

Minutes of the Town of Marble  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
April 4, 2024

A. Call to order & roll call of the regular April meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Marble – Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present: Amber McMahill, Emma Bielski, Ryan Vinciguerra and (attending by phone beginning at 7:20 p.m.) Larry Good. Absent: Tony Petrocco. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator; Alie Wettstein, Administrative Assistant and Terry Langley, minutes.

B. Mayor Comments – Welcome and thank you to the town staff and election officials for a well-run election last Tuesday.

C. Consent Agenda – Emma Bielski made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve March 7, 2024 minutes
- b. Approve Current Bills, April 4, 2024

D. Administrator Report

a. 2024 Election Report, Ron – Ron reported that Ryan Vinciguerra won the mayor’s seat and Dustin Wilkey won a trustee’s position. The current board will remain through the May meeting. At that time Ryan and Dustin will be sworn in. Emma, Larry and Tony’s terms are ending. Two more board members can be appointed. Ron asked the board how they want to proceed and Amber suggested noticing the openings on social media, the message board, and the newsletter. If more than two people submit names, more information will be requested and the board will make a decision. Ron suggested having interested people email him and he will post those. Ryan suggested scheduling an hour on the front end of the May meeting for questions, discussion and decision in the event more than two people are interested. This would be a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. Deadline for submitting names will be Monday, April 29, 2024.

b. Consider approval of Visionary Broadband agreement for Colorado Stone Quarries (CSQ) fiber installation, Ron – Ron got the agreement today, the town attorney wrote it, VB approved it and CSQ is paying for it. He can send the agreement to the board members for a phone call meeting and vote either Monday or Tuesday. The agreement is between the town and CSQ to give CSQ permission to bury fiber from the pole, across the quarry parking lot to the office so that the quarry can have high speed internet at the CSQ office. (Larry joined the meeting at this point.) Ryan Vinciguerra made a motion to schedule a special telephone meeting, date to be determined, to approve the agreement between the town, VB and CSQ. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ryan asked if anyone present had VBB and how it was liked. Overall responses were that it is better, faster and cheaper than Starlink.

c. Discussion with Marble Charter School regarding possible Town of Marble tax increase, Hawkins/Angus – Hawkins Seamon, president of the MCS board, proposed a partnership between the school and the town. The school is an employer and helps shape the demographic of the town. The school is funded by the Gunnison County Watershed district with MCS receiving about \$1400 per student less than Roaring Fork School District although costs are more in line with Roaring Fork costs.

The reserve fund is around \$150,000 but it is expected \$50,000 will be used, primarily to cover pay increases that brought pay more into line with Roaring Fork pay scale. They propose adding a 2% sales tax to the November ballot with the town and school each getting 1%. This would put Marble in the upper tier of nearby town tax rates. Angus Barber asked if Hawkins thinks the school can get into a self-sustaining position without relying on the town. Hawkins thinks they can but explained that with the number of students, losing any can mean a significant loss. He said there are 44 this year and they are having to dip into reserves. Richard asked who the sales tax would primarily affect, visitors or locals. Angus said it would affect locals. He said alternatives would be a use tax. Dustin spoke in favor of a tourism tax. Angus explained that he was involved in the financial aspect of the Master Planning process. He spoke to the hole that dipping into the reserves created. He explained some statistics and spoke to the increase in Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation. It began to take off during the pandemic, resulting in increased interest rates. It might climb higher with the geo-political situation. He would like to plan for the worst and hope for the best. For Marble revenues vs expenses in 2023, the town had a loss of \$36,000 (primarily due to snow removal and Hwy 133 being closed for so long). Added to the school's hole, it is \$86,000 deep. The town has no debt – they run a balanced budget as close as possible. Ryan explained that the last tax increase was in 2020. The vote was very close. The town has reserves of \$432,496.00. If the current situation remains the same, and the town had to use \$36,000 from the reserves each year, the reserves would be used up in 11 years. Ryan said that this was an anomaly and that the interest they accrue with the CSafe account covered most of this. The town is not in the red. Emma said that one unplanned event every year could adversely affect the reserves. Angus said the thrust is that, in an ideal world, we need to create more revenue for the town. The property tax will grow. The campground brings in funds. Sales tax is the largest contributor. Increasing that by a small percentage is the easiest way to increase revenues. Dustin said a tourism tax would affect physical transactions within the town but would not affect locals on things they order which would be affected by a sales tax. Amber said that it can be tricky taxing some things and not others. There is already a 4% state-allowed tax on lodging. She spoke to an opt-in fee that is optional for retailers and goes to a specific fund. Every sale would include the opt-in fee unless the customer opts out. Local businesses decide whether or not to participate. Emma said a sales tax would have to be voted on. She suggested pursuing both options but lowering the sales tax increase to 1%. Angus said that some of the higher expenses were for wages and benefits and roads. Ryan spoke to exploring other avenues to increase revenue streams as well as ways to decrease expenses, particularly in regards of road repairs. Emma spoke to the need to help the school become sustainable. Richard spoke to having tourists pay more due to the expenses they create. Ryan feels that any town sales tax to the town and to the school should not be shared and that sales taxes should go to the town with the school finding other ways to increase revenues. He feels they should wait longer to allow more time from the last increase. Amber feels that tax increases are the wrong way to go at this time due to the previous sales tax increase, the bond issue and property tax increases. Emma feels the time it would take to bring this to a vote and to implement it would give enough time from the other tax issues. Ginny Goodrich spoke to a rounding up option on purchases. Emma spoke to making a commitment to pursue this further. An opt in would not require town approval but would mean contacting town businesses. Spencer Thompson said a community preservation fund opt in would allow more flexibility on using funds.

Josh Vogt made a presentation regarding work being done by Dynamic Program Management (DPM) to manage work at the Charter School funded by a school district bond issue. Marble Charter School (MCS) was awarded about \$1,000,000 from that bond issue. DPM has hired a design team and

other consultants for asbestos testing and a site survey and they have recently hired a general contractor. Last spring and through the summer they did a facilities condition assessment and subsequently made a master plan for getting the work done, including critical needs and needs projected over the next five years. The \$1 million dollar bond is not enough to meet the critical needs. These include safety, security and facility upgrades. They are working on grants and can use the bond money as required matching funds to hopefully address the critical needs, about \$2 million. They are pursuing a variety of grants, including Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) for critical needs and a History of Colorado grants for repainting, roof, masonry repairs on the historical building. They will hear about the Best in May and History of Colorado in June. The plan is to have confirmed costs in May and with work done this summer. This may be affected by supply chain issues with equipment and materials. School permitting is handled through the state. The property survey showed existing conditions that encroach and/or are in town right of ways. The school has expressed a strong interest in clearing up conditions with the town, possibly writing encroachment easements and vacating the alley. Josh explained some construction plans including relocating some stairs away from ice fall and grading the parking for better drainage. Getting ownership of the historic school building has given the school many more grant opportunities. Amber said that Smith Park was bought with a GoCo Grant so it may not be possible to give that to the school. Ryan agreed that agreements should be make legal. Josh will wait to see if the new town board agrees before he begins working on easement language, getting any surveys done, etc.

d. Discussion with Monique regarding town funding request for the 2024 Marble Gem and Mineral Show (MGM) - Monique said that the dates are June 7,8 and 9. She is asking the town to help with the cost of four porta-potties, approximately \$1500. Vendors will be in the campground. Porta-potties will be located at the base of the campground and the entrance to the Millsite Park. Amber said that for MarbleFest, costs for porta-potties usually come from the civic engagement fund and the town arranged and paid for those directly. MarbleFest covered the cost themselves last year. Dustin suggested using any funds refunded from park fees and asking the town to cover the remainder. Ryan Vinciguerra made a motion to apply the civic engagement fee to the MGM porta-potties. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Monique described the upcoming fundraising gala to be held at the Hotel Colorado. It includes a taco buffet, \$50,000 worth of silent auction items, music and dancing.

e. Discussion regarding road maintenance priorities 2024, Ron – Ryan explained that there are quite a few potholes and some culverts that need attention. East Marble is in dire need. We need to take care of the existing asphalt (Main Street) to prevent deterioration. The town will be getting bids from Because we are coming off of a light snow year, there are funds available. Dustin asked if the town has spoken to the county to see if there is any help they can give. Ron will be discussing needs with Martin from Gunnison County. Dustin said the county has plans to chip seal and redo the lines. Richard Wells asked if this would include shoulder work. Ryan said cracks, shoulders and potholes would be a priority.

#### E. Land Use Issues

a. Discussion regarding acquisition of Marble Bank building from Gunnison County, Ron – Ron met with the Gunnison County representatives and they are willing to give the property and the building to the town. They discussed the septic system, the water taps, where the building is situated on the property, and the fact that the county shop building encroaches onto the bank building property. They are willing to reach out to History of Colorado (HOC) for a historical assessment grant. The county will

write and pay for that. The next step is to write a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating that both properties will work toward this. Ron suggests waiting to see if the new board is interested in pursuing this before they develop an MOU. Ron will add this to the May agenda. Emma asked if they need any documentation about the previous grant from HOC that was used for renovations. Ron will ask.

#### F. Committee Reports

a. Jailhouse project update, Emma – Although she is leaving the board, she will continue to work on this project. She has a phone meeting with Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT). She told them about the \$5000 committed to the completion of Children’s Park by the town. GoCo would like to see funds spent by the end of June and further funds are needed. PiffCo has agreed to do much of the excavation work as an in-kind donation. Grateful Builders is also doing an in-kind donation. She said beautification work can start right away. She is still looking for engineering help. She would like some support from the Chamber. Amber said that the Chamber is slashing their budget because their funding is down. Amber asked about the Go Fund Me funds and Emma explained that they got tied up as a business but they are a town. Emma will try to have a more formal presentation at the May meeting. She will recirculate the Go Fund Me requests.

b. Parks committee report – There is a meeting scheduled on Monday. Amber asked about the park fee and Ron explained there is \$250 per day fee to rent the park for up to 100 people.

c. Master Plan committee report – Amber reported on the public meeting. There were 19 in attendance including four members of the public. Public comments included environmental and conservation support, public sewer possibilities, etc. Mark is working on the final report.

#### G. Old Business

a. Consider approval of current business license applications, Alie – tabled until next month.

#### H. New Business

a. Vicky Branson asked for dumpsters for clean-up day. They have already been budgeted for. She would like a chipper as well and suggests having the town get one. She is willing to start soliciting funds for that. Ryan explained that there would need to be a place to store it. He suggested renting one this year and having the town explore getting a shed for equipment.

b. Angus asked if anyone had suggested a shuttle service between Marble and Carbondale. Ryan said it might be a further revenue stream for the town.

I. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:25. There was no motion due to the loss of a quorum (Larry & Emma left the meeting early.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Langley