

# TOWN OF LA JARA

PO Box 273  
La Jara, CO 81140  
Phone: (719) 274-5363  
Fax: (719) 274-5986

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Regular Meeting

Date: March 12, 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](http://www.townoflajara.com)

## Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Zaragoza @ 6:57 p.m.

## Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Zaragoza

## Roll Call:

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

Absent: Trustee Espinoza

A quorum was present.

Also Present were: Town Manager Koenig, Town Attorney Valdez, Chief of Police Dan Martinez, Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta, Assistant Clerk Krista LaBlanc, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera, and Building Inspector Joseph Trottnner.

Guests Present were: Many citizens, and resident Joseph Baroz,

## Agenda

Trustee Valdez moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded, to approve the Agenda

## Vote Results:

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## Consent Calendar

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

## Vote Results:

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment:**

Joseph Baroz, from the North Conejos School Board requested funds for a new \$23,000.00 state of the art sound system for the high school gym. He stated that the current system was installed over 23 years ago. Mr. Baroz has tried to get state funding but was denied. He is reaching out to the community to help raise funds for this sound system which consists of 9, 12inch speakers, 2 power amps, wireless microphones, and a blue tooth/ I-pod docking station.

Mayor Zaragoza and Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked if other communities were contributing. Baroz stated that he had sent out 50 letters and received 25% back in donations, which helped raise \$4,000.00. Alamosa State Bank was a big contributor, donating \$500.00, as well as many other businesses. Baroz stated he would like to get this sound system for graduation, and to honor Centauri High School's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Pro Tem Medina agreed that the school did need a new sound system. After reviewing the budget \$700.00 in funds are available for donations. Trustee Victor Salazar suggested a committal of \$350.00 now and \$350.00 at a later time.

Trustee Salazar moved to donate \$350.00 to help with the North Conejos School Board sound system. Motion seconded by Trustee Cummings.

### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

### **Recognition of Unscheduled Public Comment**

Kelly Gallegos administrator of Conejos County Hospital, came to talk about the proposed water and sewer rate increases. She discussed needing to upgrade their sprinkler system because the water supply was inadequate to be able to pressurize their system as needed. In turn they had to install a \$200,000.00 water tank.

She learned this evening that the water and sewer rates were going to be voted on. She requested figures from Town Clerk Pagnotta and Town Manager Koenig. She was shocked to find the increases were so high. She claimed an increase like this could result in the loss of 4 jobs. Gallegos requested transparency to the hospital and all the businesses of the town on how the base rates were figured. Mayor Zaragoza reminded her of the public hearing that took place last month, and asked if she attended. She claimed she did not because she had not been notified. She was concerned that they are paying three times more than surrounding areas. Town Manager Koenig discussed that the state mandated a new trunk line be installed. The old one was placed there in 1972 and is deteriorating. Water and sewer rates for the town were required to go up in order to be at a 120% parity before the loan could be procured. Mr. Cruz from Colorado Rural Water Association performed a rate study in all areas of Colorado which helped give a multiplier. These rates were based on the fact that Conejos Hospital is considered an out of town business, which set the rate at 1.75 times higher than the in-town rate. These rates were set by the ordinance that passed in 2009. All out of town customers have that base rate multiplier. Water consumption is also a factor Town Manager Koenig explained. The more water consumed the higher the cost. Mayor Zaragoza assured Gallegos that they have been reviewing the rate increase for 5 months, and have reduced the rates from 55% to 33%, that was the lowest they possibly go. It wasn't just for the hospital but for the school too. Trustee Salazar said that this would be a good time to implement a partnership, and a good opportunity to move forward.

Kay Miller, owner of Splash N Dash car wash came to discuss the water and sewer rate increase. He had a few questions regarding the rates. His concerns were addressed.

#### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Koenig stated the trees on the 23 acre park are doing well! Grass and weeds are all taken care of. He stated the Easter egg hunt will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. He talked about the DOLA grant and stated that they were preparing to attend the hearing in Golden. He also talked about the GOCO grant that was submitted. He commented that it was put together well. He mentioned having a hearing on April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., for the Waste Water Trunk Line Project, and for property annexation. He also talked about the franchise agreement with Xcell. Town Manager Koenig also discussed possibly putting in a solar farm to help pay for the street lights during the Christmas season, and for emergency power outages.

#### **Approval of Town Managers Report:**

Trustee Valdez moved, and Trustee Salazar seconded.

#### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

#### **Town Attorney's Report**

Attorney Valdez addressed Resolution 2015-4, the annexation of the property between Rawhide and Parts Plus. He explained the process. He stated No petition was needed because it was enclaved, just a publication was needed.

Chief Martinez asked Attorney Valdez to draft an intergovernmental agreement between the Conejos County Sherriff and the town. This agreement would allow the town to use the jail in exchange for office space, for a substation at the police department at no cost. The agreement would only be binding with the current sheriff. Trustee Gallegos stated that she did not agree.

Attorney Valdez stated that he will not accept calls from the town board regarding town business. He would rather they go through the town manager or mayor. He stated that the only persons that he will accept calls from are the town manager and the mayor.

Resolution 2015-4, a resolution setting the hearing date and time for the annexation of the property owned by Paul Faucete.

#### **Resolution 2015-4:**

Trustee Salazar moved, Mayor pro tem Medina seconded.

#### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

#### **Intergovernmental Arrangement:**

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved, and Trustee Cummings seconded.

#### **Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Valdez, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Cummings, Mayor Zaragoza, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: Trustee Gallegos

Motion carried.

**Attorneys Report:**

Trustee Valdez Moved and Trustee Gallegos seconded.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

**Town Board of Trustees Comments**

**Trustee Valdez:** Nothing to report.

**Trustee Salazar:** Suggested developing a scholarship program. He prepared a proposal hand out explaining who would be eligible, and the requirements. He suggested five scholarships a year in the amount of \$500.00 each. Chief Martinez stated that he has had three individuals ask about a scholarship for criminal justice. Trustee Salazar stated that the idea is to create a positive attitude on municipalities. Mayor Zaragoza stated that the scholarship is voluntary from the trustees, and the money will come from the trustees and not the town. Trustee Salazar stated that he put the proposal together for information only, and he is encouraging the trustees to look it over and form questions.

**Mayor Zaragoza:** Gave maintenance department kudos on all their hard work with the snow removal. Mayor Zaragoza and Town Manager Koenig expressed that they feel good about everything the board is doing. Great Job!

They also welcomed a new member of the team, Assistant Clerk Krista LaBlanc.

**Mayor Pro tem Medina:** Stated that the planning commission had their first meeting. The next meeting will be on March 30<sup>th</sup>. She also talked about the Rural Philanthropy "listening tour". The town of La Jara will be hosting this event at the Northerner's Senior Center on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She asked about painting the parking space lines on Main Street.

**Trustee Cummings:** Had a question regarding the annexation, he was concerned about the railroad. He also wanted more information on the solar proposal. He wanted to know about how Antonito will set up their own solar project. Trustee Salazar explained the possibility of giving incentives for solar panels. He stated that we should talk to Antonito, and see what they are planning for.

**Trustee Gallegos:** Asked about Attorney Valdez responding to calls from trustees. She also asked about possible billing issues regarding the new rate increase, and expressed her concerns.

**New Business**

**Resolution 2015-2 Water and Sewer Rate Increase adoption:**

Trustee Salazar moved, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: Trustee Gallegos

Motion carried.

Trustee Gallegos left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

**Northerner's Senior Center Lease Agreement:** Mayor Zaragoza stated that the Northerner's Senior Center lease agreement is up on April, 15 2015. He stated that the rental cost be increased, and that it be extended to citizens that reside out of city limits for special events. He would like to raise the lease fees to \$50.00 plus a deposit, this would help generate revenue. The board discussed that if the center is being used for a profit event, the center should be paid a flat fee of \$10.00 by the vendor. Attorney Valdez stated that the lease should be set for one year.

**Resolution 2015-3 Budget Amendment:**

Mayor Zaragoza introduced Resolution 2015-3. Town Manager Koenig stated that this resolution is needed for book keeping clean up, in order to balance the books for 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved, and Trustee Cummings seconded.

**Vote Results:**

Ayes: Trustee Cummings, Trustee Salazar, Trustee Valdez, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

  
Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta



  
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem