



MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 12, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 (joined the meeting at 6:50 PM), Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Dixie Melton

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gina Schulz expressed appreciation for the street sweeping that the Public Works employees have done and requested that they not start so early in the morning.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2021
- B. Financial Records – March Check Register and Budget to Actual Reports
- C. TP Lounge Liquor License Renewal Application

Trustee Atencio requested that the Liquor License Renewal Application be voted on as a separate item. Mayor Cox consented.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to approve the minutes and financial records; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Atencio asked if there have been any objections or problems at the TP Lounge. Ms. Dunton stated that she had received an email from Chief that there were no violations. Mr. Garcia stated that they have been closed most of last year due to the pandemic.

Action: Trustee Atencio moved to accept the TP Lounge Liquor License Renewal Application; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

Mr. Garcia stated that there are sample diagrams from a company called IndieDwell that he believes would fit well in Ignacio. He stated that the Regional Housing Authority has a retreat scheduled in the hope that they can begin to operate again. He stated we may want to look at grant funding for the infrastructure. The Board concurred. Mayor asked about the dates of the grant cycle; Mr. Garcia stated he would report that information at the May Board meeting.

B. Broadband Plan Update

FastTracks did not get funded through the DORA Grant. The estimated \$50 Million Dollars that was anticipated was not approved by the legislature in time for the grant cycle; it has now been approved and the next grant cycle will be in July.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Use and Development Code – Draft Code

The draft code is included in the packet. The Planning Commission met in March and decided that they have done as much as they can on this draft. There need to be some joint work sessions with the Town Board and Planning Commission to review the draft code. Mr. Garcia stated that the Planning Commission Chair, Clark Craig, was an attendee in the meeting if the Board Members had any questions for him. Mr. Garcia stated it would be good to simply read through the draft Code and then begin drilling into any questions or issues after the first read-through.

Trustee Atencio requested that the draft Code be available on the website and posted in Town. Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that it would be good to have it on the website but it would be cumbersome to have printed copies posted. The suggestion was made that a printed copy be made available at the Library.

Mr. Garcia stated that, after the discussions between the Planning Commission and Town Board, a public hearing will be scheduled, posted and published prior to adoption of the Code.

Mayor asked if Mr. Craig would be at the joint work sessions to present the draft code and facilitate the discussions. Mr. Garcia clarified that the entire Planning Commission would be present, as well as himself, and Mr. Craig would chair the work sessions. After some discussions, the dates of April 20, May 4 and May 18 at 6:00 PM were scheduled for these joint work sessions.

B. COVID-19 Update

3 CVRF reimbursement requests submitted to the State so far, totaling \$55,836 with the bulk of it for utility payment assistance. Mr. Garcia commended Ms. Dunton and Ms. Allred for their work on these. County Commissioners will vote tomorrow on an additional \$25,000 for the Town; this would bring the total that the Town can use to \$85,000 (of which almost \$56,000 has already been expended).

Point of Distribution Clinics – 500 Moderna shots available, but only 200 registered; the remaining 300 shots will go to San Juan Basin Public Health for distribution to other clinics. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation to all who helped. Second-shot clinic scheduled for May 8.

Changes are forthcoming from the Governor and SJBPH regarding mask requirements and the dial will be the norm for about the next month or so. Our region has the highest COVID shot rate in the state.

Mr. Garcia asked about the Board's desires regarding reopening Town Hall and/or returning to in-person meetings, dependent on positivity rate. Various board members suggested things like a hybrid meeting or requesting to use ELHI for larger meetings. No consensus was reached on the Town Board Meetings. Mr. Garcia expressed that there may be a need to purchase additional equipment if the Board decides they want to begin meeting in person. The question was asked if the staff has talked about opening to the public. Ms. Dunton and Mr. Garcia expressed that the staff has discussed the possibility of opening with limited hours and restrictions; staff will work on policies and procedures and will, at their discretion, open as they feel it best. The Board concurred.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

No verbal report from Chief, as he is on vacation. Mr. Garcia stated that a candidate has come forth for a new Patrol Officer which we have needed for a couple of years.

B. Clerk/Treasurer

The last joint work session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners was originally scheduled for Thursday, November 11; however, that is Veteran's Day. The Commissioners could meet any Thursday evening in October or on November 4. After discussion, the Board concurred to request that the Joint Work Session be scheduled for November 4.

Board Training – Patrick Rondinelli is in the middle of a busy grant cycle; Ms. Dunton expressed anticipation on hearing back from him prior to the May meeting.

Trustee Atencio asked about the meter reading device that no longer functions. Ms. Dunton stated that for the most recent billing cycle the Public Works employees had to manually read 62 water meters; they are being replaced a little at a time and this should reduce the time it takes to read meters a little bit each month. Mr. Garcia commented that the water loss factor is much less with the new meters that have been installed.

C. Manager

The Public Works Director resigned; the position has been advertised and is scheduled to close on the 16th. Interviews will happen one of the following two weeks. Building Inspection and Code Enforcement duties have been distributed among the current Public Works staff.

Preconstruction meeting with Morton Electric, the contractor that was selected for the Becker/Goddard intersection project; hope to begin construction in June.

Zito Media contract is at the office of a SWCCOG attorney for review.

Letter was sent to school board to discuss ELHI; joint work session will be scheduled after the new superintendent is instated.

Current draft of Jurisdictional Agreement was sent to the Board for review. Chief Phillips and Mr. Garcia believe that it is ready to go. There is an executive session on the agenda if the Board would like to discuss that. If not, Mr. Garcia will forward it to Mr. Smith, the Tribal Attorney, for review. The consensus of the Board was to forward the draft to the Tribal attorney. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation for the direction from the Board.

Allison Leath, ELHI Site Manager, requested that all the Boards (including the ELHI Board) be able to attend the joint work session to discuss the future of ELHI. Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated there are two different conversations that need to happen: one conversation is between the current owner of the property and the potential future owner of the property. Once that conversation has happened, there can be conversations with the ELHI Board regarding the future of ELHI.

D. Attorney

Working on the Jurisdictional Agreement.

Trustee Atencio asked about the special event permit for the car show. Mr. Garcia stated that there will not be any liquor sales so there is no need for Board action. The gentleman coordinating the event circulated a petition requesting support from the surrounding property owners; this was not required, but he chose to do it to let the home owners know his plans. Trustee Atencio asked what the result was; Ms. Dunton stated there were about 15 signatures and four other individuals that the event coordinator was unable to contact.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cox stated that she received a copy of a letter from the Southern Ute Tribe to Porky's Smokehouse, informing the establishment that it is the law that tax exemptions must be given to Tribal Members. No action was needed.

Trustee Craig stated that she received letters of support from the Town, the Ignacio Chamber, Ignacio Creative District, ELHI, the Board of County Commissioners, Economic Alliance and Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Application. Decision will be made during the last part of April. She also stated that she did not receive a letter of support from the Tribe, but it has been requested and Trustee Craig hopes to receive one in the future.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Garcia stated that some legislation has been initiated that could have a negative impact on gaming grant funds; he has been working with CML to try to change some of the language of the bill. Some changes were made, but Mr. Garcia feels it is not sufficient. CML believes the bill will be passed as it is currently written.

- 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.

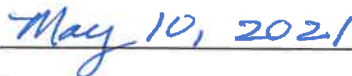
No action taken due to the earlier consensus of the Board.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk