

**Regular Meeting  
Town of Ignacio Board of Trustees  
Monday, November 6, 2017**

- I. **CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:** Mayor Stella Cox called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. **Trustees Present:** Thomas Atencio, Lawrence Bartley, Edward Box III and Mayor Protem Alison deKay. **Staff:** Mark Garcia, Interim Town Manager (via phone); Georgann Valdez, Town Clerk; Diana Briar, Town Treasurer; Kirk Phillips, Chief of Police; Dan Naiman, Community Development Administrator and Jeremy Schulz, Public Works Director.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT: None**
- III. **PRESENTATION: Capital Improvement Plan – Russell Engineering, Darren Stewart, Civil Engineer**  
In the Spring, Mr. Garcia approached their firm to put together a Capital Improvements Plan for the Town; we will show some of the solutions for the infrastructure challenges coming up in the next five to ten years. The CIP was funded by a DOLA grant for \$50,000. Other studies were done and reports prepared with recommendations on infrastructure improvements but these reports were never put together and actual solutions or cost estimates were never determined. This document can be used as a plan for capital projects for the next 5-10 years. Each of the systems was reviewed, the water, sewer, gas, irrigation and drainage systems, deficiencies were determined, improvements were recommended and costs associated with each. Mr. Stewart went through each utility in detail, identified projects; discussions occurred and questions were answered.
- Trustee Atencio asked how the proposed sales tax increase could be tied to the CIP Plan. Mr. Garcia stated the ballot question could be worded so the funds are not so restrictive but can leave it open for potential projects. He stated the CIP was a great undertaking, a good plan moving forward. The rate analysis is still in progress. The sales tax revenue could be about \$165,000.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
- A. **Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of October, 16, 2017**
  - B. **Special Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2017**
  - C. **Check Register for October, 2017**
- Mayor Protem deKay moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Bartley seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**
- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 2018 Budget:** Minor changes included updated estimates; did not get the Economic Development Grant, other DOLA grants being applied for and need to decide on raises, COLA and/or Merit. Mr. Garcia found from the manager's listserv that most municipalities are giving merit only on salary increases, no COLA; salary increases from two to eight percent, more for Police Departments. Ignacio's salaries are lower than in neighboring communities where officers are paid more. Mayor Stella Cox recused herself from the discussion voting on staff's health insurance benefits and proposed salary increases to avoid a conflict of interest. (Her Spouse, Stan works in the Town's Public Works Department). Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Protem

deKay, wanting to remain competitive with other communities and retain our employees, suggested a 5% salary increase without covering medical health insurance. After making a motion for this directive, the motion failed for lack of a second. Trustee Atencio moved to give a 5% merit raise and cover \$35 for employee only and \$50 for employee with dependents. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bartley. The motion passed with Trustee Bartley, Trustee Atencio and Trustee Box voting in favor, Mayor Protem deKay voting no and Mayor Cox recusing herself. It was suggested to consider insurance and salary raises as two different issues for future budgeting. The Board set their next meeting for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:30. Mr. Garcia stated grants are being sought for various projects. These will be in the budget.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Pinon Liquors License Renewal:** Mayor Protem deKay moved to renew the Pinon Liquors Liquor License Renewal. Trustee Bartley seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- B. **AXIS Health MOU:** Chief Phillips stated the Memorandum of Understanding is a 3-year agreement for detox services, with costs to the Town of \$7189, per year; funds are budgeted in the 2018 Budget.
- C. **Sales Tax Ballot Issue** – The Capital Improvement Plan could be a platform to introduce the ballot issue to the public. Revenues gained from the tax increase would go toward projects in the CIP; ballot question could be worded correctly to use revenues for capital projects approved by the Board. Questions regarding the percentage of the increase and the potential revenue will be answered at the next meeting. **Trustee Atencio moved to direct staff to proceed with placing a sales tax increase on the April Election ballot. Trustee Bartley seconded. The motion passed by 5-0 with each Trustee voting yes.**

#### VII. STAFF REPORTS:

- A. **Police Chief:** Ignacio School District is no closer to making a decision on hiring a resource officer. Two new School Board Members will be voting on this, possibly in January. Gaming Grant was fully funded, \$168,000.
- B. **Public Works Director:** The Town has been selected by EPA for more water sampling; PUC letter will be addressed. Repairs to the Irrigation Pond and pond liner will be done before next year. Tree service is doing a good job.
- C. **Finance Officer:** Ms. Briar will email her report to the Board; having the meeting so early in November did not allow her ample time to get all her financing done.
- D. **Community Development Administrator:** Building permits issued in 2017 are up; three new homes were built at Tranquilo Court with potential sales. Met with Lisa Bloomquist, Executive Director of the Homes Fund, did a tour and inventory of Town properties. No response from Mr. Abeyta on the abandoned vehicles behind the Sidekick Lounge. Property

north of TP Lounge was inspected for asbestos; owner discussed remediation costs, asking for Town for assistance, grants are being sought. Head Start is looking for a location for a new building, site behind the Adult Ed Center. Christen Cypher will be finalizing the Branding Grant with an open house at Library November 16.

- E. **Town Manager:** Grant Work: Closing out the CIP Grant, the GIS Mapping Grant and the Gas Line Replacement Grant, meter installation is planned in the near future. We have applied for an extension on the Branding and Marketing Grant and requesting technical assistance to utilize funds for signage. Gaming Grant was fully funded. Working on submitting three grants for irrigation project by end of year. Working with Pat Vaughn from the Growth Fund on Rate Analysis; agreed scope of work with the Tribe; RPI is doing our Rate Study.
- F. **Town Attorney:** No Report, work on ballot question and Olguin project.

**VIII. TRUSTEE REPORT:** None

- IX. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Mayor Protem deKay met with Greg Lopez who is running for Governor; talked with him regarding the Tribal tax exemption issue. He reached out to Mark who has forwarded documents to him. Trustee Box had questions regarding the Christmas party; December 9, 15 and 16 are possible dates, funds available, and a possible venue.
- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m. The next regular meeting will be December 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Abel F. Atencio Community Center at 570 Goddard Avenue.

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**Stella Cox, Mayor**

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**Date**

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**Attest: Georgann Valdez, Town Clerk**