



MEETING MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room

570 Goddard Avenue, Ignacio, CO 81137

I. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stella Cox, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez

Absent: Trustee Dixie Melton

Guests: David Liberman, Town Attorney; Clark Craig, James Brown, Mandy Brown, Teresa Campbell, Bill & Linda Eich, Doug Little, Chris May, Audrey Atencio, Shannon Mullane arrived at 6:37 PM.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Little 6 El Paso Road – why is there a 10% water loss factor on all bills? Mr. Garcia stated this will be addressed in the utility rate section of the agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Special Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2019
- B. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2019
- C. Financial Records – Check Register for December 2019

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to approve the consent agenda; Trustee Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Ignacio Creative District Funding Request

Mr. Garcia gave a background. Trustee Craig recused herself from the vote due to being on the Board of Directors of the Ignacio Creative District.

Action: Mr. Atencio moved that the Town donate \$600.00 to Ignacio Creative District after receiving the tax exempt status; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote. The vote passed with 5 ayes and one recusal by Trustee Craig.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution No. 01-2020 – Posting locations for meeting notices

Mr. Garcia stated this is our annual resolution for posting locations. He stated that there needs to be a Section 3 under the “Now therefore be it resolved...” section to state that the Clerk may also post at the Library and Post Office. He handed out an updated version of the Resolution containing this change.

Discussion: Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated she thinks it needs to be consistent with the “shall” language; Trustee Atencio would prefer it be a “shall” in all locations. Consensus of the Board was all the locations should read “shall post.”

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to accept Resolution 01-2020 with the change of section 3 to “shall post,” Trustee Box III seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Public Hearing on Utility Rates

Mr. Garcia gave some background and explanation of the rate work done to date.

Mayor Cox opened the public hearing at 7:10 PM.

Teresa Campbell – gas rates base charge include gas usage charge listed below it? Mr. Garcia stated base charge is \$23.75 per customer per month; SUUD rate varies by month and then add 10% capital factor. Last month was \$3.17. So it would be base charge + monthly rate times usage, plus 10% of that rate.

Chris May – town will not mark up gas beyond SUUD rate + 10%, correct? Mr. Garcia stated that, if the Town Board approves the rate this evening, that is correct.

James – schedule for water meter replacement? Mr. Garcia responded that this is not scheduled yet. Will capital factors going into a special account? Mr. Garcia stated that these monies will stay in the specific enterprise funds. Would the Board be willing to look at the water loss factor after the meters are replaced rather than waiting until next year to adjust it? The Board commented that was a good question and asked how the 10% was determined. Mr. Garcia stated that there were times we had more than 30% water loss, but the Town did not want to pass that much on. Mr. Atencio stated that his initial thought is that the rate of 10% should be kept throughout the year to ensure that there are enough reserves for an emergency. The Board will take this request under consideration.

Gas standard – minimum of 3 months operating in reserve per enterprise fund. Not in place yet. SUUD will continue raising rates based on CPI. This needs to be discussed at the Board level.

Doug Little – requested the Board think of the people in town that are on a fixed income. If utilities are \$200-\$300 per month, that leaves them with very little for the remaining expenses. How much does the Tribe charge the people they serve? Is it close to what we are charging? Or are Town residents covering their reduced rates? Mr. Garcia stated he would be happy to share the Tribe’s rates with Mr. Little.

James – Historically the CPI index is 3-4% increase per year

Chris – what about families that have 3-4 children plus the adults? Have we considered that issue? Do we know how many people might be adversely affected by this? Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that you cannot address both at the same time; our decision to go to the 1,000 gallon increments is based on fairness to residents based on usage. Raising rates is never ideal; however, it is necessary.

Bill Eich – is there a percentage increase that we can look at (rather than a dollar amount?) Mr. Garcia stated that he is happy to sit with Mr. Eich to look at his account specifically to see how this will impact him specifically. When will these rates go into

effect? Immediately if the Board approves them this evening; the rate increases from the Tribe went into effect on October 1 of 2019, so the Town has been paying the higher rates for three months already without passing the increase onto the customers yet.

Doug Little – proposal to charge per gallon instead of per 1,000 gallon increments. Meters read by 1,000. Mr. Garcia stated that we will attempt to read by the hundreds; the new meters will be much more accurate than the current meters.

Mr. Garcia stated that in the past there were in-town and out-of-town rates; the consensus of the Board, as expressed by Mayor Pro Tem deKay, was that if it doesn't cost us more to provide the service, we should not charge more to provide the service. If the purpose of charging a higher price is to incentivize people to annex into the Town, there are other ways to incentivize them.

Mayor Cox closed the public hearing at 7:47 PM.

C. Resolution No. 02-2020 – Utility Rates for 2020

Mr. Garcia stated that we need to strike the 2021 year from the title of this resolution; he will bring a subsequent resolution for the 2021 rates. We have not raised our plant investment fees; the standby and ready to serve fees are not raised either. The Tribe has raised their Plant Investment Fees, and these new rates are reflected on the 2020 rate sheet. The recycling rates are included in the rate sheet this year; this is a voluntary program that requires sign-up at Town Hall. Mayor Cox called for a motion.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to accept Resolution 02-2020, striking the reference to 2021; Trustee Craig seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Atencio stated that he would like to set a date to address the rates for 2022 and later. Mr. Garcia stated rates are looked at annually, and we will have some data to look at when the budget time rolls around.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

12:01 AM on February 1st, IPD will assume criminal jurisdiction over all the properties that have been recently annexed into the Town.

B. Public Works

Entryway signs will be coming into Town soon. Hope to break ground within the next two weeks.

Snow plowing as needed. Attempted to fill potholes in the alley; will keep up with this as the weather permits.

Working on new water meters, as well as leak detection.

Mr. May commended the Public Works staff on responsiveness to the pothole issue as well as the snow plowing. Asked about lighting on the signs – concerned about light pollution. Mr. Garcia stated they are internally lit and not pointed toward the sky. Mr. May asked about the lights at Porky's as well. The staff took this comment under advisement.

C. Clerk / Treasurer

Ms. Dunton stated that most of the business and animal owners have renewed their licenses; calls will be placed to those who have not renewed by the end of this month. Ms. Dunton talked about upcoming events: she will represent the Town at the Region 9 Board Meeting and Strategic Planning session on Jan. 30; next month's meeting will fall on Tuesday, Feb. 18; LPBCC Dinner on March 12.

Mr. Brown asked about Manager Salaries year to date of \$388.80. Ms. Dunton stated she will need to research that.

D. Town Manager

Draft of land use code update will hopefully be ready for recommendation to the Board for action after the January 29 Planning Commission work session.

Will close out water infrastructure grant with final report and reimbursement of expenses. Land Use Code Update grant has been closed.

Our building inspector is MHIP approved now.

Becker/Goddard crosswalk – meeting with CDOT and school board tomorrow; CDOT has pledged \$500,000; the preliminary estimate is \$800,000 and the balance will be split between Town and ISD if the School Board approves that. Mr. Garcia will also ensure that CDOT is in agreement with the placement of the entryway signs.

Raw water irrigation easement and jurisdictional agreement will be discussed in executive session.

Trustee Atencio requested that Mr. Garcia bring up the potholes at the meeting with CDOT.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Craig – Michael French is the new Exec Dir for Economic Alliance; he started this past week.

Trustee Box III – will meet with SoCoCAA to talk about the Town having a representative on their Board; he will report next month.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay – appreciation from Dixie Melton for support; donation to Rooney Elementary in lieu of flowers.

Trustee Atencio asked if there is an update on the trailers. Mr. Garcia stated there is no update at this time.

Mayor Cox asked about an update on the sewer at The Style Shop; Mr. Howlett stated we are still working on that. Mr. Garcia stated that some filming of that pipeline would be helpful.

Teresa Campbell asked if there was a possibility of having microphones on the dias because sometimes it is difficult to hear what the Trustees are saying. The Board stated they will take this suggestion under advisement.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: C.R.S. 24-6-402-(4)(e) – Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and/or instructing negotiators

Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to go into executive session; Trustee Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:24 PM. The Board returned from Executive Session to Open Meeting at 9:10PM. Mayor Cox stated that the participants in the executive session were: Mark Garcia, Interim Town Manager; David Liberman, Town Attorney; Tom Atencio, Trustee; Sandra Maez, Trustee; Alison deKay, Mayor Pro Tem; Edward Box III, Trustee; Sharon Craig, Trustee; Stella Cox, Mayor. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. There were none expressed.


Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that the consensus of the Board was that Staff and the Town Attorney to draft responses to the Tribe's letter on the raw water easement and Jurisdiction Agreement, and have them for review at the next meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Action: Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 6:30 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room at 570 Goddard Avenue.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk