



MEETING MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD

Monday, May 4, 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, Moment of Gratitude, and Reflection of Hope.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stella Cox, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent:

Guests: Dayson Goetz from Porky's Smokehouse (he left the meeting at 7:21 PM), Chris May, Clark Craig, Mandy Brown, Shannon Mullane, James Brown, Jeremy Schulz, Gina Schulz, unidentified caller

III. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM: C.R.S. 31-4-303

Mr. Garcia stated that, per State Statute, the Mayor Pro Tem is to be elected by the Board from among its members at the first meeting following each regular municipal election. Trustee Craig nominated Trustee deKay as Mayor Pro Tem. Trustee Melton seconded the nomination. Trustee deKay stated she would accept the nomination and expressed appreciation for the confidence from the Board. There were no other nominations. Attorney Liberman stated that the duties of the Mayor Pro Tem are to fill in when the Mayor is absent; the Mayor Pro Tem votes on every item that the Board takes action on.

Action: Trustee Craig nominated Trustee deKay as Mayor Pro Tem. Trustee Melton seconded the nomination. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; Trustee deKay recused herself; the motion passed with six votes in favor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeremy Schulz, 335 ½ Shoshone asked about the dates of possible reopening of Town Hall. Mr. Garcia stated that this will be addressed during the agenda under the COVID-19 update.

James Brown, 510 Arboles, asked what steps the Town is taking to cease spending to not lose staff in the future; he specifically asked if the Town is moving forward with the Becker/Goddard intersection that will cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 dollars. Mayor Cox asked Mr. Garcia to respond. Mr. Garcia stated he will address this during his staff report.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Organizational Assessment and Retreat Proposal Review and Discussion

Mr. Garcia stated that the questions were forwarded per the Board's request; he stated that at the last meeting this was tabled to this meeting for discussion and action. Comments were made regarding the timing and cost of this event. Trustee Melton asked if the Phases can be approved separately rather than approving the entire expense at one time. Mr. Garcia stated that each Phase can be approved separately. He stated that this expense is already in the budget and that approving the entire

project does not mean that we are obliged to complete Phase 2; it simply prevents the need to bring this back to the Board for a second vote later in time.

Action: Trustee Melton moved to approve Phase 1 of the Organizational Assessment; Trustee Atencio seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reappointment of Officers: C.R.S. 31-4-304 & C.R.S. 13-10-105

Mayor asked if any of the officers would like to say anything prior to action being taken. Each one stated they would be happy to continue serving in their current role.

1. Clerk/Treasurer – Tuggy Dunton

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to reappoint Tuggy Dunton as the Clerk/Treasurer; Trustee Edward Box III seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; Trustee Craig recused herself due to a conflict of interest; the motion passed with six votes in favor.

2. Chief of Police – Kirk Phillips

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to reappoint Chief of Police, Kirk Phillips; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Attorney – David Liberman

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to reappoint the Town Attorney, David Liberman; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Hearing on Porky's Smokehouse Liquor License Application

Mayor Cox opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM. She asked if a representative from Porky's was present. Mr. Dayson Goetz introduced himself and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be present. Mayor Cox asked what Mr. Goetz intends to sell; he responded that he will sell beer and wine and hopes to serve Margaritas. He stated his focus is Barbecue and he is simply responding to requests from customers for beer with their barbecue. He stated this is not a bar; alcohol service is not his focus. There were no questions for Mr. Goetz.

Trustee Atencio asked if there had been any complaints about the distance from the school. Chief Phillips stated there had been no complaints and, as a previously licensed establishment it is clearly within the range where it can be approved.

Gina Schulz, 335 ½ Shoshone, asked if Mr. Goetz plans to serve alcohol to go during the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Goetz stated that he needs to research that further; he wanted to begin with the license application before making any further decisions. At this point it is not his intent. Ms. Schulz commented that Margarita slushies to go would be great with barbecue. She asked if the Town is the one who governs this or if it is in place by the current executive order. Mr. Liberman stated he did not know that this is addressed in the Town's Municipal Code or not; however, as a statutory town we fall under the jurisdiction of the executive orders currently in place.

There were no other comments or questions. Mayor Cox closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to approve the liquor license application for Porky's Smokehouse. Trustee Box seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

C. COVID-19 Update – San Juan Basin Health Department Safer At Home Public Health Order

San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) Department has adopted more stringent policies than the Governor's Executive Order; they chose to do this based on what is happening in San Juan County (there is currently a high rate of new cases each day) and not wanting to open up to visitors from that area that may cause the rate in our area to spike. In the emergency declaration that the Board approved (Resolution 07-2020), the statement was that we would follow the Public Health Orders from SJBPH. Some businesses are able to open on Friday, May 8, provided they have completed their safety plan and the self-certification process that SJBPH has outlined. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has elected to stay under a Stay At Home Order indefinitely rather than transition to Safer At Home.

The Emergency Operations Center will be distributing PPE to local agencies so they can get them to the businesses; Chief Phillips will be heading this up for the Town of Ignacio. This information will be included in our newsletter this month.

Mr. Schulz asked if there is a plan to do some type of soft start or restricted hours in opening Town Hall to the Public for in-person services such as building permits.

Mr. Garcia stated that he will address that question in a moment; he wanted to ensure that the Board's questions regarding the Safer At Home Order were answered. Currently the suggested date is to open on May 8; that may change if there is a spike in new cases.

Ms. Schulz asked if the Safer At Home Order means that Town Hall will resume operations, at least in some capacity, on May 8. Mr. Garcia stated that he has not attempted to answer that question yet.

Trustee Atencio asked what businesses in Town would be affected by the SJBPH Order that allows them to open on May 8. Mr. Garcia stated that any business that provides personal services (salon, barber shop, retail stores, and flower shop); restaurants are not able to open yet.

Mr. Garcia's suggestion is that Town Hall stay under the current Town Hall closure until Memorial Day weekend is past. All services are still continuing; communication is happening via email and phone calls regarding building permits, utilities, etc. It would be safe and prudent to maintain in the current pattern for a couple more weeks. Questions were asked about appointments at the office and the possibility of the phones being answered in person. Mr. Garcia stated that can be discussed among staff.

Ms. Schulz asked if the Town has considered closing its borders to visitors from the South; Mr. Garcia stated that has not been discussed yet. If things dramatically worsen, that could be a conversation with the various municipalities and SJBPH. Trustee Box stated that the Tribe did not close its border due to the State Hwy and Town being

within the reservation boundaries; if things worsen to the South, those conversations would need to happen between the Tribe, the Town, and SJBPH.

The Board concurred with Mr. Garcia's suggestion that Town Hall remain with the current closure through Memorial Day Weekend; the office would possibly reopen on May 26. Mr. Garcia stated this will be looked at again at the May 18 Board Meeting.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Garcia stated that formal staff reports will be presented at the second meeting of each month; however, this item is on the agenda for specific things that come up between those meetings.

Spring Clean Up has been rescheduled to May 28-31; this will be in the newsletter.

There will be a fiscal impact to the Town from the COVID-19 crisis; sales tax will be impacted. Durango has projected a 30% reduction in sales tax and is furloughing staff on Fridays. Durango has about 21% of their annual general expenses in reserves; Bayfield has about 40%; Ignacio has 59%. A 30% reduction in county sales tax is about \$262,246; in town sales tax is about \$104,937 for a total reduction of \$367,183. The Town currently has just under 1 million in our account. We can weather this storm well. No staff has been furloughed; part-time staff have cut their hours; we have deferred the purchase of a new car. We should be fine for now. Will continue with the Becker/Goddard Intersection project because it is a capital improvement project; the funds are restricted and are already in place. CDOT's funds are also in place. Our share in that project is anything over \$528,000, which is what CDOT has pledged. We will work with ISD to cover the remaining cost of this project.

Trustee deKay asked if there are other department heads that will be deferring budgeted expenses like the car; Mr. Garcia said he would follow up with them.

Mr. Howlett stated that there are two sources of irrigation water – river and ditch that fills the pond. The river is too low and is not coming into the intake. Usually the river comes in first; this year the pond is about ¼ full and the river is not providing any water yet. BIA will get the ditch up to ¾ full by tomorrow at the latest. Discussion ensued regarding contacts for PRID and BIA, water rights, etc. Mr. Schulz stated that Ignacio is at the end of the line for irrigation water; the target date is the first week of May, so we are not too far off the target.

Mr. Garcia stated that he and Ms. Wesner (Finance Coordinator) are looking into options for banking and will bring that back to the next meeting. Ms. Wesner stated this research is an attempt to stop paying high banking fees and potentially earn interest on our balances.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Craig stated that she has decided to run for CML Executive Board again and asked if the Board would approve a letter of recommendation to go with her application. The Board concurred and expressed appreciation for Trustee Craig's representation of the Town.

Trustee Craig stated there is a new resource for assistance called Aid for All; she will forward information as it becomes available.

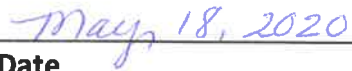
Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked about the LPBCC Joint Work Session on May 14 at 6:00 PM; an email invitation will be sent to all the Board members and to Tuggy so it can be noticed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT


Action: Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox called for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Maez moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Box III seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously by show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk