



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 13, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Avenue
and via Remote Public Meeting

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III, Trustee Joseph Atencio, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: Trustee Sandra Maez

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: Trustee Jeremy Schulz moved to approve the agenda as presented; Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2023

B. Financial Records – February 2023 Accounting Reports

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Natural Gas Rate Update

Ms. Dunton stated that currently the billing that has gone out (not the payments that the Town has received) matches about 63% of the amount that the Town has paid to the Tribe.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Homes Fund – Rock Creek Services Contract

Mr. Garcia stated that this agreement is separate from the annual Home Buyer Training Agreement. This agreement would cover the services of establishing and managing deed restrictions, as well as home buyer down payment assistance funds, for the affordable housing on Rock Creek. If this contract is approved this evening, staff from HomesFund would do a presentation to the Town Board about the terms and conditions of deed restrictions. Mayor Craig requested that the Town Attorney review this agreement.

Mayor Craig stated that he and Mr. Garcia had received word that the IHOI Grant Application was accepted and that the Town was approved for 2 million for infrastructure for Rock Creek that needs to be spent by April 2024.

Mr. Garcia stated that he had also heard from the La Plata Board of County Commissioners that the Town was approved for Local Agency Tribal Consistency Funding Request and the Town was

approved for \$690,000 contingent upon completion of the necessary agreements. With both of those funding sources, the Town has approximately 2.7 million of the 2.9 million that is necessary for the infrastructure on Rock Creek.

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to approve the Rock Creek Services Contract with HomesFund; Trustee Tom Atencio seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Dancing Spirit Community Art Center REDI Grant Support

The Town, as a municipality, is entitled to apply for the Rural Economic Development Incentives Grant through the Department of Local Affairs; the Town can also work with other organizations that are associated with Economic Development to help them receive funding. Dancing Spirit has asked the Town to sponsor them by submitting the application and reporting for them; they will do all the work and staff will simply upload the application, funding requests if the application is approved, and reports that Dancing Spirit provides. This is not a formal agreement yet; if they are approved for the funding, they have agreed to sign an MOU with the Town which will be brought before the Board later. This evening Mr. Garcia was requesting consensus from the Board the Town would serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of Dancing Spirit's application.

Mayor Craig asked the Board and they gave consensus for staff to serve in the capacities that Mr. Garcia outlined above.

C. Congressionally Directed Spending – SUIT Rock Creek Request

Mr. Garcia stated that he had presented to the Durango Chamber of Commerce, along with representatives from the County, Town of Bayfield, and the City of Durango, on the various housing projects in our area. Patrick Morrissey from the Southern Ute Growth Fund was at that meeting and approached Mr. Garcia and expressed interest in partnering on the Rock Creek conceptual plan. The Tribe would like to purchase the five five-plexes in the center of the plan; Mr. Garcia explained that they would need to be deed restricted for affordable housing, and he was amenable to that. He called Mr. Garcia last week to inform him that the Tribal Council had voted that housing was their number one priority, and they were applying for Congressionally Directed Spending funds for this project for 7.3 million dollars, which is the estimated cost for the build-out of those five five-plexes. He requested that the Town write a letter of support for their application; the deadline was Friday and Mr. Garcia, after conversation with Mayor Craig, wrote the letters of support. The five-plexes would not be all tribal housing; there would be a preference system that would be tribal members, local government and local agencies, town, county, and school district employees, and then all others. If the Tribe is awarded the CDS money, then the Tribe and Town would need to enter into agreements to specify the details. The consensus of the Board is that there will need to be lots of conversations and they are all excited about the possibilities.

Mr. Garcia stated that the La Plata Economic Development Association has a new funding source, the Catalyst Fund, and the Town will apply for some of those funds for the design of Rock Creek. If approved, that would lower the cost to the future home owners in that development.

D. ELHI Lease Purchase Agreement Discussion

The document that is in the packet is the current draft of the LPA between the School Board and the Town; this still needs to be approved by the School District Board before the Town acts on it. This is not seeking voter approval for indebtedness; it is contingent upon annual appropriation of funds already held by the Town.

Mr. Garcia stated that the Town had reached out to CIRSA to confirm that they would insure this facility; the questions and comments from the CIRSA representative have been forwarded to Mr. Liberman for review and incorporation into the LPA as necessary.

Mr. Liberman stated that there will be no formal action this meeting, as there needs to be an ordinance to approve an LPA. Staff is seeking approval of the language to be submitted to the School Board for their action; then it will be brought back to the Town Board with an Ordinance that contains the LPA as an Exhibit for formal action.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief Phillips mentioned the domestic violence service providers in Ignacio will have a flier to be included with our utility bills next month to inform citizens of their presence in our community. The Police Department will have a training with Alternative Horizons on March 31; Chief invited the Board Members to attend. He stated that he will inform the Board of upcoming trainings throughout the year.

The grant for the in-car radios has been submitted; anticipating a response in August. Chief is also seeking grants for in-car cameras.

B. Public Works

Mr. Mickey stated that he is working with Brad Bean, Town Consultant, on the compliance issues that need to be addressed with the Operations and Maintenance Manual, Incident Management Plan, and state and federal filings; he anticipates that being completed by the end of the week.

Storm drain pipe has been ordered for the Browning project; working with companies on manhole design and manufacture; will break ground on this project soon.

Sanitary sewer camera scoping has been completed by SEH in preparation for the Browning replacement project prior to the CDOT asphalt overlay this summer. CDPHE found us in violation in our cross-contamination control program and staff is working to get that up to code prior to the 90-day extension that was granted.

CDOT begins their sidewalk project on March 20; resurfacing will begin in July. There will be detours, lane closures, and delays on Highway 172 as a result of this project.

Trustee deKay asked if an alternative site had been selected for the burn pile since that is where the Rock Creek Housing project is being built. There has not.

Mr. Garcia suggested that the Town check into mulching rather than burning.

C. Clerk / Treasurer

Ms. Dunton informed the Board that GFL has informed the Town that their rate will increase effective in June; this information will be included in the Town's newsletter.

The Joint Work Session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners has been postponed to Monday, April 24.

She and Mr. Garcia have updated the Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual and she would like to schedule a work session with the Board to review it. After the review and input from the Board, it will go to CIRSA for their review and input and it will come back to the Board later for formal action. By consensus, the Board set the work session on April 10 at 5:00 PM prior to the next regular Board Meeting.

D. Town Manager

On the CDOT overlay and sidewalk project there was an increase of about \$70,000 over the previous estimation; after conversation with Mr. Mickey, the recommendation is to keep the scope of work as is, approve the increase to the original \$135,000 that was approved previously, and confer authority to either the Mayor or Mr. Garcia to sign the contract for the full amount. Mayor Craig requested, and the Board concurred, that this be an action item on the April agenda.

On the Broadband Project, the Tribe gave a presentation to the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Garcia and Mayor Craig were in attendance at that meeting. The Tribe's Phase II is to run fiber to the premises of the Tribal members living within the Town boundaries; they are seeking additional funding to be able to also run fiber to non-Tribal members' homes at the same time. They are hoping to do the work this summer; the Town intends to propose that the Tribe use the abandoned gas lines in East, Center and West Alleys as this will help reduce the cost of the build.

E. Attorney

Mr. Liberman stated that he has been working on the ELHI LPA contract. He had previously submitted a FOIA request to the BIA regarding the Town's raw water easement; the first request was not completed. The Town can appeal that; however, Mr. Liberman believes it would be more cost-effective and time-saving to simply reword the request to their satisfaction. He has completed that work and submitted it to the BIA and is waiting to hear from them.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Box III stated that he was invited to the next meeting of the Colorado Geographic Naming Commission; he will learn at that meeting if his application was accepted or not. He was able to attend Durango Rocks, an award celebration of businesses in Durango.

Mayor Craig stated that he and Officer Perez attended the Access & Functional Needs workshop that was held on the Tribal Campus; he stated that Ms. Dunton may be able to serve in the State organization as a certified sign language interpreter.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT


Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Clark Craig, Mayor

04/10/2023

Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk