



MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 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 Sandra Maez, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent:

Guests:

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2021

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

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

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

Discussion with a couple of developers: interest with one, but possibly do not have the financial means to follow through; questions from the second one that Mr. Garcia has answered, but no response yet.

Cost estimates for infrastructure come in at about 3.4 million; the Town may be able to obtain grant funding for half of this cost. One option is to sell the property to a developer for the Town's cost (1.7 million) and they would have a turn-key property; this would be well within the market for La Plata County. Because we do not currently have a developer, the Town may need to consider working with a lender on the 1.7 million that would not be funded through grants; we could repay that loan when the property does sell, whether as a whole or in phases. This project falls in line with the Strategic Plan that will be discussed later in the agenda. Another option would be to put out an RFP for this project to see if there are other interested developers. Mr. Garcia suggested scheduling a work session to discuss the various options.

Questions from the Board: What is needed to move forward? Mr. Garcia stated that the next step would be to find a developer or developers who would be willing to move the project forward and determining whether we want to wait for a developer or move forward with making it ready for turn-key purchase. Are there grants available for this?

Mr. Garcia stated that there are grants that could cover 50% or more of the 3.4-million-dollar infrastructure costs. Perhaps this is a project we can partner with the Regional Housing Authority that is currently organizing. Does the 3.4 million include tap fees? No; those fees would not be paid until development begins, not at the time of infrastructure. At the appropriate time, there will be discussions with the Tribe about these fees.

B. Broadband Plan Update

The Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) need internet speed test data for the Town of Ignacio. The school district will submit information, as well as the Board Members and various community members. We need 90 tests, so please pass this information along. We will need to certify the test results by Resolution; this will need to be at a Special Meeting, properly noticed to the public.

Rural Broadband Project Funding (anticipated to be \$50 million dollars) still needs to be approved by the Legislature.

The concern was raised that there be a clear distinction between the Tribe and the Town in the grant requests that are being submitted. Mr. Garcia stated that he will ensure that is communicated to OEDIT and DOLA when the grant is submitted; he believes that, since our grant request is specifically for locations within the Town limits and requested by FastTracks, it will be evident that it is a different request than what the Tribe will submit.

C. Board Strategic Planning Update

The Draft plan is included in the packet; this 26-page document represents the work that the Board has done in multiple work sessions with Sandhya Tillotson of Sagebrush Consulting. Mayor Pro Tem deKay populated the core values for each strategy. The items that are currently being worked on such as the Rock Creek Development and the Broadband Plan. The next step is to adopt it. This can be put on the April agenda if the Board desires.

Action: Trustee Atencio moved to adopt the Town of Ignacio Town Board Strategic Plan for 2021-2023 and that it be reviewed every six months; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. Trustee Craig stated that she thought that the public should have opportunity to comment prior to the adoption of this document. There were no other comments from the Board members. Mayor Cox called for a vote; the motion passed 6 to 1, with Trustee Craig opposing.

Mayor Cox requested that Ms. Dunton put the document on our website for the public to review and ensure that it will be reviewed at the meeting in September.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Update

Corona Virus Relief Funds – reimbursed approximately \$31,000 in expenditures to date; Tuggy is working diligently on reimbursements for utility assistance and the majority of the remaining \$29,000 will be used for this purpose. The original deadline was December 31, 2020; however, that deadline has been extended to December 31, 2021. Mr. Garcia stated that he will request more funds if they are available. Trustee Melton

asked if there is a separate statement that can be provided to the Board that shows what those funds are being expended on; Mr. Garcia stated that there is a spreadsheet that is being used to track the expenditures and it can be provided to the Board. Mayor Cox requested that this information be made available on the Town website; Mr. Garcia stated that can be done.

Vaccine Clinics – Community Based Operation (CBO) has received vaccines from the CDPHE for the Point of Distribution (POD) vaccination clinics. Next clinic will be on March 13 for second shots for all those who received their first shots on February 13; the CBO has also received an additional 500 vaccines for first shots on the afternoon of March 13. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation to the 40+ volunteers who are working in these vaccination clinics.

Trustee Atencio asked about mobile units that would be able to take vaccinations to those who are shut in. Mr. Garcia stated that Animas Surgical Hospital now has a mobile unit but he didn't know if it was for small events or for house-to-house visits; he will check into that and get back with Trustee Atencio. Trustee Melton stated that several of her patients are home bound and would check with them to see if they would like to be put on a list.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

In January there was a Resolution to certify the E-911 surcharge for 2021. Central Dispatch has been through some turn-over. There are two Dispatch locations: Southern Ute that dispatches for SUPD, IPD, Los Pinos Fire, SU Rangers, Gaming; and Central Dispatch in Durango that dispatches for about 60 entities. After staff turn-over, they reviewed their budgetary items and determined that they have equipment needs in excess of several hundred thousand dollars. This means that the surcharge needs to be raised for cell phones and land lines to cover these expenses. The surcharge will be raised to \$1.72 effective June 1, which is the maximum amount currently allowed by the Public Utilities Commission. Southern Ute Dispatch will follow suit with upgrading their equipment because the equipment has a shelf-life that they are quickly approaching. It is a priority of the surcharge that equipment be kept up-to-date and dependable.

B. Public Works

Mr. Garcia stated that the Public Works Director is currently on administrative leave and he will update the Board regarding this situation as it progresses. Garry Montoya is serving as the Foreman and keeping all the work moving forward.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton stated that there were 43 bills sent via email this month, which is about 10% of our customers; this will be a savings to the Town in printing and postage and is a convenience to the customers.

The Board has a work session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners in on Thursday evening at 6 PM; invitations will be sent to the Board members and the agenda will be posted on our website and in the physical locations in Town.

Patrick Rondinelli with DOLA has reached out to area municipalities and offered Board training; if there is any interest, Ms. Dunton will reach out to Mr. Rondinelli and coordinate with him. Mayor Pro Tem deKay expressed interest.

Trustee Melton asked about the past due business licenses; Ms. Dunton stated that the Administrative Assistant called these businesses this past week and hopefully that number will decrease by the next Board Meeting.

D. Manager

Planning Commission has resumed monthly meetings via remote public meeting; there are currently three commissioners. The hope is to schedule joint work sessions with the Town Board to review the proposed Land Use Code.

Becker Goddard intersection project has been awarded and will have a kick-off meeting in the next few weeks to get the project started. Anticipated current budget is \$790,000; the engineer's initial estimate was \$750,000, but construction costs have been raised significantly over the past year. Mr. Garcia hopes to find ways to cut costs during the project, and bring it closer to budget.

Contractor working on raw water easement project; waiting on information from BIA due to being understaffed. Will continue reaching out to them.

Executive session to discuss draft jurisdictional agreement and the possible acquisition of the ELHI building.

E. Attorney

Attending Board Meetings, forwarding information to Chief, Ms. Dunton and Mr. Garcia, and reviewing the draft jurisdictional agreement; has not been asked to work on the raw water easement at this time.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that the High School science teacher is looking for "community experts" to assist with a project on water and drought resilience. If you would like more information, please let her know. This would be a half-day or, at most, full-day time commitment.

Trustee Craig stated that there are a lot of bills coming forward that impact municipalities and CML is looking at all of these; at one time it was as much as 200 bills per day. The Economic Development Alliance meeting is tomorrow morning; they will be disseminating information about the airport. Trustee Craig will forward the link to the recording for those who are interested. DOLA approached Trustee Craig about a company that assists rural municipalities and main street cities; this company acquires grant funding from USDA and assists municipalities with revitalization and increase business development. Ignacio was one of six municipalities on the phone call today. She reached out to the Creative District Board and will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce as well. It is a ten-to-twelve-week process and it would require a letter of support from the Town. She will send information to the Board. Mr. Garcia stated he will make himself available if Trustee Craig needs assistance in any way.

Trustee Box III expressed appreciation to Trustee Craig for putting his name in for an article with CML regarding culture. Mayor Cox joked that Trustee Box III should submit a picture

with her for that article, as she is the first Native woman to serve as the Mayor of the Town of Ignacio.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** For the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding a proposed jurisdictional agreement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and a potential property acquisition from the Ignacio School District.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to adjourn this meeting and move into executive session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding a proposed jurisdictional agreement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and a potential property acquisition from the Ignacio School District; Trustee Box III seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk