

TOWN OF MERINO

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date September 23, 2024 | Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Carol Nye

In Attendance

Mayor - Carol Nye Mayor Pro Tem – Ken Salmon Trustee – Adam Krier
Trustee – Garie County-arrived at 7:01 pm Trustee – Craig Cook Trustee – John Barber
Member not in attendance was Charles Amen.

Guests in attendance were Erin Owens, Jada Gettman, Tobias Harvey, Steve Curtis, Todd Daughenbaugh, and Peyton Nestor.

Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Bills

Agenda was reviewed and approved by all in attendance. John made a motion to approve the agenda. John 1st Adam 2nd Passed.

Last meeting's minutes for September 9, 2024, were reviewed and were approved by all in attendance. Adam, seeing that no changes needed to be made to the minutes, made a motion to approve last meetings minutes. Adam 1st Craig 2nd Passed.

Approval of Bills: Ken made a motion to accept the bills as presented. Ken 1st John 2nd Roll Call: Carol-yes Ken-yes Craig-yes Adam-yes Garie-yes John-yes Passed.

Payments by check:

Vendor	Amount	Vendor	Amount
CIRSA	\$7,679.80	Johnson and Associates, CPAs, PC	\$629.60
Northeast Auto	\$175.00	Northeast CO Health Dept.	\$20.00
Williamson Lowery Fredregill	\$440.00		
		Total	\$8,944.40

Expenditures:

Vendor	Amount	Vendor	Amount
Xcel Energy	\$17.25	CDPHE	\$642.00
		Total	659.25
		Grand Total	\$9,603.65

Payroll Approval of Employee Time Sheets: Craig made a motion to accept all payroll as presented. Craig 1st Adam 2nd Roll Call: Carol-yes Ken-yes Craig-yes Adam-yes Garie-abstain John-yes Passed.

Committee Reports

- Clerks Reports –
 - Terry reported that her items will be on the agenda.
 - Pam reported that she had found something on the Application for Service form that the board might want to change concerning what it says about the base rate for water. Carol said that she would work with Pam on fixing the application so the board can vote on it at the next meeting.
 - Pam also reported that she is still collecting email addresses for the water accounts.
 - Pam let the board know that any other items are on the agenda.

Old Business

- Booster Club:
 - Noise Ordinance – Jada said that they were planning to have events going until 11:00 pm. She is aware that there is a town noise ordinance that stops everything at 10:00 pm. Jada reminded the board that in past years the fall festival events have gone until midnight. Garie asked if it would require a conditional use permit. It was decided that the Booster Club could just ask the board for use of the street or park until 11:00 pm. Adam made a motion to allow the Booster Club beer garden to extend past the typical 10:00 pm noise ordinance until 11:00 pm. Adam 1st Craig 2nd Passed.
 - Event Update: Jada let the board know that Marick's will be bringing dumpsters and four port-a-potties, and they will have 10-eight-foot aluminum picnic tables coming from the City of Sterling. Jada also told the board that they have the ropes to block off the beer garden. The Booster Club will be responsible for the security check point for the beer garden including arm bands for those that have had their ID verified. The town received the Booster Club's proof of insurance for the event and the special event permit from the state for beer and spirits.
 - Permission for Parade – Jada asked the board for permission to host a parade for the event at 11:00 am, and to block off the parade route. Adam made a motion to allow the Booster Club to have the parade following the normal route used for fall festival. Adam 1st John 2nd Passed.
 - Waive Fee for CC Rental – Jada asked if the board would be able to give a discount to the 4-H Club for the community center rental as had been done before in the past. The board decided to waive the rental fee but asked them to put down a damage deposit that would be returned if they cleaned the facility. Ken made a motion to forfeit the rental fee but collect the damage deposit for the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club. Ken 1st John 2nd Passed.
- Rental Driveway – Carol reported that most of the board members went out to see what Todd did to repair the road to the rental house. No one had an issue with the work that was done, they just thought that for \$1500 they expected that the entire road would be repaired. Both the board and Todd agreed that there was some miscommunication. Todd said that he would drop his bill for the road down to \$1200. The board let Todd know that they will be accepting bids for a pit repair at 419 Morgan Street. He let the board know that he may not be able to do the pit repair until December. The board asked Tobias to mow an area up to 5ft from the road on both sides to help keep the road passable when it snows. Craig made a motion to pay Todd from 4D Excavating \$1200. Craig 1st Adam 2nd Roll Call: Carol-yes Ken-yes Craig-yes Adam-yes Garie-yes John-yes Passed.
- Trunk-Or-Treat – Carol reported that at the last meeting the Fire Chief had requested that the Trunk-or-Treat be extended down to the 200 block of Colorado Avenue so the Fire Department can participate in the event as well. Carol said that the event would be held in the 200 block of Colorado Avenue so that they wouldn't have to block off access to Highway 6. Ken said that would cut off access for the US 6 Country Store, Topsy Cow, and any other businesses that would like to participate. Peyton asked if the

event could be set up from the restaurant down to the fire department. The board discussed having a semi parked across the south end of Colorado Avenue at the south end of the Topsy Cow and block off the street down to the fire department. Carol said that the town will ask the businesses to let the town know what they are planning, and the town will put out a flyer listing any activities that the businesses will be hosting. The board decided the time for the event would be from 4:30-6:30 pm on Halloween.

- Insurance Quotes –
 - Insurance – Carol reported that there were still some huge differences between the quotes on certain items. The quotes were shared between both companies so the town could get the most accurate quotes for comparison. The board needed to vote to approve the extension to withdraw from CIRSA from October 1st to November 1st. Carol read the extension from CIRSA. Adam made a motion to accept the extension that CIRSA has provided for the town. Adam 1st John 2nd Passed.
 - Bond approval – After some discussion about who should be bonded, the board decided to only bond Carol and Terry. Adam made a motion to continue the bond for Terry, do not renew the bond on Pam, and then create a bond with Carol for this next year, 2025. Adam 1st John 2nd Roll Call: Carol-abstain Ken-yes Craig-yes Adam-yes Garie-abstain John-yes Passed.
- GEN-TECH Estimate – Terry reported that she showed Tobias a picture of the actuator so Tobias will try to locate the actuator. The fuel in the generator still needs to be replaced. Terry called Sterling Fuels to see what they would charge to remove and replace the fuel. She said that there is a truck fee of \$120.00 plus the price of the fuel. Ken made a motion to let Sterling Fuels pump the fuel out of the generator and put back the fuel for a cost of \$120 plus the cost of the extra fuel. Ken 1st John 2nd Roll Call: Carol-yes Ken-yes Craig-yes Adam-yes Garie-yes John-yes Passed.
- Concentrate Line Update – Terry reported that the board had already received three bids from Midwest Broadband. Option 1: Directional drill to pull two inches at their fee came to \$9,075. Option 2: Directional pull two by two came to \$9,438. Option 3: put the casing in comes to \$12,855. Jeff from American Teletec said that they would charge \$18 per ft., but has not submitted a formal bid yet, because he needs a measurement of the area that needs boring. Steve went out and measured it at 363 ft. which comes to a little over \$6500 if they just did the line. Steve suggested to the board that they might want to check the line that goes out to the pond from the ditch to make sure the line needs bored under the ditch, or if the line is plugged farther out.
- Water/Sewer Project Update – Terry reported that Element Engineering has started the PNA and should have it completed later this week. They will send Terry a draft. Now that the exemption from audit has been submitted, the town has been unable to qualify for a search grant. The town will have to pay the \$10,000 for the search report.
- Annex of Property by Hwy – Terry reported that the sewer line is \$200 per foot. Mike from Element Engineering said that the base rate is \$70-\$85 per linear foot for the water line, which should include fittings and valves. Terry needs a measurement to be able to calculate the cost.
- November 2024 Ballot Item:
 - Sales Tax Ordinance Update – Carol reported that the Department of Revenue raised some questions that needed to be answered before the item could be added to the November ballot. The ordinance should say ‘sales and use tax’ instead of ‘sales tax’. It was proposed that the town wait until the April election to put this item on the ballot. The item has been withdrawn from the November election and Resolution 8-2024 to withdraw was read and voted on. Ken made a motion to take the sales tax and move it to the April election. Ken 1st John 2nd
- KCI Agreement Update – Carol reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Dave the General Manager on Monday at noon.

- Town Fence – Carol reported that the letter that was sent out to the neighboring resident that the items along the fence area be moved out of the way for construction and the items have been moved. Steve presented a list of supplies needed for the fence and recommended places to purchase the items. Tobias was asked to pick up the posts and to order the delivery of the rest of the supplies.
- Chicken Ordinance – After some discussion by the board concerning what birds should be allowed in the Town of Merino, Carol requested for the item to be moved to the next meeting and that the board members were to have the changes that they wanted as they are the ones requesting the change.

New Business

- Trunk-or Treat – Peyton Nestor: This item was discussed on the Trunk-Or-Treat in ‘Old Business’.

Board Discussion Items

Items discussed by the board:

- Garie told the board that someone brought up taking cash payments. Colorado revised statute 11-61-102 says that all businesses take cash payments. There are only certain exceptions, vending machines or no one on staff. It is ok for businesses to ask for exact amounts only. If somebody were to push it, they could sue. Carol said that she will talk to the town attorney about that.
- Terry presented Garie with the paperwork that Carol provided that he asked for at the last meeting with the information of what the Merino Volunteer Fire Department received from Sterling Rural Fire District, and he thanked her.

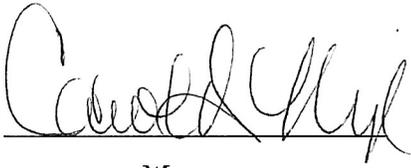
Public Discussion Items

- Comments from the Public: Steve suggested that after granting an extension to the Merino Booster Club, the town might want to check the noise ordinance and make sure there is a procedure to make exceptions stated in the ordinance. For reference to the current owners of the restaurant and/or future owners. Terry was going to ask to check with the attorney about the best way to handle that situation.
- Steve also mentioned that the board might want to explore other options for the publication of the sales tax ordinance. It is expensive to have the sales tax ordinance in the paper. Terry told the board that the attorney had mentioned that they could use publication by title. This is where a notice for the ordinance is published in the paper using only the title and that the ordinance would be available at the town hall for review. Garie suggested that a note go out with the water bill informing Merino residents that the ordinance will be available for review.
- Tobias reported that he was asked to research cameras to use near the recycling bins to catch the people who have been illegally dumping trash and household items. He told the board about the options available. Tobias recommended that the town either get a camera with audio capabilities or a simple game camera. It was also suggested that Carol could ask Magnify Broadband if they wanted to put up a camera by their hut to protect their equipment.

Adjournment

Date: September 23, 2024, at Merino Town Hall

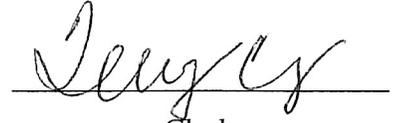
Motion to adjourn was made at 8:46 pm by Ken, seconded by John, and was passed unanimously.



Mayor

10/14/24

Date



Clerk

10/14/24

Date