



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 14, 2022 – 6:30 PM

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

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:44 PM. She read the Zoom etiquette and opened the meeting by leading the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stella Cox, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent: Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sandra Maez

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Salviazul, Board Chairman for ELHI Center, 115 Ute Street, stated that she had heard that the ISD Board may be meeting with the Town Board of Trustees. The ELHI Board would like to have a place at the table during these discussions. She gave some background about her professional experience and expertise. She stated that our diversity inspires and challenges us to improve partnerships with all kinds of peoples and organizations. ELHI's desire is to partner, whether it is under the landlord of the School District or the Town; they desire to be relevant and provide whatever assets they can bring.

Doug Little, 6 El Paso Road. A clean and safe place to live and work – marijuana will bring nothing but trouble. It will raise crime such as stealing; the police department will have to work more and might have to hire more officers, which will be a cost to the Town; we already have a drug problem in our community and this will only increase that problem. He sees no benefit for bringing marijuana into Town. It may bring in more taxes, but it will decrease the value of the Town. We cannot tolerate this type of activity in a tight, close-knit community. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to voice his concerns.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2022

B. Financial Records – February 2022 Check Register and Accounting Reports

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Trustee Melton seconded the motion.

Mayor Cox asked those present to raise their hand to indicate their agreement with the motion. Ms. Dunton reminded Mayor Cox that the new meeting protocol states that if there are any trustees attending remotely, every action item must be a roll call vote. Mayor Cox thanked Ms. Dunton for the reminder and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Notice of Election

Ms. Dunton stated that this is a standard part of the election process. The Board needs to review, approve, and order this published; it is in the packet for the Board to take action on this evening. It states that there is only one candidate for Mayor; four candidates for three Trustee positions; and it includes the language that the Board has requested be on the ballot for the retail and medical marijuana issue.

Action: Trustee Atencio moved to approve the Notice of the General Municipal Election; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay commented to Mr. Little that she didn't want this item to go to election; however, if someone wants to write their own question and put it on the ballot, they can do so. These questions are the Board's attempt to write a question about the issue that might be half-way beneficial to the Town. She agrees with Mr. Little's sentiments about marijuana and encouraged Mr. Little to talk to the members of the community. Mayor Cox stated that this is the opportunity for the Town's citizens to express their opinions; she also hopes for the same outcome as Mr. Little. She asked if there is going to be a yes or no checkbox on the ballot. Ms. Dunton stated that there will be; it is not included in the notice of election because there have been people who marked the notice of election and thought they were voting by doing so. By not putting the yes or no on the notice of election, it prevents that confusion. Trustee Melton asked if the occupational tax vote is also the approval to have retail or medical marijuana in Town; Ms. Dunton stated it is.

Mayor Cox called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

B. SUIT Proposed Broadband Project Support Letter

Mr. Garcia reminded the Board of the letter that the Tribe had sent in February, requesting comments on their proposed Broadband Project. He spoke with Jeff Ingman and Delbert Cuthair about the project. The only comment is to request that they collaborate with the Town as they are running fiber through Town. In that process, the Town hopes to create handholds to connect with their fiber. Mr. Garcia spoke with Lindsay Box and informed her that the Town desires to send a letter even though the official comment period has passed; she stated she would forward the letter to Chairman Baker.

Mayor Cox stated that she had received a letter from Delbert Cuthair and it seemed, based on her understanding of that letter, that the Tribe will be running the conduit and fiber down Shoshone. She asked if that was Mr. Garcia's understanding. Mr. Garcia stated that his understand is that they will run conduit and fiber down Goddard, since that is the street that the crews potholed on. He asked Mr. Mickey if the crews had potholed on Shoshone. Mr. Mickey stated they had not, and all the drawings they showed him were state highway easements on both 172 and 151. Mr. Garcia stated that he had not received the letter from Mr. Cuthair, so he cannot comment on that; however, whether they use Goddard or Shoshone to run the conduit and fiber, he believes that the Town can collaborate with them.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked if the request for opportunities to collaborate needs to be more specific. Mr. Garcia stated that, in his conversations with them, they stated they are willing to collaborate; Mr. Cuthair told Mr. Garcia that they will have a bunch of extra conduit that they will be willing to allow the Town to use should the Town decide to run our own conduit. He stated that the Tribe will have 144 pair of fiber; the Town would probably only need four pair. He stated that he intentionally left the request more general so there is opportunity for ongoing discussion. Mayor Cox asked if the Town is moving forward on trying to find other grant options for funding our need for fiber optics. Mr. Garcia stated that the Tribe has two different grants that they were awarded for fiber optics: one for a 2.5 GigaHertz program, and a second one for an NTIA grant for 10 million dollars for fiber; if they are awarded the NTIA grant, they have stated they will be willing to work with the Town. This letter is specific to the 2.5 GigaHertz grant. Mr. Garcia stated that there are discussions regarding fiber happening with CDOT, the COG, the Tribe, the Commissioners, and a lot of other organizations in the region. He is involved in many of these conversations.

Trustee Atencio stated that he thinks we should support the Tribe as much as possible.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay suggest that perhaps the Tribe would be willing to sell some of the 144 pair of fiber to the Town, if that is allowed in the grant funding.

Mr. Garcia stated there are many possibilities of how we can collaborate. This letter of support will help in the collaboration process.

Action: Trustee Melton moved that the Town support the Tribe's Broadband Project with the letter developed by Mr. Garcia. Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. Mayor Cox called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Atencio stated that, since the Town is supporting the Tribe in their Broadband Project, he thinks that the Town should be represented in their planning discussions. Mr. Garcia stated that we could ask for that. He believes they are already including us and reaching out to us. Mayor Pro Tem deKay suggested that this request be done verbally rather than in the letter. Mr. Garcia stated he can do that in the next conversations with Mr. Cuthair and the rest of the team.

C. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated that we are still under an emergency declaration due to the County's declaration not having been lifted.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief Phillips stated that on the zoom call this afternoon, SJBPH stated that we, along with Archuleta County, are in low transmission rates. SJBPH will be winding down their testing sites; they will keep their mobile shot units going. They are looking at a potential fourth booster shot.

Trustee Melton stated that she had a question for Mr. Garcia. She asked if it would be possible, if the marijuana issues pass, to earmark some of the occupation tax revenues for the Police Department since we all know that the allowance of marijuana will increase the need for police activity. Mr. Garcia stated that the ballot question does not restrict

the funds in any way; however, if these issues pass, the Board can write their desires into the language of the policies, procedures and ordinances that they would write after the election.

Mayor Cox asked if the occupation tax would be collected by the Department of Revenue like sales taxes are. Mr. Garcia stated that this would be part of what would be in the policies and procedures, because it would need to be collected by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Board would need to determine the frequency of collections.

B. Public Works Department

Mr. Mickey stated that on New Year's Eve there was a gas incident at 615 Browning; this has been repaired.

Staff is working on annual compliance training for drinking water.

Working with Mr. Liberman and Deborah Parsons on the utility easement for the Young property water and gas lines.

Trustee Melton asked if Jeremy is the one following up on complaints regarding code enforcement (trash on property, etc.). Mr. Mickey stated that he and Mr. Garcia are working on that with Lionel Flores, since this is one of Lionel's responsibilities. Mr. Garcia stated this is something that is being addressed regularly and, if the Board members see something they would like addressed, to bring it to either himself or Mr. Mickey.

Mr. Little asked where the easement is going to be. Mr. Mickey stated it is on County Road 320A.

Trustee Atencio asked about the mobile units on Goddard. Mr. Mickey stated that SoCoCAA has stated that the units are free to anyone who will remove them from the property. Mr. Garcia stated that the school district is looking at moving them up to Candelaria Heights. It is something that is being worked on.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton gave the Board information on the new paid Family and Medical Leave Program through the state and asked the Board for direction on whether or not they want to opt out of the program (by default, the Town is enrolled in this program and withholdings would begin in January of 2023 with benefits available in January of 2024). The Board asked some questions and directed Ms. Dunton to poll the staff to find out about interest in this program, and also requested more information about it.

Ms. Dunton informed the Board that Morgan, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, gave her two-weeks' notice today. There will be a job posting and interviews will happen after the election.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia drew attention to the storm drain project; he has submitted a grant for Phase One of this project. The Public Works Department is hoping to do the majority of the work on this project, which should bring the cost from 2.8 million down to about 1.6 million. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation for the "can-do attitude" of Mr. Mickey and his entire crew. This grant will be awarded in June and we are a good candidate to be awarded the grant.

He also gave an update on the Space to Create project; we are one of the nine cities that are being considered for this project. This is through the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The group that toured our Town is excited about the possibilities, one of which is the ELHI building. He stated that Ms. Dunton is currently the head of the Creative District and that he believes the Creative District will be a key stakeholder in moving this project forward. It could provide up to 30 new housing units and provide space for creatives to live and work in. Jen Coates is the consultant that created the space in Ridgway, and Mr. Garcia has brought her in as a consultant for this project. He hopes to collaborate with the Tribe on this project; there are a lot of Native creatives that could assist with this. Vice-Chairman Ramona Eagle is on the Creative District Board.

Region 9 has a new grant writer; Mr. Garcia and Ms. Dunton have met with her and given her an overview of some of the projects in Town. There is no charge for her time to write grants for us, as Region 9 is covering her salary.

Mr. Garcia addressed the fact that, with the change of Trustees of the election, there are several Boards that will need new appointments.

There will also be a notice in the next newsletter that positions are open on both the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment.

E. Town Attorney

Has worked with Mr. Garcia on the marijuana ballot issues, on the zoning ordinance, and with Jeremy on the utility easement.

Trustee Atencio asked about the raw water easement and the jurisdictional agreement with the Tribe. Mr. Liberman stated that he is not working on the raw water easement; perhaps Mr. Garcia has information on it. Trustee Atencio stated that it might be time to reach back out to the Tribe and ask for a progress report on these two items.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that there are three different focus groups for the school's strategic plan. These meetings have been well attended by a wide variety of people in the community. One of the focus groups is the community focus; Gina Schulz reached out to the Board members via email.

Trustee Craig stated that the CML annual conference is June 21-24 in Breckenridge.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal or other property of interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a).

Mayor Cox stated that the next item on the agenda is the Executive Session to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal or other property of interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a).

Mr. Garcia stated that no action will be taken in the Executive Session; it for informational purposes only. The Board will not return to open session after the Executive Session.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to go into executive session for the stated purpose; Trustee Melton seconded the motion. Mayor Cox requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

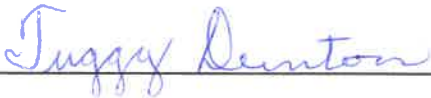
Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:30 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Clark Craig, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk