



MEETING MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

- I. **CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. She gave the zoom etiquette information, and observed a moment of silence and a moment of gratitude.
- II. **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED TOWN BOARD MEMBERS**
Ms. Dunton, Town Clerk/Treasurer, swore in Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Alison deKay, and Trustee Sandra Maez.
- III. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Mayor Stella Cox, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Dixie Melton
Absent: Trustee Tom Atencio
Guests: Chris May, Clark Craig, Lisa Weber, unidentified caller, Chairman Sage, Sandhya Tillotson joined at 7:23 PM.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA (items were originally on the March 16th meeting agenda)**
 - A. Special Town Board Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2020
 - B. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2020
Mayor Cox called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26 Special Meeting and the April 6 Regular Meeting.
Action: Trustee Box III moved to approve the minutes as written; Trustee deKay seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed with Trustee Melton abstaining due to not being present at either meeting.
 - C. Financial Records – Check Register for March 2020
Mayor Cox called for a motion to approve the financial records.
Action: Trustee Craig moved to approve the financial records; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.
 - D. TP Lounge Liquor License Renewal
Action: Trustee Box III moved to approve the TP Liquor License Renewal; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; it passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution 07-2020 COLOTRUST Investment Authorization

Mr. Garcia gave a background on this, stating that it authorizes the Town to begin investing with ColoTrust. The Town has participated with ColoTrust in the past. There will not be any monies transferred at this time; this would simply authorize the transfers in the future.

Action: Trustee Craig moved to pass Resolution 07-2020; Trustee Box III seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Organizational Assessment and Retreat Proposal Review and Discussion

Last Fall during the budget preparation meetings, the Board requested that a retreat be scheduled for this Summer for strategic planning. Mr. Garcia heard of Sandhya Tillotson through her work with the ELHI Board and was impressed with the questions she asked the connections she has in our community. Staff recommendation is to approve the entire proposal; the Board can determine if they want to complete Phase 2 later in the process. There is currently \$5,000 approved in the budget for this process.

Mr. Garcia recommended that the Town conduct a citizen survey; our last one was done in 2008. The three priorities from 2008 were Downtown Revitalization, Renewal Energy, and Traffic Control. Mr. Garcia thought there might be other communities who would want to do citizen surveys as well, and he reached out to Region 9 to see if they would be willing to spearhead the survey efforts. Laura Lewis-Marchino, Exec. Dir. of Region 9, expressed a willingness to work with the Town on this.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of these two projects. During this discussion, Sandhya came onto the Zoom meeting. She greeted everyone and introduced herself, stating that she is flexible with her timeline. Trustee deKay mentioned the two concerns that had been expressed: timing and spending money at this time. Sandhya stated that she understood both those concerns; she also said that as far as the timing, this could be the perfect time because people's priorities have been realigned and it is an opportunity to show the community that the Board is being proactive. The consensus of the Board was to table this item to the next meeting. Trustee deKay requested that an outline of topics and/or proposed questions be sent to them prior to the next meeting. Mr. Garcia stated that he will work with Sandhya on this.

B. Utility Payment and Fee Discussion

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the decision was to waive late fees for the March billing. Mr. Garcia stated that the SUIT Utilities Division is waiving late fees to their customers. For the most part, our customers are paying their bills in a timely manner; there are a few that struggling due to this crisis. Per the Governor's Executive Order, there will be no shut-offs during this crisis. Mayor Cox stated that she thinks it would be good to temporarily suspend late fees at least until May. Mr. Garcia suggested that, instead of bringing this back to the Board each month, the Board direct staff to waive late fees until the Disaster Declaration is lifted. Mayor Cox mentioned 211Colorado.org as a resource for our citizens; this will be added to the newsletter. The consensus of the Board was to waive late fees until the Emergency Declaration is lifted.

Mr. Garcia stated that some communities are also waiving the base charges for their customers during this time; that may be something for the Board to consider. Also, if the Board desires to allow for payment plans on utilities, there would need to be criteria in place for determining what constitutes a hardship that would allow for someone to request a payment plan.

C. COVID-19 Update

This item will be on the agenda so that updates can be given on a regular basis from the webinars and conference calls that various staff are attending.

Safer-At-Home Order will take effect on April 27; once this is received, it will be updated on the website and Facebook.

Due to social distancing measures, the curve has flattened on new cases. If there is a spike in new cases as a result of the loosening of the restrictions, this is something that may need to be addressed again in the future. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation for all those who are working in businesses, first responders, etc.

At the May 4 Meeting, after the Governor's orders come out, Mr. Garcia will discuss office procedures with the Board.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton congratulated each elected official and expressed appreciation to each person who assisted her during the election.

The Joint Work Session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners will take place via Remote Meeting; the information will be sent to the trustees and posted per policy.

Porky's Smokehouse Liquor License Public Hearing is scheduled for May 4.

B. Police Chief

A few complaints about compliance with Governor's orders; the businesses are not getting updated in a timely manner. Once the IPD informs the business owner or manager, they come into compliance.

No IPD officers have been exposed to or are symptomatic of having COVID.

PPE is holding up well; the manufacturer of the body cameras will ship hand sanitizer and masks.

Updates on grant work will be given at the May 4 meeting.

C. Public Works Director

Mr. Howlett was not at the meeting due to having a sick child. Mr. Garcia gave a brief overview of Mr. Howlett's report. Spring Clean Up has been postponed until further notice.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia mentioned that the staff is staggered in the office. Dee and Tuggy have been focused on the audit; all of the work is done remotely. This is the first audit for both Dee and Tuggy and Mr. Garcia commended them for the work they are doing.

Planning Commission has not been meeting lately. Mr. Garcia hopes to get the draft Land Use Code completed and to the Board in a timely manner.

Entry sign work needs to be completed (rock work and interior lighting).

Becker/Goddard intersection work is on-going; Mayor has signed the IGA with the state. Mr. Garcia would like to schedule a joint work session with the School Board to draft an IGA with them regarding the cost-sharing of this work.

Broadband Planning Grant – proposal received from Neo-Connect and Mr. Garcia will submit a Grant Proposal to DOLA. The intent is to have a broadband plan for the entire Town; hoping DOLA will turn the grant around quickly.

Rock Creek Development Planning Grant – waiting on a proposal from SHE; hopes to have this from them soon and will submit the grant proposal to DOLA.

E. Town Attorney

Mr. Liberman congratulated each of the elected officials.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mr. Garcia commented that our current municipal code does not address the election of the Mayor Pro Tem; when the code is updated, we will ensure that it is in alignment with State Statute. Mayor requested that this be put on the agenda for the May 4 meeting.

Mayor welcomed Trustee Melton back to the meetings.

Trustee Craig stated that, if she decides to run for the CML Executive Board again, she will need a letter of support from the Board.

Trustee Melton expressed appreciation for the support of the Board and staff during the past few months as she has cared for her daughter and in her daughter's passing. The Board expressed continued support.

Trustee deKay stated that the official notice has been given that in-person school will not be back in session until the Fall; school will continue via remote teaching per the usual schedule for the remainder of the year.

Mayor Cox mentioned that the school will be hanging banners to commemorate the seniors who will not have a commencement ceremony this year.

Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for Chairman Sage's presence at the meeting as well as the Tribe's involvement during elections and the COVID-19 crisis. Mayor Cox asked if Chairman Sage had any comment. Chairman Sage expressed appreciation for being invited to the meeting and the communication that is currently happening between the Town and Tribe. She congratulated the elected officials and stated that she would like to see what goals the Board selects as priorities. She stated that she has heard that some Ignacio residents would like a video from the Mayor and/or Board members, addressing the COVID-19 issues; she stated that the Tribe is willing to assist in the creation of this video. She expressed appreciation again for being a part of this meeting.

Mayor Cox encouraged everyone to complete their Census online.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Action: Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox called for a motion to adjourn. Trustee deKay moved to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Box III seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.

Stella Cox
Stella Cox, Mayor

May 4, 2020
Date

Tuggy Dunton
Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk