tim Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Approval of the minutes from the July 2, 2020 regular meeting was tabled for further review.

C. Mayor's comments

a. Discussion of Trustee Bielski spray painting on street – Ryan asked for the board's feelings after hearing from the public at the July 2, 2020 regular meeting. Larry Good said that he feels that Emma was open to criticism & comments about her actions and he feels that that is closure enough. Tim agreed and said that the spray paint has been cleaned up, Emma has had conversations with law enforcement, the board and that is enough. Ryan agreed and asked that there be no more spray painting.

D. Administrator Report

a. Consider sales tax increase question on November 3rd ballot, Ron – Ron reported that the idea of raising the sales tax had been discussed for the past year. The current portion of the sales tax coming to Marble is 2%. The county gets 1%, and the state 2.9% for a total sales tax of 5.9%. There is an additional 4% lodging tax collected for VRBOs, campsites and lodge/cabin rentals. He contacted the county to find out the time table for adding an increase to the ballot. The county clerk needs to know by July 24 (tomorrow) if this will be on the ballot. Specifics of the amounts and language does not have to be to the clerk until mid-September. Ryan said that the town's revenue from sales tax in 2019 was just under \$60,000 and comes primarily from visitors. Marble has the lowest sales tax of all municipalities in the area. Tourist destinations have more needs and challenges and generally have higher sales taxes (8-10.4%). Tim Hunter stated that suggested projects that would benefit from the increase include historical and park preservation, infrastructure, water augmentation and broad band internet. He would like to add parking and traffic enforcement. He is in favor of raising sales tax. Larry is in favor of raising the sales tax but perhaps not to the extent suggested. With taxes currently at 9.9%, an increase of 4 or 5% would bring the tax up in the 14% range. He would like to see increases of smaller amounts over time. He feels that 2-2.5% increase is enough. Ryan said that 2% would double the amount Marble takes in. The overall town budget is from \$200-220,000. Tim said that emails from outside entities indicate that revenues from those entities are going to be drying up due to COVID. Emma asked if the intended use would have to be included on the ballot. Kendall said that uses are often included as a strategic move to increase support, but are not required. Ryan reminded the board that there has not been an increase in years. Ron said that sales tax is the largest revenue item in the budget. Kendall said that there would ultimately need to be an ordinance, but that is not necessary to pass one tonight.

Ryan asked for public input. Gary Bascom said that he would like to know the specific purpose of any increase as he feels that just raising taxes is irresponsible. Brian Suter asked for figures concerning the revenue from internet sales tax. There was some question as to where that sales tax would go and Kendall explained that they are to come to the town of Marble. He said that the retailers that pay the tax can be requested from the Dept. of Revenue and would require signing a confidentiality agreement. Brian feels that this amount might affect the need for a sales tax increase. Ryan said that this might already be included in the \$60,000 figure. Ryan said that all requests from the citizens cost money – road improvement, enforcement, preservation, etc. Tim responded to Gary’s comment with a list of projects that could be funded with the increase – street improvements, signage, jail preservation, broad band high speed internet (estimated to be \$72,000), water augmentation project (we got a grant for the study but not for the actual augmentation), Mill Site Park preservation (estimated to be in the 100’s of thousands). Much of the proposed 2020 budget had to be cut in order to balance revenue and expenses. Emma asked if raising sales tax would have an impact on property value & property taxes. Kendall explained that it would not. Areas with higher sales tax have a lower lodging tax than Marble’s lodging tax. Tim asked if the lodging tax could be lowered. Gary said there is more information needed and asked to get what is needed nailed down. Larry Good made a motion to direct Ron & Kendall to put together a draft ordinance to place this on the November 3 ballot. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider approval of resolution # 2020-3 setting a board of trustee's special election – Ron explained that the April 7 election was cancelled because there were only 4 people running to fill 5 seats and that the 60 day time period allowed to appoint someone to the vacant seat had passed on July 7, 2020. No one showed any interest within that time frame. The November 3 ballot is the only opportunity to hold a special election for the empty seat. Emma Bielski made a motion to approve resolution # 2020-3 setting a board of trustee's special election for November 3 and for Ron to notify the county clerk. Larry Good seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Karly Anderson asked if this was limited to Marble residents. Larry said there need to be a discussion on how to expand the pool of candidates. Ryan asked Kendall if it was possible to get a board member who did not live in the town limits. Kendall said that it might be possible to have an ex-officio position but they would not have a vote. Annexation was mentioned.

c. Discussion of Marble Symposium future plans, Madeline Wiener – Ron explained that this is a follow up to the discussion about the future of the Marble Symposium from a few months ago. There is a landowner dispute between the Symposium and a neighboring land owner, Brad Oren. The discussion tonight is to look at possible purchase of the neighboring property. This qualifies for executive session.

(Before going into executive session, Corinne Truesdale announced a community wide focus group to discuss Lead King Loop use and tourism issues on July 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the church.)

Ryan Vinciguerra made a motion to enter into Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a) and (e)(l), to discuss the potential purchase of real property within the Town of Marble, and for determining the Town’s position relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators related to the potential purchase. Emma Bielski seconded and the

motion passed unanimously. The board went into executive session at 8:02 p.m. The executive session ended and the regular meeting resumed at 8:44 p.m.

E. Adjourn - Ryan Vinciguerra made a motion to adjourn. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Langley

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