



## MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 8, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent: Trustee Sandra Maez

Guests:

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None. Mayor welcomed the attendees.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2021

B. Financial Records – January Check Register and Budget to Actual Reports

Action: Trustee Atencio moved to approve the consent agenda; Trustee Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

Mr. Garcia stated that, prior to moving to this agenda item, he would request that the agenda be changed so that the Executive Session be to discuss the Town Manager Position rather than simply to discuss personnel matters.

A couple of organizations have expressed interest in working with the Town on the Rock Creek Housing Project. Cost estimate for infrastructure is between 3.2 and 3.5 million dollars, but this cost does not include the plant investment / tap fees. We can obtain grant funding for infrastructure, usually at 50% match. At this point it would be a turn-key property; Mr. Garcia suggested that an option at that point is selling it to a developer at the 1.7 million that it would cost the Town to put in the infrastructure. Discussion ensued regarding some of the stipulations that might be included in the contract with the developer if the Board decides to go this route. Discussion ensued regarding how the property was acquired, if it was solely Town money or if there was DOLA money involved in that. Mr. Garcia stated he would research that and get back to the Board on it. He stated that, as things move forward with the two interested developers, he may reach out to the Board to set up a work session.

B. Broadband Plan Update

High likelihood of grant funding. The Town needs to verify that we are not served by high speed internet. We have reached out to the SW Colorado Council of Governments (COG), Office of International Trade, the School District, and the Tribe to assist with speed tests. The Tribe is applying for a grant of their own for Broadband. After RFQ process, FastTracks was selected to be the lead on this; the grant will be in their name, and they are putting up the 25% match for the grant. Mr. Garcia stated that a work session should be scheduled to discuss a memorandum of understanding with FastTracks. The COG has one of the leading Broadband attorneys in the state, and with our membership in the COG we have access to that attorney. Mr. Garcia requested that he be able to write a letter that Mayor Cox would sign on behalf of the Board, stating that the Town of Ignacio supports FastTracks' efforts to extend fiber to the premises; the Board concurred. There is also information in the newsletter for how citizens can be involved is expressing support for this project. The grant board will meet in March so hopefully by April there will be a decision regarding the funding and our ability to move this project forward.

C. Board Strategic Planning Update

Draft now has the core values at the top of the document. Mayor Pro Tem deKay volunteered to work on pairing core values with each strategy; she has done this and it was submitted to the Board in their packet. Work will continue on this document and Mr. Garcia will bring another draft to the next Board Meeting. Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for Mayor Pro Tem deKay's work. Discussion ensued about tying in the Character Counts pillars as well.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Tracks Across Borders Byway Board Appointment – Edward Box III

This is a group that is focused on historical preservation of the old narrow gauge railroad that used to go through Ignacio. The Board is looking for a representative to highlight Ignacio. Mr. Box stated that this could bring tourism and economic growth in our Town.

**Action:** Trustee Atencio moved to appoint Edward Box III to represent the Town of Ignacio on the Tracks Across Borders Byway Board; Trustee Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 ayes and Trustee Box abstaining.

B. Liquor Fee Waivers for 2021

Ms. Dunton stated that the Liquor Enforcement Division is renewing liquor license renewal fees and numerous communities are following suit. The Board requested that this be put on the agenda for action at this meeting. If the Board wants to follow the same guidelines as the LED, there would be a total loss of anticipated revenue of \$300.00; if the Board waives the fees for all liquor license renewals, it would be a total loss of anticipated revenue of \$367.50.

**Action:** Trustee Melton moved to waive the renewal fees for 2021 for the bars and hotel/restaurants; Trustee Box seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COVID-19 Update

The Five-Star effort for restaurants is ongoing; The Rose Café is participating in this program. The State dial for active cases and other metrics is bringing the color down and business up. Clark Craig is the representative from the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce. CVRF reimbursements is ongoing; these funds are being used partly for utility billing assistance for customers and landlords both. Current spending is at about \$25,000 of the \$60,000 we were awarded. Trustee Melton has led the effort, with the support of Mayor Cox, to get a Greater Ignacio Point of Distribution Clinic and the Town has been approved to receive vaccines. There will be a clinic on Saturday at the Middle School. Trustee Melton stated that, after the Town has worked with the School District to set the location of the Clinic, the Tribe offered us the use of the Casino; she wanted to express appreciation for that offer.

## VII. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Police Department

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has opened their law enforcement assistance grant. The IPD needs new handheld radios and would like the Board's approval to seek funding through the DOJ grant.

**Action:** Trustee Craig moved to apply for the law enforcement assistance grant; Trustee Box seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief stated that he has been working with Dr. Fuschetto on a radio bridge for the schools and bus barn so that, in the event of an emergency, the school can tie into the police radios; the school is seeking grant funding for this.

### B. Public Works

So far have removed 225 cubic yards of snow from town streets.

Have been working on tree trimming and removal.

Historical lights had three bad ballasts that have now been fixed.

Bucket truck is now fixed.

Researching the cost of a hydrovac truck versus the contracting that we need to clear out storm drains and sewer systems.

One operator received his certifications for water; working on the rest of the staff for both sewer and water.

Addition on 75 Browning single family residence has been approved.

Trustee Atencio asked if there had been a noticeable change in water loss since the new meters have been put in. Mr. Roukema stated that he was hoping to have a three-four month window of comparison prior to reporting to the Board. Mr. Garcia stated he will have information for the Board soon.

Trustee Melton requested that the new bucket truck and/or hydrovac truck be added to the budget. Mr. Roukema stated that, in his opinion, the hydrovac is more pressing than the bucket truck. Mr. Garcia stated this is an expensive piece of equipment; he has approached Bayfield's Public Works Department about the possibility of cost sharing on this vehicle.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Utility billing rates have been updated in the system; answering questions as they come in. Email billing is now in place; so far about 20 people signed up. Savings in printing and postage and convenient for the customers.

Phone system replaced and transition now complete.

First joint work session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners is on March 11 at 6:00 PM; agenda will be sent and posted prior to that meeting.

CML sent a publication "Tips for Professionalism in Remote Public Meetings" which is included in the packet.

Thank-you note from Pine River Shares in packet.

D. Manager

No written report. In addition to prior items that have been covered in this meeting, the following are updates:

Becker/Goddard Intersection is out for bid through BidNet. Closes on February 17.

Town Hall repairs/improvements in the upstairs bathroom and changes in doors.

Evaluations with staff underway and should be completed by the end of the month.

Executive Session to discuss Town Manager Position; this discussion will be led by Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

New computers for Board Members are now available for you to pick up.

E. Attorney

Mr. Liberman stated that he has been attending Board Meetings and assisting Mark with regard to internet broadband grant.

Trustee Atencio asked about the progress on the raw water easement and jurisdictional agreement. Mr. Garcia stated that there have been changes in the Tribal Council make-up; he and Mayor Cox will meet with Chairman Baker next week and will meet every other month. Both of these items will be brought to the Board for ongoing discussion.

Trustee Box III commended Mr. Garcia and Mayor Cox for ongoing work in relationships with the Tribe.

**VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem deKay gave a report on the letters of appreciation and pizza party for the students who volunteered over the Christmas Holiday. She expressed appreciation to all those who helped in this effort. Mayor Cox also expressed appreciation.

Trustee Craig stated that the Policy Committee is gearing up for the new legislative session. There is a new Dial 2.0 and discussion has begun regarding a new Dial 3.0 that will be released in Spring or Summer.

Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for Trustee Craig attending the San Juan Basic Public Health policy group meetings.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Garcia stated that the Planning Commission has resumed their monthly meetings, beginning this coming Wednesday, February 10. They hope to have the draft Land Use Code submitted to the Board soon for joint work sessions for the purpose of review, amendments, and adoption. Mr. Atencio asked about having more than two Board Members at the PC Meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Liberman stated that if the meeting is noticed and minutes are taken, it falls under the Open Meeting Law; he also recommended recording the meeting, which is standard operating procedure.

- X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** For discussion of the Town Manager position under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) and NOT involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees.

**Action:** Trustee Craig moved to adjourn this meeting and move into executive session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of the Town Manager position; Mr. Liberman clarified that this falls under the personnel exception for open meetings. Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.

Stella Cox

Stella Cox, Mayor

March 8, 2021

Date

Tuggy Dunton

Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk