

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting

Date: January 8, 2015

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at www.townoflajara.com

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Zaragoza @ 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Zaragoza

Roll Call:

Present were Trustees: Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.
Absent were: Trustee Salazar and Trustee Valdez.

A quorum was present.

Also Present were: Town Manager Koenig, Town Attorney Valdez, Officer Roberto Campos, Officer Jarrod Staggs, Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta, Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Hamilton, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera, and Building Inspector Joseph Trottnr.

Guests Present were: Valerie Finnegan with Conejos County Farmers Market, Michael Armenta with Conejos Clean Water, and Larry Sisneros.

Mayor Zaragoza thanked the town board for their dedication and mentioned that they should all be excited to start a new year and new projects.

Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved, and Trustee Gallegos seconded, to approve the agenda.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved, and Trustee Espinoza seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the allowance for Trustee Gallegos to discuss two department reports.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

Michael Armenta, of Conejos Clean Water, gave a summary and background of the non-profit organization. He stated that he is the Project Manager for a project geared specifically towards illegal dumping. He mentioned that he has identified illegal dumps in Capulin and Sanford, as well as private dumps. He announced that an engineer is coming to quantify the problem on January 19th and 20th. He said they are working on an Environmental Justice Grant through the EPA to promote recycling. He said he had a discussion with County Commissioners about recycling bins earlier that morning. He also said that there will be a luncheon held at noon on Tuesday January 20th at the county offices in Conejos. Trustee Gallegos asked if he is working with Land Use. Mr. Armenta confirmed that he has been talking with Linda at the county office.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina commended him on his good effort. He replied that they are trying to do good work. He said that we are a poor, rural community, but this can be accomplished. Mayor Zaragoza said that he is excited to hear that this is happening. Aside from dumping dead animals, waste is a big concern.

Trustee Espinoza said that one of the big issues is not having a place to dump. She mentioned that Monte Vista is the closest.

The town board thanked Mr. Armenta.

Next, Valerie Finnegan thanked the town for the help with the farmers market, scheduling the bands, and the police setting up barriers. She stated that they have a small group that wants to make farmers market bigger and better, so she is coordinating with all of the towns in the county. She announced that this year's farmers market will begin July 31st from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.. She said that they would like to take back the coordination of the bands. Mayor Zaragoza asked what times the town can have bands play. Mrs. Finnegan suggested that the farmers market bring in local talent from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the Town could have a band play from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Medina suggested showcasing local talent early and then having a headliner. Town Manager Koenig suggested scheduling the band from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Finnegan then asked if the board might know of any vendors to serve food during the market. She asked the town to keep in touch about the bands and advertising. Trustee Gallegos asked if all the farmers market vendors are from the county. Trustee Gallegos mentioned that they are developing the 23 acre park so they will be able to host more events. Koenig told Mrs. Finnegan that the farmers market committee needs to give the town a copy of their new insurance certificate. Mrs. Finnegan responded that they always do that. She said they will get it to the town. Mayor Pro Tem Medina suggested asking Eff's in Alamosa, because he has a travelling food wagon. Mayor Zaragoza asked what the dates will be for this year's market. Mrs. Finnegan said it will be July 31 – September 4. Zaragoza told her to coordinate with Deputy Clerk Hamilton on the music. He ended with the statement that the town wants to help them any way they can.

Town Manager's Report

First, Town Manager Koenig discussed the La Jara Athletic Park. He said that because of funding issues, they will have to do it in phases. Phase One, he explained, will be the rubberized walking track, BMX track, baseball fields, a veterans memorial to include stakeholders, and a park. He said that it will help build interest. He said that the picnic area will move to phase one. He also said the ice rink will move to phase two. Koenig explained the new lift station that is to be constructed, and the fact that it requires an overflow pond that can double as an ice rink. He said it kills two birds with one stone. He also said that historically, GOCO will not award grants the first time around. He said that this grant is going to take some politicking. He mentioned that the \$93,000.00 purchase of the property needs to be used as In-Kind within three years. He said that the BMX track is being used as In-Kind match for the planning grant. He said that the park will have 4 to 5 restrooms, concessions, a paved parking lot, and lighting. He mentioned that it will be something they can "brand" on as a community and the projected revenue could

be a million dollars per year. Mayor Zaragoza asked how much time they have to use the \$93,000.00 as In-Kind. Koenig replied that they need to get the grant this year. He said the planning grant will cost about \$4000.00 out of pocket.

Koenig then stated that the Town should sit on the DCI Southwest Engagement program for a year because there won't be enough funds. Trustee Gallegos how else the Town is going to fund the La Jara Athletic Park other than with the grant. Koenig replied that they need to build up their cash reserves because it will require a 10% cash match for the whole project. He said that once they get the infrastructure in, it will fairly easy to maintain. He explained that when they move to phase two, they will need to have more funds. He said that the County Administrator wants to make it a recreation district, but the problem is, each town in the county is all about "me". He asked the board if everyone understood the hub and spoke model. He said that they are a very poor community and the proposed transfer stations would be very important.

Next, he brought up the resolution for the Water/Power Authority loan. He explained all the requirements they need to fulfill, and the draft parody certificate. He said that the loan is for \$650,000 but if they get the DOLA grant for \$325,000, the loan amount will be cut down to \$325,000. Attorney Valdez mentioned that in his files for the last loan, he remembers the town employing a bond council by the name of Larry Berkowitz. He suggested that they find his contact information.

Next, Koenig mentioned that code enforcement and building inspection for the county is coming. He said that they have asked if the town would like to partner with them. Trustee Gallegos asked what type of code enforcement he is talking about, building? Koenig confirmed that it is building code enforcement. Mayor Zaragoza asked how the town might save money by partnering with the county. Koenig replied that they would take over inspections and charge each town \$500 per month. He said that it would take the liability off of the town. Trustee Gallegos stated that she does not think that they need the county involved in city inspections. She said that the town has a good building inspector and he does not need to be replaced. She asked about any new annexations and building proposals, saying that a county inspector would take away from the town building inspector's work. Koenig replied that, at the moment, it is only in the talking stages. Trustee Espinoza mentioned that the county currently has a liability issue because they issue permits but don't inspect. Trustee Gallegos commented that the county does not have the manpower for such a position. Koenig said that if they voted it in now, it would take at least two years to get it going. Attorney Valdez commented that if the county were to do this, they would need to adopt building codes and uniformity. Mayor Zaragoza remarked that the town could be a big help in getting it organized. He asked the town manager to keep them informed.

Next, Koenig talked about water rates. He said that in order to get the loan, they would need to raise the rates. He referred the board to the rate comparison list in their council packets. He explained to the board that the gentleman who is performing the rate study, Leroy Cruz of the Colorado Rural Water Association, has had some significant health problems and the study has been delayed because of that. Koenig said that he has been talking to the biggest water users in town to let them know the rate hike is coming. Mayor Zaragoza said that they had all be prepared to get complaints from citizens and have an understanding of why the rate hike is necessary in order to get the loan. Koenig said that they are going to have to purchase a new VFB, which is essentially a fancy breaker, and will cost \$5100.00 from Miller Electric.

Trustee Cummings moved, and Trustee Espinoza seconded, to approve the Town Manager's report.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report

Attorney Valdez stated that he is working on the loan agreement with the water and Power Authority, just as Town Manager Koenig mentioned. He said that the parody certificate has to be issued with financial data that Town Clerk Pagnotta is compiling. He stated that he thinks they should use Larry Berkowitz as the bond counsel.

Attorney Valdez then stated that he reviewed the police department's citation writing and he will be consulting Sergeant Lujan about the matter. Town Manager Koenig quickly interjected that he forgot to mention that this meeting's council packet did not include a police report because Chief Martinez is out sick with Type-A flu.

Trustee Gallegos moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded, to approve the Town Attorney's report.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Board of Trustees Comments

Trustee Espinoza – Commented that when the water pumps went down, the town had a great response from employees. She also thanked everyone for the work they have done on the GOCO grant. She said it looks great and it is exciting. She also said that it will bring something positive to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina – Stated that she spoke with Trustee Cummings and they intend to hold a planning commission meeting before the end of the month.

Trustee Cummings- Offered his help with finding any bands for the summer concerts.

Mayor Zaragoza – Thanked the staff for a quick response on the water situation. He thanked the maintenance department for the Christmas decorations, and the clerks for a great Christmas party.

Trustee Gallegos- Said that she thinks they need to have some sort of police report, even if the Chief is out. She said they have four officers and someone should be able to do it. She also said that the water samples were not in the maintenance report. She would like to be able to compare them month to month. She said that Building Inspector, Joe Trottnner, should be able to speak at the meetings. She said that the town used to have recycling and they should consider having it again. She said that the town is too involved in the farmers market and they should form a committee. She asked if Trustee comments could be put after the "New" and "Old" Business sections of the agenda so that they can be discussed.

Attorney Valdez asked Trustee Gallegos about the problems she is having behind her house. He asked if she wants to see more reporting of police matters in the reports. Town Manager Koenig responded that the problem is, it would be a HIPPA violation to give details. He said they can only report convictions. Trustee Gallegos asked if a complaint is probable cause to investigate. Koenig replied that they do investigate. He said he gets dispatch reports every month, but that information cannot be released to the board. Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that town meetings are public and council packets are public record, so HIPPA protected information cannot be added to them. Mayor Zaragoza reminded the board that the town was operating with only two officers for a long time, one of which they worked until he could have dropped. Trustee Gallegos remarked that he wrote a lot of citations on the highway. Koenig said that two of the individuals causing the most problems in town have been incarcerated. Trustee Cummings asked what is going on and why are they incarcerated. Mayor Zaragoza said the matter should not be discussed any further.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina addressed one of Trustee Gallegos's complaints by explaining that they adopted the consent calendar with department reports so that each department head doesn't have to get up and give a verbal report. The idea was to streamline the meetings so they don't carry on into the night. She said that regarding the farmers market, the town built the bandstand, and they want to be in control of it. She

also said that if anyone wants to give or receive input on the farmers market, they can join the farmers market committee that already exists.

New Business – Mayor Zaragoza reads the caption for resolution 2015-1, allowing for the pursuit of the Water/Power Authority loan.

Trustee Gallegos moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded, to adopt Resolution 2015-1.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees Gallegos, Cummings, Espinoza, Mayor Zaragoza and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Deputy Town Clerk Hamilton explains the Trustee questionnaire that is included in everyone's packet, for purposes of creating a short bio about each Trustee, to post on the town website.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted by

Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta

Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem