



## MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 12, 2021 – 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 6:45 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 Sandra Maez

Absent: Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Dixie Melton

Guests:

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2021

B. Financial Records – June Check Register and June Accounting Reports

C. Family Dollar Liquor License Renewal Application

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

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Land Use Development Code Public Hearing – Discussion on the draft LUDC

Draft is not yet completed; hope to have the edits that have been agreed upon so far out to the Board tomorrow. Work Session scheduled for Monday, July 19. Public Hearing was published for the June Board Meeting; no one was present to comment at that meeting, although there were written comments submitted for that meeting. The Hearing was continued to this evening. We will not continue the Public Hearing; we will simply publish when the Draft is completed and ready for Public Comment.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Audit Report by Hinton Burdick

Kelli Jones reviewed the draft audit report. She began by expressing appreciation to the staff for all their preparation for the audit and to the Board for selecting Hinton Burdick as the auditors for the Town.

In the prior year, there were two findings; this year the finding of the Year End Accounting and Financial Statement Controls has been downgraded to deficiency and the auditors anticipate continued improvement in the future.

Two findings in State Compliance for 2020: Budget was submitted late to the State and the bank that the Town uses does not comply with the Colorado Public Deposit Protection Act (although the funds are fully insured by FDIC).

Financial Highlights in Governmental Funds: all operated within their approved budgets.

Financial Highlights in the Proprietary (Utility) Funds: all operated within their approved budgets.

General Fund Resources: Just over 1.2 million dollars of unassigned funds. The recommended amount is a minimum of two (2) months of operating expenses in reserves; the Town currently has ten (10) months of operating expenses in reserves. Very stable and on a good trend.

Capital Improvement Resources: These funds are restricted; \$324,000 available for capital improvement projects and the fund is stable.

Water Fund Resources: \$23,000 in unrestricted funds; this is less than one month of reserves. Recommendation is to add to this net balance to get it to the minimum recommendation of two months operating expenses.

Gas Fund Resources: Currently has three months in operating expenses; stable and anticipated to increase.

Sewer Fund Resources: Sewer Bond was paid off in 2019. This fund operated at a deficit in 2020. Conclusion: this fund needs attention to bring it to the two months operating expenses.

Cash Balances Trend: Both Governmental and Proprietary Funds increased since 2019, which is a good sign.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to address the utility funds; these discussions will need to continue into the future. The Board expressed appreciation to Kelli for her work. Mr. Garcia stated that staff will finalize this with the auditors and will submit the audit to the state by the July 31 deadline.

**Action:** Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to accept the audit report and directed staff to move forward with Hinton Burdick to finalize the audit and get it submitted to the state; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## B. COVID-19 Update

This item has been on the agenda for over a year. Tonight's meeting is the first in-person meeting since last February; the remote public meeting is still an option for those who desire to attend but do not want to be in-person. Town Hall is open 10-2 with very light traffic; phones are operational 9-4.

Last week Governor Polis ended the State's Emergency Declaration; the Board may want to consider lifting the Town's Emergency Declaration at the meeting in August. San Juan Basin Health may also end the County's Emergency Declaration in the next couple of weeks; they are watching the Delta Variant closely.

The Board expressed appreciation to the staff for their work during the pandemic.

## VII. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Police Department

Chief is on vacation this week; his report is in the packet. The new officer will begin employment later in July.

Mayor Cox stated that there have been vehicles left unlocked and theft has occurred. Please ensure that your cars are locked and all your belongings are safe. Trustee Maez stated that their vehicle had been smeared with some form of lard or butter last night. She was encouraged to file a report with the police department. Mayor Cox encouraged vigilance and for people to report suspicious activity.

### B. Public Works Department

Mayor Cox stated that Mr. Mickey's report was sent via email.

Mr. Mickey covered these points:

Tier 2 violation in drinking water, due to not having a contact person on file with the state; a new contact list is now on file with the State. Colten and Lionel are both Class 1 Water Distribution System Operators. This was simply a clerical error, not a compliance issue.

Campbell Park irrigation has been capped off on the South end of the park due to flooding.

Mayor Cox stated that someone had commented to her about the construction for the new traffic light at Goddard/Becker intersection. They are requesting signage warning about the steel plates. Mr. Mickey stated that he will check into that.

Trustee Atencio asked if there could be speed limit signs on Browning while the construction is underway. Mr. Garcia stated he will check into this; he stated that the police department has increased patrol on Browning since the accident happened.

### C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton is not in attendance; her report is in the packet.

### D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia stated that the Goddard/Becker signal construction is slightly ahead of schedule. Mr. Mickey is inspecting and ensuring compliance.

Mr. Garcia & Mayor Cox attended the Rural Housing Alliance Retreat. All are in agreement that housing is a need in this area. RHA can facilitate these projects; the Town is moving forward with our conceptual plans for Rock Creek. Working on an RFP as one of the actionable items that came out of the retreat. Mayor Cox encouraged optimism since there is now the recognition of the need for housing.

Broadband deadline for grant is July 15; FastTracks is the applicant again. Our consultant is working with them. Mr. Garcia spoke with the DOLA representative when he was at the Broadband Session of the CCCMA Conference; they are aware that our area is underserved and hope to get a project funded in our area. Bonfire is an internet provider that is working for the Tribe; the Town may be able to work with the Tribe's

project as they deploy through the Town. The Tribe has given Bonfire authority to work with the Town.

Executive Session will be to discuss a proposal that Mr. Garcia has received.

Governor Polis has appointed Mr. Garcia to the State Transportation Commission. This is a volunteer position and he will need to be in Denver two days each month and there will be meetings in between. He hopes to bring additional CDOT funding into our area. Our CDOT region has 13 counties and he is representing them all in the Commission. He will report to the Board on his progress.

Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for Mr. Garcia's willingness to serve in this way and stated that the entire state will benefit from his involvement. Staff also extended congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Garcia.

**E. Attorney**

Mr. Liberman stated that he has been working on the audit report, the water line research issue, and on the sign code enforcement matters.

**VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cox stated that we had the Music in the Mountains mobile stage at Shoshone Park and it was quite enjoyable. She expressed appreciation to them for coming to Ignacio. Mr. Garcia expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for all their work in preparing for that event.

Trustee Box asked if it is possible to order a banner for the parade; the Town already has one that can be used. Morgan stated that the 300 collapsible totes that Mayor Cox requested have been ordered and should be here on July 21 or sooner.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked Ms. Wesner for an update on the ARPA money. Household small businesses, revenue loss in utilities, infrastructure such as Broadband are allowable uses. Ms. Wesner stated that staff will sit down and discuss priorities based on allowable uses. Half of the money has come in (114,000) and is sitting in ColoTrust in its own sub-account and earning interest. The other half will be received around this time next year. Mr. Garcia stated that this will be on the August agenda as an item of discussion.

Mr. Garcia stated that Trustee Craig's father passed away and she is absent this evening so she can be with family.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

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

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to go into Executive Session; Trustee Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Garcia stated that he would like to return to open meeting in about 20 minutes so that the Board can direct staff on the item of discussion.

The Board went into executive session at 7:55 PM.

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:23 PM. Mr. Garcia acknowledged Mr. Dunavant as an attendee in the open meeting and expressed appreciation for his presence in the meeting.

Mr. Garcia stated that he has received an offer to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the Town's corporate boundaries and the Board has heard and considered the offer. The party has requested that this not be public; this was the discussion during Executive Session.

Mayor Cox expressed that the floor is open for a motion to direct staff.

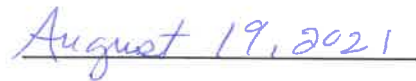
Trustee Atencio moved to direct staff to enter into negotiations for this property at a price of \$110,000 including the water rights, if any; they would utilize tax credits if that is amenable to them. Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**


Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 6:30 PM at the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting. There will also be a Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission on July 19 at 6:00 PM to continue the Land Use Development Code update.

  
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**Stella Cox, Mayor**

  
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**Date**

  
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**Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk**