

RICO TOWN BOARD MINUTES

January 17, 2018

The Regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Zach McManus.

Members Present. Zach McManus, Keith Lindauer, Sophia Kyriakakis, Nicole Pieterse, Stephan Roberts and Genevieve Yellowman. Absent was Barbara Betts.

Staff Present. Kari Distefano and Linda Yellowman. Absent was Patrick Drew and Dennis Swank.

Guests Present. Pat Willits/Trust for Land Restoration and Justin Bain.

Approval of the Agenda. The agenda for January 17, 2018 was presented for approval. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to approve the agenda as presented for January 17, 2018 and seconded by Sophia Kyriakakis. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes. The Rico Town Board minutes for December 13, 2017 were presented for approval. Keith Lindauer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for December 13, 2017 and seconded by Stephan Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Monthly Bills. The Monthly bills for January 2018 were presented for approval. Keith Lindauer made a motion to approve the bills for January 2018 as presented. Seconded by Genevieve Yellowman. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report.

Citizens Communication. Justin Bain talked about the town building that he is renting with the Town of Rico.

Town Clerk. Town Clerk Linda Yellowman reports that everything is going well at the courthouse. The outside steps are heated and not have to worry about shoveling at the moment. Nice and warm in the building.

2018 dog tags are in. If you need to get one, come by and purchase one or two or three.

Public Works. The waterline at Argentine Alley is replaced with new water and service line and meter yokes. Working on a water meter that is not turning on, we may need to turn the main waterline off for repairs on Argentine Alley.

The new John Deere loader is here, we are working on the front blade and it need some adjusting for the streets. Plowing snow on the streets and removing snow on Highway 145.

Water plant is running 25 gpm. Working on the other Explorer's fuel pump.

Water Consultant. Town Manager Kari Distefano gave an update on the water system.



Parks & Recreation. Zach McManus reports that the Town is preparing for the Winter Carnival on January 27 and 28. Nordic Trail is groomed and trail signs will be put up on the trails. Needing more snow before the carnival and some hockey team.

Town Board Reports.

Geothermal Committee. No new report

Grant Writer.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Kari Distefano gave an update on the Mine Shaft Zoning violation. When the Board appoints a Code Enforcement, that officer can contact the Mine Shaft. The building across from the Enterprise was also mentioned.

The Town of Rico has received grant funding from the Rico Center for the Parks, Open Space and Trails Fund (\$29,000) and the community meetings (\$5,000). I went before the Southwestern Water Conservation District roundtable on January 10th. Our application for an engineering analysis received unanimous board support and we will likely get at least \$60,000 for this project with the possibility of getting an additional \$30,000 from the Colorado Water Conservancy District. In addition, Rico has been recommended by Patrick Rondinelli, our Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) representative, to be the recipient of technical support through a new DOLA program called the Fiscal Stability Strategic Planning Initiative. This will help us create a budget that will be proactive rather than reactive.

I have been in contact with the new owner of a portion of the Dolores Placer south of town, formally owned by Ron Markey. His name is Michael Popek. He is interested in developing a campground on a portion of that property however due to the in-stream flow requirement by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, it is unlikely that he would be able to obtain water rights for such a venture. If the Town would like to see this happen, there is the potential of annexation. If the Trustee are interested in this potential projects, I could do some more research regarding how much water a campground would require and how such a project would affect the Town.

Discussion Items. V-Cup. Following last month's discussion regarding V-Cup, I contacted Pat Willits from the Trust for Land Restoration along with Mark Rudolf of the CDPHE, both of whom worked on the original V-Cup agreement. Pat Willits has agreed to attend this upcoming Trustee's meeting and be available for questions. Mark Rudolf may also be available for questions. The discussion I had with them continues to leave the Town with two questions. How do we deal with these vacant lots in the future if they are known to exceed EPA lead levels and who is responsible for the remediation. I also talked to Chris Sanchez about obtaining the lead sampling information in a GIS format. I would like to have a record of what clean-up has already occurred on residential property as well. He said that he would contact the field manager for BP to see if we could have that. I believe that as a town, it is our responsibility to alert both potential buyers and potential builders of the risk of high lead levels if we in fact know the soil lead content is elevated in certain areas. I would also like to open up another conversation with BP about their willingness to help mitigate. This continues to be a difficult issue but I don't believe that we can just ignore it. Pat Willits briefly gave an update on the V-Cup with the Board.

Possible Paradox Community Trust Challenge Grant Program Application for an Artist's Space in the Town of Rico Property on Glasgow Ave. The Paradox Community Trust Challenge Grant Program has \$40,000 available for Rico, Norwood, Redvale, Nucla, Naturita, Paradox and

Bedrock for projects that seek to create locally owned commercial activities. I was thinking about the possibility of facilitating an effort toward applying for the creation of an artist's cooperative on the Town owned Glasgow Avenue property. The grant application suggests that the applicants be a team of business owners, non-profits or government entities. With the trustee's approval, I will contact the Artists of Rico members and talk to them about what it would take to outfit that building as a work/sales space.

2018 Town of Rico Work Plan. I know everyone is busy, but I would like to talk about the potential of having a Trustee's retreat to help me to develop a work plan. A work plan would not only help me to establish priorities, but it would give you a matrix by which to evaluate my performance as town manager. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to have a work plan on January 31, 2018. Seconded by Keith Lindauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

First Reading for the Adoption of the Amended Year 2017 Budget. Town Manager Kari Distefano reviewed the amended 2017 Budget with the Board. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to approve the 1st Reading for the Adoption of the Amended Year 2017 Budget. Seconded by Zach McManus. The motion passed unanimously.


Resolution to Appoint Town Manager as Zoning Code Enforcement Officer. Town Attorney Carol Viner has advised me that prior to taking any formal action on the Mine Shaft building zoning violation, I will need to be appointed as the Town enforcement official. After some discussion, Keith Lindauer made a motion to approve the Resolution appointing Town Manager Kari Distefano as the zoning code enforcement officer. Seconded by Stephan Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter Regarding the Rico Elementary School. I have continued the discussion about the closure of the Rico Elementary School with Telluride School District Superintendent Mike Gass and Dolores County School District Superintendent Bruce Hankins. It is my understanding after having spoken with both that Mr. Hankins is prepared to recommend the closing of the Rico Elementary and Mr. Gass is prepared to absorb all Rico students into the Telluride School District. Mr. Gass would like to have the assets including both the school building and the buildings and land adjoining. The process would begin with a memorandum of understanding and culminate in a format legislative process, probably in 2019. Mr. Gass would like to have a formal letter from the Rico Board of Trustees supporting this measure. Based on our local geography and the physical distance of the Dove Creek School, I believe that this situation would benefit both the students and parents of Rico. It is important however that the school building not be abandoned. Mike Gass is amenable to keeping the school open for some community benefit, be it an outdoor education program or some adult learning opportunity. While it is unfortunate that we are in this situation, I believe that there is an opportunity here to create a center that has the potential to draw people and activities in Rico. After a brief discussion the Board of Trustees gave direction to the Town Manager to work with both schools in the best interest for Rico.

Adjournment. Keith Lindauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 and seconded by Genevieve Yellowman. The motion passed unanimously.



Linda Yellowman
Rico Town Clerk



Zach McManus
Mayor