

Minutes of the Town of Marble  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
November 2, 2023

A. Call to order & roll call of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees – the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Emma Bielski at 6:25 p.m. Present: Amber McMahill, Larry Good and Emma Bielski. Absent: Ryan Vinciguerra and Tony Petracco. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator; Alie Wettstein, Administrative Assistant and Terry Langley, minutes.

B. Review 2024 preliminary budget, Ron - Ron said the approved budget is due Dec. 15, 2023. Due to upcoming surgeries, he may not be at the December meeting. Emma asked about the estimated decrease in total revenue from 2023 to 2024. Ron explains that he tends to underestimate revenue and overestimate expenses. There are no projected grants for 2024.

Building permits are expected to increase. He said permit fees have not been raised for many years and will propose raising those as well as upgrading the twenty-year-old building codes in January.

Amber asked about the increase in wages and benefits. Ron explained that this was for a 5% cost of living raise and possible increase in hours for existing employees. Ron would like to see some type of soft enforcement presence in 2024 similar to the forest protection officer that was on the LKL in the past. Amber spoke in favor of the soft progression toward enforcement. Emma asked if there were any cost projections and would like to see it on the budget. Ron said this would be seasonal and feels that \$20,000 is a place to start for this and for the additional duties that may be coming.

Larry asked about the campground revenue and whether it figures a 95% occupancy. Ron explained that there are many vacancies during the week. Fees have not gone up since 2017. Ron suggests raising them 10%. Sue Blue asked about raising the fees on the weekend when the campground is typically full but leaving them the same during the week. Amber suggested future discussion regarding extending the season as well as doing some marketing. The campground will be a special meeting topic in the near future. Ron also mentioned the Hub and their past relationship with the campground regarding reservations. He would like to see the town continue to subsidize the Hub as an information and wifi center (\$10,000) but not as a percentage of camp revenue. This would change the campground expenses and move that amount to a new line item.

Last month there was discussion of giving the Parks committee \$5000 in undesignated funds. Emma asked if there was something specific or was just for them to spend as they wish. Amber feels that this would help with small projects that have been in the works for some time. Emma spoke to using the money to help with completion of existing larger projects and designating the funds for things such as the jail house foundation and Children's Park beautification. AVLT has requested financial help with the float system for the Children's Park irrigation system.

Amber asked where the actual budget expenses/income stand for 2023. Ron explained that we have spend 93.7% of the budget to date. Angus Barber asked if the parks committee had exhausted grant possibilities and suggests using some of the funds for a grant writer.

Amber asked about the office expense and improvements line, the plan for a grant and whether it was still a priority. She said that grants for this type of project are very scarce. Larry suggested tying a grant into acquiring the water company.

Amber suggested lowering the office expenses and improvements to \$5000.

Larry asked about lowering the budget for legal expenses or if the Master Planning Committee suggestions might result in extra legal expenses to follow up on those suggestions. There will be additional legal costs around the budget. The decision was made to decrease that item by \$5000.

Office expenses were discussed further. There were one-time expenses for computer items but it is still included in the 2024 estimated budget. Ron will email a report of 2023 office expenses.

Road expenses included dredging Carbonate Creek and the overage on snowplowing so there was not much spent on actual road improvements. For 2023 there needs to be work on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street... and East 2<sup>nd</sup>, the road down to the quarry and on ditches.

Workshop and related travel expenses were discussed and it was decided to reduce that amount by \$1000.

There will be further budget discussion and finalization at the December meeting.

C. Mayor Comments – Emma welcomed everyone and asked for civil discourse.

D. Continue Public Hearing to consider approval of Ordinance # \_\_\_\_\_ approving residential structures in business zone in Town of Marble – Larry Good made a motion to table this until the January meeting. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Consent Agenda – Larry Good made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

a. Approve October 5th 2023 minutes

b. Approve Current Bills, November 2nd, 2023

F. Administrator Report

a. Consider approval of Gunnison County agreement re: Jail donation, Ron – Ron reported that Gunnison County had provided the agreement and that it is a straight forward agreement. Larry Good made a motion to approve the agreement. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. 2024 Election Report, Ron – Ron reported that the municipal election will be the first Tuesday in April (April 2, 2024). Seats that are open are for the mayor as well as for Larry Good's, Emma Bielski's and Tony Petracco's seats. The nomination petitions will be available the first week in January and are due three weeks later. Sue will inform the Master Planning Committee. Alie will put it in the newsletter. Emma asked when it would need to be posted. Emma said she will not be running for reelection and that Ryan might not be able to due to geography. She would like to have all dates and responsibilities lined up before Ron's surgeries. Larry asked about modifying terms so that the whole board is not up for election at the same time. A question about who can run was raised. Richard suggested paying the board and thus making running more attractive. Ron explained that this is a municipal town and it is governed by state statute.

G. Land Use Issues - none

H. Committee Reports

a. Parks committee report – there was no meeting this month.

b. Master Plan Committee report – Alie reported that Mark gave an overview on the current zoning in conjunction with occupied and the vacant lots. Bill Jochems spoke about the river augmentation and Wild and Scenic history. Surveys have gone out to property owners and are beginning

to come back in and Alie is compiling the results as they come. Surveys will be available at the community dinner for non-property owners. Mark Chain plans to get a rough draft of the input from the committee with objective and goals and to hold a public meeting after the holidays.

c. Community Thanksgiving – Terry reported that the Community Thanksgiving will be held Nov. 11 at the fire station.

#### I. Old Business

#### J. New Business

a. Angus asked how much land AVL T owns in the town of Marble. Ron explained that the only property they own in town is the Children’s Park. Angus asked about their interest in Snowbound and what their motivation is. Ron explained that conservation is their purpose.

b. Angus asked about the oil leak on Vince Savage’s property. Ron looked at that and there is a good-sized leak under a skidster that Vince needs to deal with. Angus asked if there was someone who could reach out to him about this and other environmental issues on his property. Sue Blue feels that Angus is overstepping his bounds. Ron will talk to Vince concerning the oil leak.

K. Adjourn – Larry Good made a motion to adjourn. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Langley