



## IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM by reading the Zoom etiquette, followed by a moment of silence, a moment of gratitude, and a reflection of hope.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Mayor Stella Cox, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Edward Box III (joined the meeting at 7:00 PM), Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Dixie Melton

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Nancy Dosedall from SEH, Sandhya Tillotson from Sagebrush Consulting

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gina Schulz, 335 ½ Shoshone, wanted the Board to know that over 400 families were served food by Middle and High School students over the Christmas break; she hoped there would be an acknowledgement and expression of appreciation by the Board for these students. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have a thank-you note written to each student and a pizza party using the local pizza restaurant in Ignacio.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2020
- B. Financial Records – December Check Register and Budget to Actual Reports

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

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. SEH Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

Ms. Dosedall explained that there are now cost estimates for the conceptual plans; these cost estimates are for the infrastructure, but do not include tap fees or the cost of construction. The next step is to look for funding options and grant opportunities for affordable housing on this site. Mr. Garcia stated that he and Emily Meisner, Executive Director of the La Plata Economic Development Alliance, have been in communication with a developer that is interested in this project. It still needs to be determined if these units would be for sale, for rent, or a combination of the two. Ms. Dosedall stated that the cost, prior to construction and including the tap fees, is starting at \$60,000 per unit. Mr. Garcia stated there may be grant funding available to assist with the cost of the infrastructure; 60% of the units need to be affordable housing, and this would assist with grant options. Jeremy Schulz commented that the current need in La Plata County is for high-density, low-rent housing. Ms. Dosedall reiterated that the next steps are to

look at all the grant options, look at potential partnerships, and look at how a developer can help bring some much-needed new and high-quality housing to the Town. Ms. Meisner asked what the appetite of the Board is for pursuing grant funding to make the proposed housing affordable to both the developer and the purchasers/renters. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with finding grant options and talking with developers. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation to Ms. Meisner and Ms. Dosedall. Mayor Cox moved to the Broadband Plan Update.

**B. Broadband Plan Update and Grant Discussion**

Mr. Garcia stated that the grant should be submitted by the deadline of Friday, Jan 15, and that there are RFQ's out to multiple providers in the area to work on this project. Staff is working on getting support letters for the grant from the School District, the Tribe, and other entities in the area. The Tribe is working on line redundancy between 318 and 550. Three large providers have expressed interest and discussions will be forthcoming regarding level of ownership between the selected provider and the Town.

**C. Board Strategic Planning Update**

Sandhya reviewed the introduction to the Strategic Plan, the purpose of the Plan, and the first three strategies of the Plan. She also reviewed the process to date, and requested a work session with the Board to finalize the mission and vision statements. By consensus, this Work Session was scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, at 5:30 PM. The hope is to have a finalized document to the Board by the 25<sup>th</sup> of January so they have time to review prior to the work session; based on the input from the work session, Sandhya will have a final document to the Board for the next Regular Board Meeting on February 8.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution 01-2021 – Designation of Meeting Posting Locations for 2021**

Ms. Dunton explained this is an annual resolution and is identical to last year, taking into consideration those citizens who do not have access to the internet, and including the same physical posting locations as in previous years.

**Action:** Trustee Craig moved to approve Resolution 01-2021; Trustee Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Resolution 02-2021 – E911 Surcharge for 2021**

Chief Phillips stated that, although the 911 Board could raise the surcharge if necessary, they voted unanimously to leave the rate at \$1.30 as it was last year.

**Action:** Trustee Melton moved to approve Resolution 02-2021; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. COVID-19 Update**

Corona Virus Relief Funds deadline for reimbursement requests was extended to December 31, 2021. There are funds available for utility relief for both citizens and businesses.

Ignacio will host a "POD" (Point of Distribution) for the COVID-19 vaccination; this effort is being spearheaded by Dixie Melton and staff is supporting this effort.

Trustee Craig commented that, as a landlord, she and others are experiencing a high number of tenants that are leaving town with \$700-\$1,000 in utilities still owed to the Town. It is difficult on the landlords and, although they have encouraged the tenants to contact the Town for assistance, they do not follow through with that. She wanted to let the Board know about this on behalf of herself and the other landlords in Town. Mayor Cox asked if there were funds available to help the landlords as well. Mr. Garcia stated that he and Ms. Dunton would reach out to the various landlords and work with them to assist them through this difficult time.

## **VII. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Police Department**

Chief stated that he did not have anything to add to his written report and welcomed any questions from the Board. Mayor Pro Tem deKay commented on the 250+ Zoom meetings that Chief has attended, and expressed appreciation for his commitment and involvement in them.

### **B. Public Works**

Mr. Roukema referenced his written report and welcomed any questions.

He stated that the department is still in the process of fine-tuning the new water meters; the guys are working on the equipment that is used during the summer, preparing it for next season. The bucket truck is still not repaired; considering purchasing a new one.

Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for the potholes on Goddard being fixed.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay expressed condolences on behalf of the Board for Shane's loss of his father.

### **C. Town Clerk/Treasurer**

Ms. Dunton stated that she is looking forward to being able to provide email billing for those residents who desire it. The new rates, which are simply passing on the Tribe's rate increases, are reflected in the 2021 Utility Rate Sheet that was included in the packet; these rates were also in the newsletter.

The website will transition to the new platform on January 13. Ms. Dunton was able to download everything from the old website, but has not yet completed the process of uploading it to the new platform.

The State Liquor Enforcement Division is waiving licensing fees to most liquor-licensed establishments for renewal applications that are due between December 7, 2020 and December 7, 2021. Other communities are following suit and, if the Board so desires, Ms. Dunton will add this as an agenda item to the February Board Meeting for discussion and possible action. Mayor asked if Ms. Dunton had a recommendation; Ms. Dunton stated that, if the Board would like to consider waiving fees, that they follow the same guidelines as the State. The Board expressed the desire to have it as an action item on the next meeting agenda.

At the last meeting the Board requested that Ms. Dunton check about the possibility of putting the recording of the meetings onto the website and also find out what other communities do about their recordings. She reported that it is possible to put a link on

the website to the cloud recording and her recommendation was that the recordings be made available for the same amount of time on the website as the agendas, packets, and minutes, which is currently three years. The Board concurred.

Ms. Dunton stated that the joint work sessions with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners are scheduled for March 11, May 13 and November 11 at 6:00 PM; the link for those meetings will be provided by the Commissioners' Office. She will work with Carly DeLong to come up with an agenda based on what the Board and Commissioners would like to discuss.

**D. Town Manager**

Mr. Garcia reviewed the 5-Star Program for restaurants.

The Planning Commission will resume meetings on Wednesday, January 13, and will meet monthly moving forward. They will pick up where they left off last March with the Land Use Code update and hope to have a final version to submit to the Board for review and action in the very near future. Bill Baird's term has expired and he has chosen to not renew his term; the Planning Commission is now down to three members. Mr. Garcia's recommendation is that the Planning Commission remain at those three members until such time as the Land Use Code is brought to the Board; there are recommendations for changes in the make-up of the Planning Commission in the draft Land Use Code.

Becker/Goddard Intersection Project is close to going to bid; once a contractor is selected, that will give us the final cost estimates for that project.

Staff evaluations should be completed by the February meeting.

Raw water easement research is continuing; the question has come up whether or not the easement was a 50-year term or if it was intended to continue into perpetuity. Mr. Garcia will report back to the Board once this research is completed, and seek direction on how to continue with the Tribe.

**E. Town Attorney**

Assisting Mr. Garcia with requirements for submitting grants; passing along information from the Attorney's ListServe.

**VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Craig stated that the La Plata Economic Alliance Investor's Meeting is always the second Tuesday morning of the month as 8:00 AM. She would be happy to send a link to anyone who wants to attend. CML is having a meeting with the governor's office on Thursday regarding the new Dial for COVID-19. Allocation of funds from the master opioid suit settlement should be filtering down over the next few months. Creative District is having a logo contest, and they are looking for artists, business people, and people with a marketing background to serve on the committee for the selection of the finalists.

Trustee Box III has been a part of Tracks Across Borders (TAB), which is a historical society that is tracking where the train used to run. Since Ignacio used to have a depot, the Board of TAB is asking if the Town would like to appoint a representative to the Board. SoCoCAA will approach the Town about establishing a permanent location on Goddard.

Mayor Cox stated that Mel Baker is now the Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe, and the two new councilmembers are Linda K. Baker and Dr. Stacey Oberley. Mike Olguin has been appointed as the Executive Officer for the Permanent Fund. The Town will now meeting quarterly with the Tribal Chairman. Steve McCoy of the School District passed away recently.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.

Stella Cox

**Stella Cox, Mayor**

Feb. 8, 2021

**Date**

Tuggy Dunton

**Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk**