

Regular Meeting
Town of Ignacio Board of Trustees
Wednesday, October 5, 2016

WORK SESSION: 6:00 All Board members present

2017 Preliminary Budget: Mr. Garcia explained the line items have not changed from last year. Specific items set for discussion include salary increases and benefits. Trustee Melton received an explanation for the \$67,640 in Miscellaneous Income was reimbursement from CIRSA for the embezzlement.

Ms. Briar has done comparisons from health care providers for better coverage, because the employees have been paying a lot for out of pocket expenses; in shopping around she found most plans are \$400 higher than the current plan. The renewal for the current plan has a 15% increase with reduced coverage and copays doubling. The Budget includes the 15% increase with the Town absorbing the increase, or \$50 per employee. Our provider explained claims were high, and as part of a pool, the Town's rate is increased. The Town currently allows \$650 per month for each employee; employees with dependent coverage receive \$750. The premium increase is \$50 for employee only; \$167 for employee with spouse and \$235 for employee with dependent coverage. Mr. Naiman stated that even with the \$750 provided by the Town, he is paying an additional \$250 per month out of pocket for his premium and cannot afford to use the insurance. Deductibles are extremely high, \$3000 for employee only; \$6000 for employee with spouse and \$12,700 for employee with family. When an employee opts out of the plan, it is not legal for the Town to reimburse the employee for his insurance coverage with a different provider. The current plan allows for separate coverage for health, vision, dental or life. The Town created a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) with \$10,000 for the Town's share of the deductible when an employee meets the first \$1000 of the \$3000 employees' maximum deductible. The 2017 Budget includes another \$10,000 for the HRA.

The current budget reflects a 3% COLA effective January 1 and a 2% merit increase effective on the employee's anniversary date. Mr. Garcia mentioned moving the merit pay to the beginning of the year and also suggested doing away with COLA and making it all merit pay increase. Discussion followed regarding the suggestions made by Mr. Garcia; evaluation process would need to be revised and implemented; if the evaluations aren't done timely, the employee doesn't get their increase. An employee stated the cost of living is more important than a merit as everyone sees an increase in groceries, utilities, gas, etc. and a merit is earned based on goals set and met, and at the supervisor's discretion. 2017 Budget has \$80,000 increase to fund balance with the estimated expenditures and revenues. The negative fund balance in the Sewer Fund reflects the rate increases from the Tribe and to the customer. Other questions were answered regarding the purchase of lapel cameras for the Police Department. Next Budget workshop is October 19; Tribal Council Joint meeting October 20, send items for discussion to Mr. Garcia.

I. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:

- II.** Mayor Stella Cox called the Regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. **Trustees Present:** Mayor Protem Alison deKay, Thomas Atencio, Lawrence Bartley, Edward Box, III, Sandra Maez and Dixie Melton. **Staff:** Mark Garcia, Interim Town Manager; Georgann Valdez, Town Clerk; Diana Briar, Town Treasurer; Kirk Phillips, Chief of Police; Dan Naiman, Community Development Coordinator and Jeremy Schulz, Public Works Director. **Audience:** Planning Commission Members: Pete Vigil, Theresa Campbell, Gina Schulz and Barb Glick. Carol McWilliams, Kathryn Kent, Daniel Weaver, Eppie Quintana, Steve Glick, Ron Gram, Richard Olguin and Josh and Heather Abrell from Thrive, LLC.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET: Presented to the Board in the Work Session earlier. The balanced budget reflects about \$80,000 in additional revenue projected in 2017. The budget is available to the public in the Town Hall, and on the Town's website at www.townofignacio.com. Eppie Quintana asked if there were monies in the budget for park equipment. The budget includes funds to upgrade the sprinkler system at the park; a GOCO Grant is written every year for replacement of park equipment, have not been successful in obtaining those funds. The \$80,000 in additional revenue is from projected sales tax increase.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 308 – Permanent banning of marijuana establishments within the Town Limits. Barb Glick, manager of Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park strongly opposed any establishments in Town. Pete Vigil supports them, if regulated properly, benefits the Town with additional revenue, better in a dispensary vs. black market. Josh Abrell, present to promote a business in town for the sale of marijuana; has been in the industry for 17 years and cited tax revenue and employment benefits. Daniel Weaver is not opposed to this marijuana thing, and asked if the Town was guaranteed the revenue. 15% of total sales guaranteed to the Town. Federal Laws state it is illegal to possess or buy marijuana. Tribal law and Colorado law contradict each other.

Eppie Quintana asked Kirk Phillips, Chief of Police his opinion; personally does not want to see it in Ignacio, suggested community wide input. He will support what the community wants. Eppie believes this is a bad idea in such a small town, is it worth the money, likes the small community the way it is, believes the community should have a voice as a whole. At the CML district meeting, Ed Box attended and heard that small towns, Mancos and Silverton have not seen an increase in crime, increased revenue and the municipality can regulate the business. Tom Atencio spoke with the Mayor of Mancos at the CML District meeting, glad they were able to regulate it, regulated the area of Town where the business can set up, it's here, the Board can regulate it, revenue beneficial for all, not all of it is bad, lot of medical uses, with various forms. Richard Olguin supports the marijuana establishments in Town, supports a survey or election to get the community input. Ron Gram states the Town can regulate, has

the ability to change the legal code, tighten regulations, and can pull the license. Eppie: At what point are the regulations set in place, Mr. Garcia answered that would be the Town's call. Celebrating Healthy Community reports LPC youth data, substance use is on the rise. Specific survey results are available through the school district. Pete: Having marijuana available may keep the kids from using other drugs. Questions regarding second hand smoke, warnings to exposure were answered. Josh: Not allowed in public, used in privacy of own home, no exposure to public. He spoke of other medical uses, and stated other prescription drugs and alcohol are in homes and public. Responsible parents keep these out of reach of children. Kathy Kent strongly opposed marijuana in the Town. There is already a problem with alcohol and drugs; cultivation within the 3-mile area is not controlled. A survey vs. an election was discussed at length; boundaries for a survey, the Board's responsibility to the public; input from the Tribal Council; sales tax collection and earmarking the revenues, drafting policies were all subjects covered.

Trustee Bartley recommended moving forward with a survey. Trustee Atencio favored an election. Josh, as a businessman, is proposing a small facility for the sales of medical and/or recreational marijuana. He feels Ignacio could greatly benefit from the business and is prepared to move forward now. Obtaining Federal grants may be affected by a marijuana business in Town. Background checks are very extensive and highly regulated by the State and the County.

Election questions were answered, dates, costs and numbers of voters. Trustee Atencio wanted to make a directive to have staff research timetable and schedule for a Special Election, proceed as soon as possible. Mayor Protem deKay felt it was unnecessary. Trustee Melton is not ready to move forward with an election. Mr. Vigil stated the Board represents the citizens and can make the decision. Mayor Cox asked if we are ready to put our morals on the line for a couple of thousand dollars. Trustee Atencio feels this question is too big for seven Board members to decide for the Town. An election will show the citizens' desire.

Further discussion will continue October 19. Ordinances from other communities will be sent to the Board for review. Thrive, LLC will present a power point October 19.

V. TOWN MANAGER: No Report

- VI. ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Stella Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The next regular meeting will be October 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with a work session prior to the meeting in the Abel F. Atencio Community Center at 540 Goddard Avenue.

Stella Cox, Mayor

Date

Attest: Georgann Valdez, Town Clerk