

DRAFT

**Arriba Town Hall
711 Front Street
Arriba CO 80804**

**TOWN OF ARRIBA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC HEARING
for proposed amendments to the 2016 Budget
Monday, March 14, 2016**

Call to Order

Mayor Pro-tem Troy McCue called the hearing to order at 8:02.

Board of Trustees in attendance were: Karen Kovar, Jody Schiffers, and Marcella Flores. Mayor Alex Flores was absent.

Public Audience included: Larry Kitzel, Gerald & Carolyn Steinsiek, Jerry Norris, Vicki Wells, Jay Spurling, Michael Shirley, Tom Rush, Rod Child, Tim Litzenberger, Tami? Lindsey Michal, Leigh Anna Andersen, Jon Hart, Ed E Shiffers, Marilyn Lightsey, Marian Louise Skipper and Jeff Fike.

Discussion Mayor Pro-tem McCue explained that the Town had adopted the 2015 Budget appropriated at 90%. These amendments would bring the budget to where it needs to be for 2016 expenditures.

Clerk Hart explained that the proposed budget showed \$1500 being budgeted for municipal attorney, but the Town has already spent around \$7,000 in attorney fees for 2016.

Clerk Hart said that the proposed budget shows \$400 being budgeted for municipal judge, depending on who the Town appoints as municipal judge the Town might need to pay them as high as \$450 per Municipal Court session. This was based on what the Town of Hugo pays their municipal judge.

Clerk Hart said that the JUBS software will need to be upgraded this year and that will cost around \$3000. She said that this was included in the proposed budget under office expenditures.

Jeff Fike asked why \$1500 was budgeted for LCEDC when that money could go towards the Town's roads. He asked what is Arriba getting from LCEDC?

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that he had a report that he gives the County Commissioners that outlines what he's been working on and what's been going on community by community. He said one of the bigger things that they are focusing on is a Strategic Comprehension Plan for the entire county now that Limon has completed their plan. He said they would like to see what they could do to impact communities that lie outside of Limon. He said he's been talking to Department of Local Affairs about sitting down with Arriba, Genoa, Hugo and even Karval, and lay out goals for the next 5-10 years. He said that this will help for when they go to apply for grants- Strategic Plans are starting to become required for funding.

Jeff Fike asked if Arriba has a Strategic Plan.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said no, we don't currently but it is very, very needed. He said that Limon spent 14 months and \$70,000 dollars on their Strategic Comprehension Plan.

Jeff Fike said that the most exciting thing right now for Limon is the Taco Bell that is coming. He said they've got a lot of things coming with I-70 access as do we, with the truck stop, but it generates us nothing, can you answer that?

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that conversation has come up a lot to impose a sales tax and so far there hasn't been enough consensus to get that off the ground.

Trustee Schifferns asked why the Senior Citizen program was down to \$908 for 2016. Clerk Hart explained that was the income portion that is reimbursed from the Arriba Senior Circle. She said that in 2013 the Arriba Senior group did not reimburse the Town so in 2014 they reimbursed the Town for 2 years which is why it is higher in 2014. The 2016 amount is the normal reimbursement amount.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue explained that the Arriba Senior Circle is the senior meals on wheels program and the senior dinner that is held at the park building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He said that it is sponsored in part through the East Central Council of Local Governments which the Town pays dues for.

Jeff Fike said that salary for clerk and treasurer were on the first page. He asked what that was as opposed to when you get into the water fund.

Mayor Pro tem McCue said that staff salaries are allocated out- the clerk and the maintenance man- they are allocated out at 30% water fund, 30% general fund and 40% sewer fund.

Jeff Fike said the question was does the treasurer get paid out of the \$7,272.00 from the general fund? How much- who gets what?

Trustee Schifferns said that the treasurer gets \$75 a month, she said that she was not the treasurer, Pam Koehn is the treasurer. Trustee Schifferns explained that she is just the messenger, she brings the reconciled bank statements that Pam Koehn has looked over to the meetings.

Jeff Fike asked where is the treasurer's report. Trustee Schifferns said it was in the envelope- Pam Koehn goes over the reconciled accounts and gives them to her to bring to the meeting.

Jeff Fike asked if after the treasurer pay was the remaining difference off of the clerks pay. He asked what the miscellaneous expenses was. He asked if that was what Paula Figurelli was paid out of to take water samples up to Denver.

Clerk Hart said that miscellaneous expenses was advertising, and where reimbursements come out of.

Jeff Fike asked why roads were only budgeted at \$1000. He said the roads were terrible, and there's \$3500 in miscellaneous, and our roads really need some attention.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that road allocations have historically come from the Road and Bridge money that comes from the county. The \$1000 is for street signs. He said that over the years the Town has built up the Road & Bridge fund. He said that almost 15 years ago the Town spent almost all of the Road & Bridge fund on the repaving of 2 blocks over on Main Street so now its building over time so that the Town can do something.

Jeff Fike asked what exactly the Conservation Trust Fund was- what's it come from, what's it for?

Mayor Pro-tem McCue explained Conservation Trust Fund comes from the Colorado Lottery, it is Arriba's allocation from the lottery funds that goes specifically for the Town's park. Lottery dollars are designated for parks and recreation. Arriba's is determined on a per capita fee. The Town roughly gets \$1800 a year from lottery money.

Jeff Fike asked if that allocation was enough to take care of the park- keep the bathrooms clean.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that that money is used for spraying the grass, keeping the dandelions in control, specific repairs to park equipment and the park building- everything within the park square.

Jeff Fike asked what was budgeted to spend on the roads this year.

Mayor Pro tem McCue said that there was \$2000 budgeted for roads in the Road & Bridge fund, this could be for running the road grader and the snow plow. He said that what the Town has done historically has been to build the Road and Bridge fund to where the Town can use that as a match for funds or grants, unfortunately getting grants for roads is nearly impossible.

Jeff Fike said that Flagler's Town Clerk was able to get a \$400,000 grant for their Town Hall, because it was the old hospital. He said the Town needs an audit to get grants. He said that the Town really needs to have an audit done.

Mayor Pro tem McCue said that the Board had voted to have an Exemption from Audit done for 2015. He explained that around 2010 the Town had an Audit done 3 years in a row when the water infrastructure project was put in.

Clerk Hart said that the Auditor said that there is no time limit for when Audits needs to be done, that it goes by what the budget amount is, how much money the Town has coming in.

Jeff Fike said that everybody in Town would feel better if the Town had an Audit done, especially with new Board members coming in.

Vicki Wells asked if the Town does not get audited does that mean that the Town wouldn't qualify for grants.

Mayor Pro tem McCue said that as far as he knows the Town would not be disqualified. He explained that when the Town got the grant for the water project they let the Town know very specifically what the time line would be for needing an Audit. He said that it is a \$5000 difference from an Exemption from Audit and a full blown Audit. He said that an Exemption from Audit still requires a lot of reporting just does not go into the depth as a full Audit does.

Jeff Fike asked where all the legal fees they everybody's been hearing about show up in the budget. He asked where does the money come from to pay for them.

Clerk Hart said that they were not in the budget yet, and that the Board would have to figure out tonight where the money would come from to pay them.

He asked how much had been spent on legal fees so far.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that the Town has spent \$7,000 since January 1st.

Jeff Fike asked how much was spent in 2015 on legal fees.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that in 2015 the Town spent \$1200.

Trustee Schiffers commented that in 2014 the Town spent \$359 on legal fees.

Jeff Fike asked when did the Board authorize \$7000 to be spent on legal fees.

Jon Hart said that it was his understanding that the normal attorney got very sick and it was very costly to get a new attorney up to speed on everything.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that was correct, designated Town Attorney Stan Kimble was hospitalized for several days, and he signed off on the Town of Arriba. Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that Stan Kimble has since returned to service but has not agreed to pick up the Town of Arriba.

Jeff Fike said that the question was not that, the question was in what meeting was \$7000 authorized to be spent on attorney fees by the Board.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that he would have go back and look in the minutes.

Trustee Schiffers said that it hasn't been just one meeting.

Jeff Fike said that it hasn't happened, unless there was an executive session where a decisions was made.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that an executive session was held to receive legal advice.

Trustee Schiffers explained that every month the Board approves unpaid bills, if there is a bill from the lawyer, or like this month Paula Figurelli's reimbursement of \$143.75, the Board votes whether they are going to pay them or not, the same things happens with the lawyer.

Jeff Fike asked if that was under the miscellaneous line item.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue explained that as they work their way through every Board meeting there is a two-step process, one of them is to approve accounts receivable and accounts payable, which is what's transpired and what's been paid. He said then we take up the next month's bills, as Trustee Schiffers indicated, the next month's bills are approved, he said that if those bills are exceeding the line item on the Budget that does not invalidate the authorization, it's just how the Board goes about approving the process.

Vicki Wells asked in January and February what bills were approved to add up to \$7000 in legal fees.

Mayor Pro tem McCue explained that there was some substantial bills turned in from Corey Hoffmann.

Clerk Hart said that there was a bill from Corey Hoffmann in January for around \$1500, and a bill from him in February for around \$5000.

Mayor Pro Tem McCue said this month there was a bill from Corey Hoffmann for \$1188. He said that Corey Hoffmann charges \$165 per hour.

Jeff Fike asked what that money was spent on, wasn't it in fact spent to challenge the "people's ordinance".

Mayor Pro-tem McCue said that wasn't true.

Mayor Pro-tem McCue adjourned the Public Hearing at 8:30.

Submitted by: Josie Hart

Signed by:

Approved by the Board on:

Town of Arriba
Public Hearing
and
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016
8:00pm

March 14, 2016
JH

Sign In Sheet

Serald & Carolyn Stausuit
Jerry Norris
Jim
Lindsay Michal
Kerigh Anna Andersen
~~North Star~~
Ed. Stiffman
Jay Spurling
Larry Fitzell
Marilyn Taylor
C. Lutz