



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 10, 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 6:00 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: Trustee Joseph Atencio, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Craig asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Ms. Dunton stated she would like to add an item under new business, ICD Funding Request, as item C.

Action: Trustee Alison deKay moved to approve the agenda with the additional item; Trustee Sandra Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amos Lee, 535 Goddard Ave with Farmers Fresh. Commented about streets and traffic as it pertains to the Market. He acknowledged that it is a large building with a lot of traffic impact. He requested feedback regarding the plans for the streets and that he be included in those conversations from the beginning, especially if there are plans for one-way streets like Ute Street. He stated that has created a lot of problems on Pioneer Street, especially for the delivery trucks. He would also like input regarding street maintenance, especially on Pioneer Street, and what will be done to address the parking that happens on the North side of Pioneer. He would prefer that Pioneer be one-way toward the East so that people can turn left onto Goddard at a signal. Mayor Craig asked if there were comments from staff. Mr. Garcia stated that he would meet with Amos and cover the two topics he brought up. Mayor Craig stated that Mr. Lee had presented some good ideas.

Willow Schulz, 335 Shoshone Ave, stated that she is part of the Junior Prom Planning Committee. The Prom will be on April 22, and her committee will be hosting a safe and sober after-prom party. She asked if the Town would be interested in providing funds that would help pay for food, drinks, or prizes for a raffle. Trustee Tom Atencio requested more detail. Ms. Schulz stated that it will be a lock-in event; everyone will arrive around 11:30 or midnight and stay until morning. There will be games, movie, an open gym, raffles, etc. She requested \$200 for food and drinks. Mayor Craig suggested that Ms. Schulz talk with Mr. Lee at Farmers Fresh. Mayor Craig asked if the Board wanted to amend the agenda to add an action item under new business.

Action: Trustee Alison deKay moved to amend the agenda to add item D under new business, Potential Funding for the Ignacio High School after-prom; Trustee Sandra Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2023
- B. Financial Records – March 2023 Accounting Reports

Action: Trustee Jeremy Schulz moved to approve the consent agenda; Trustee Alison deKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Natural Gas Rate Update

Ms. Dunton stated that, to date, we have paid the Tribe \$516,114.61 and we have billed our customers (we have not yet received all of these funds) \$406,583.80. Mayor Craig stated that we have actually paid the tribe \$478,705.48 and the \$516.114.61 is the amount that we are projected to need in order to pay this off by the end of the year. Ms. Dunton expressed appreciation for Mayor Craig's correction. She stated that the Tribal rate for April is \$2.81373/MCF and the Town will bill our customers at \$16.28/MCF, which includes the 10% capital factor on the Tribal rate.

Mayor Craig asked if the Town could cover the difference in the next two billing cycles so that the Board can discuss what the billing will look like moving forward. Ms. Dunton stated that is her hope; however, with reduced usage there will also be reduced billing to our customers resulting in reduced income in comparison to the previous months.

Trustee deKay gave a background explanation regarding the high bill that the Town received in January and the measures the Board and staff took so that the burden was not so great on the customers and yet would provide enough to be able to pay off that large bill prior to the end of this year.

- B. CDOT/Town Goddard Avenue Improvement IGA Increase – Action Item

Mr. Garcia stated that the costs for the sidewalk work came in higher by about \$74,000, which is shown in the draft agreement that is in the packet. If the Board approves the increase, Mayor Craig would sign the final IGA with CDOT.

Trustee Schulz commented that he believes, even with the increase, that the Town is still getting a good deal on the price of the agreement.

Mayor Craig asked if there were any public comments on this agenda item; there were none. He called for a motion.

Action: Trustee Jeremy Schulz moved to approve the expense increase on the IGA with CDOT to \$204,289.45; Trustee Tom Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Ignacio School District ELHI Lease Purchase Agreement – Action Item

Mr. Garcia stated there is a draft of the Lease Purchase Agreement in the packet. Mr. Liberman and the school attorney have been working on this document; at this time, we are awaiting the final Agreement from the school attorney. Mr. Garcia deferred to Mr. Liberman for any comments. Mr. Liberman stated that this needs to be approved by Ordinance and he sent a draft Ordinance to Mr. Garcia in the event that the Board wishes to adopt this agreement this evening. He approves the agreement in form. Mayor Craig clarified that the Board will not approve the agreement this evening until it is received in final form. Mr. Garcia stated that, barring any more changes to the agreement, this should be on the May Agenda with the corresponding Ordinance for the Board to approve.

Trustee Atencio asked about the monthly payment of \$5,000. Mr. Liberman explained that this is part of the entire amount that will be paid each year; because this is being purchased through appropriation of funds, there needed to be a monthly amount. In the event that the Town decides not to proceed after one year, this would allow a way out of the lease without severe consequences to the Town. Trustee Atencio asked about the water rights of the property and how that fits into this agreement. Mr. Liberman stated that whatever rights the school district has should be conveyed to the Town through this agreement. Mr. Garcia further explained that irrigation is managed by BIA based on acreage; the Town has an agreement with BIA and these water rights have already been transferred to the Town. Trustee deKay stated that her understanding is that irrigation rights stay with the property. No other comments or questions from the Board. Mayor Craig asked if there were any public comments.

Gina Schulz, 335 ½ Shoshone, asked what this will ultimately cost the Ignacio taxpayer. She expressed that she believes this is a good idea with a lot of benefits to the Town; she just wants to understand the bottom line. Mayor Craig asked if staff wanted to address this comment at this time. Mr. Garcia explained that the purchase price is 1.1 million dollars and the Town will be spreading that cost over 3 years; there are no known costs other than the purchase price. The Town will work with the ELHI Tenant Association on a lease when their current lease expires with the school district. Ms. Schulz asked if she could comment further; Mayor Craig stated that public comment has been closed and encouraged Ms. Schulz to continue the conversation with Mr. Garcia.

Mayor Craig called for a motion.

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the lease purchase agreement language as provided by the School District Attorney regarding the purchase of the ELHI property; Trustee Sandra Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ignacio Community Library Summer Music Series Funding Request – Action Item

Lindsay Reichert, 470 Goddard, Library Assistant, explained the program and the line-up of musicians, stating there are two food trucks already committed to the event. The total cost will be about \$2,000 and the library is requesting \$1,000 from the Town.

Trustee deKay asked what line item this expense would come out of; Ms. Dunton stated it would most likely be Community Support but she was not sure what amount is currently available on that line item. Trustee deKay suggested that this be researched further and return with a recommendation at the May meeting; she asked if that was soon enough for the Library and Ms. Reichert stated that would be fine.

B. Ignacio South Boundary and Consolidation Plat Review – Action Item

This item was brought before the Planning Commission (PC) at their April meeting; per the new Land Use & Development Code the PC has authority to review and make a recommendation to the Town Board on lot boundary adjustments. This plat addresses the Young's property in particular and cleans up right-of-way issues associated with County Road 320A; this also includes boundary adjustments that the Town is doing in exchange for the right-of-way. Mr. Walker has approached Mr. Garcia about line adjustments as well, and those are reflected on this plat. There is also consolidation of lots that are reflected on this plat.

There were no questions from the Board, simply a compliment from Mayor Craig as this process has taken a long time. Mr. Garcia stated that he is encouraged that the PC is using the new LUDC and it is working well. This plat will need to be approved by the Board, then mylars will be created that will include signatures by Mayor Craig and the various interested parties. Mr. Garcia further explained that, on Ordinance 351 which was previously approved by the Board (annexing these properties), the signature blocks will need to be amended to show the appropriate signatories from the Young properties.

Mayor Craig asked if there was any public comment; there was none. There were no more questions from the trustees. Mayor Craig called for a motion.

Action: Trustee Jeremy Schulz moved to approve the Ignacio South Boundary Adjustment as presented; Trustee Tom Atencio seconded the motion. Mayor Craig requested a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

C. ICD Funding Request

Ms. Dunton explained that the Creative District is sending four representatives to the Colorado Creative Industries Summit in Crested Butte; ICD will pay for the registrations, each person attending has agreed to cover their own meals, and the request is that lodging be split between the Library, Region 9, and the Town. The Library and Region 9 have already agreed to cover part of the lodging; the request is that the Town cover the remainder of the lodging.

Mayor Craig asked what line item this expense would come from; Ms. Dunton stated she would like it added to the Administration Travel, Training and Meetings line item. Trustee Schulz asked for a total dollar amount that would be expended by the Town. Ms. Dunton stated she would get that information. Mayor Craig asked that it be on the May agenda; no action was taken on this item.

D. Potential Funding for Ignacio High School After-Prom Event

Mayor Craig asked if there were any questions from the Board. Trustee Tom Atencio confirmed that the request is for \$200; Mayor Craig stated that this would come from the Community Support line of the budget and that he anticipates support from other local businesses as well. He called for a motion.

Action: Trustee Tom Atencio moved to approve the funding request of \$200 for the HIS After-Prom event; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Trustee Schulz abstained from the vote due to the fact that this request is from one of his children.

The Board Members expressed appreciation to Willow Schulz for attending and for what she is attempting to provide to the other high school students.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief stated that he will be applying for the POST Grant again this year; this helps cover training expenses for officers. He stated that the most recent training was regarding trauma response and that his officers learned a lot. The Board gave consensus for the application for the grant.

B. Public Works

Mr. Mickey reported that Becker and Goddard Avenue were crack-sealed last week.

Browning Avenue storm drain project is experiencing a delay from CDOT that SEH, the engineering firm, is addressing; he hopes to get that resolved quickly.

Working with CDOT on the Goddard Avenue project; currently have 26 services that we will be replacing sewer services on prior to the overlay this summer.

Mr. Mickey has submitted a proposal for the purchase of a mini-excavator that he believes will be a key piece of equipment for the Town. Mr. Garcia stated that this will be used in both the sewer replacement and storm drain projects; this will save on rental costs. The recommendation of the Board was to lease for five years and budget to pay it off after that. This will be an unbudgeted purchase that will be reflected in a supplemental budget at the end of this year.

Mr. Mickey stated that, to put this in perspective, there were three quotes for 800 feet of trench for natural gas, one for 3" and one for 6"; the quotes were \$100,000 each, including the pipe at \$24,000. The consensus of the Board was to have this as an action item on the May agenda.

Mr. Garcia commented that there were comments made during the public comment time regarding Pioneer Street; he wanted to inform the Board that the Town has already met with Mr. Lee on the one-way idea and the Town hauled a bunch of gravel in for a special event. The Town has spoken with the engineer about changing Pioneer into a one-way and he is not in favor of it. This is on-going conversations; he believes the biggest issue currently is the large pothole on Pioneer; we are weeks away from CDOT replacing the asphalt there. Mr. Garcia stated that these conversations will continue but that Pioneer will not be able to be converted to a one-way.

Mayor Craig asked about the Tier 2 Violation Notice that was sent out. Mr. Mickey stated that it had to do with not having inspections done in a timely manner; there were no problems or issues that arose from that, but it was a required reporting. Staff is now taking this on rather than outsourcing it so that this does not happen again. We will be fully compliant prior to the deadline of the end of July.

Trustee Maez brought up the potholes on Goddard; Mr. Garcia stated that he has talked with them and will call them again this week.

C. Clerk / Treasurer

Ms. Dunton reminded the Board of the Joint Work Session with La Plata Board of County Commissioners and requested that any items that the Board would like to see on the agenda be submitted prior to Monday, April 17. She also stated that the CML Conference will be June 25-28 at the Gaylord Rockies in Aurora; if any Board members are interested in attending, please let her know within the next two weeks. Mayor Craig stated that he and his wife will attend.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia stated there is a lot of work going on with Rock Creek Housing project; we were awarded the 2 million dollar grant from the State; he has also submitted a grant application to the Economic Alliance to cover about 50% of the planning, design and development costs with SEH, and an application for about \$700,000 to La Plata County for this project.

The Tribe has received 40 million dollars in NTIA grant monies for Broadband; this will extend fiber to Southern Ute Tribal members' houses and other Native American's houses, including those within Town limits. Mr. Garcia and Mayor Craig met with the Shared Services department and hope to collaborate with the Tribe in getting fiber to all the premises in town; this will require grant funding from other sources, possibly using the \$228,000 ARPA funding that we have not yet allocated for any particular project. The Town has offered our right-of-way and conduit from abandoned gas lines. There may be a request for funds from the Town; this will come before the Board for action.

Mr. Garcia has interviewed the two applicants from Best and Brightest; no decision yet.

He stated that he is entertaining a proposal to remove the word "Interim" in front of his title; he stated that he will prepare the proposal for the Board and asked if they wanted the proposal before the entire Board or a subcommittee. The consensus of the Board and Town Manager was to have a subcommittee; Mayor Craig and Trustee deKay will serve on that subcommittee. Mr. Atencio asked if Mr. Garcia would be full-time; Mr. Garcia clarified that the position will be full-time but that he hopes to work remotely part of the time.

Trustee Schulz requested an update on the proposal for the land swap with the Tribe; Mr. Garcia stated that the proposal has not been formalized in writing, but that the Tribe is aware of it and he feels it is in their court at this time. Mr. Garcia asked if the Board would like him to formalize the proposal; they consensus was to give it more time.

Trustee deKay asked about an update on the raw water easement; Mr. Garcia stated that he will defer to Mr. Liberman on this item.

E. Attorney

Mr. Liberman stated that he has worked on the ELHI Lease Purchase Agreement and the raw water easement issue. He is still waiting for information from the Tribe and BIA.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Craig stated that he heard that water will be coming into the Pine River Canal on April 24; irrigation water should be available within weeks of that happening.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting. There will also be a Joint Work Session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners on April 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room.



Clark Craig, Mayor

05-08-2023

Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk