

## RICO TOWN BOARD MINUTES

January 15, 2020

The Regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Mayor Nicole Pieterse.

**Members Present.** Patrick Fallon, Joe Dillsworth, Nicole Pieterse, Sophia Kyriakakis, Brandy Randall and Stephen Roberts. Leave of Absence for 3 months: Barbara Betts.

**Staff Present.** Kari Distefano and Linda Yellowman.

**Guests Present.** Pat Fallon, Paul Ruud, Stacy Sheridan, Ann Williams, Gary Gass, Allyn Svoboda, Alex Wing, Cristal Hibbard, Laurie Adams, Erin Johnson, Mariah Gillow-Wiles, Jordan O'Hara and Scott Emerson.

**Approval of the Agenda.** The agenda for January 15, 2020 was presented for approval. Additional items were added. Joe Dillsworth a motion to approve the amended agenda for January 15, 2020 and seconded by Sophia Kyriakakis. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The Rico Town Board minutes for October 21, 2019, December 9 and December 16, 2019 were presented for approval. Joe Dillsworth made a motion to approve the October 21, December 9 and 16, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Stephen Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of the Monthly Bills.** The Monthly bills for January 2020 were submitted for approval. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to approve paying the bills for January 2020 as presented. Sophia Kyriakakis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizens Communication.** On behalf of the Rico Trails Alliance, Cristal Hibbard presented signs for the trails to the Board for their input.

Paul Ruud pointed out some procedures for the Town Board meetings such as public participation and interactions amongst the board.

**Action Items.** Appointment of a New Member to the Rico Board of Trustees. Town Clerk Linda Yellowman stated Patrick Fallon and Allyn Svoboda, both submitted a letter of interest for the Town Board vacancy. The appointed applicant will be completing Zach McManus's term. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to appoint Patrick Fallon. Seconded by Joe Dillsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of a Member to the South West Colorado Council of Governments. If Rico is to continue as a member of the Board, the Board needs to appoint a Board as a member of SWCCOG. The focus of this Board has been broadband but they also are involved in housing and transportation. They meet once a month on the second Thursday of every month. Miriam Gillow-Wiles talked about SWCCOG's program.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Amended 2019 Budget. At the end of every year, we amend the prior year's budget. Joe Dillsworth made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Amended 2019 Budget. Seconded by Stephen Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of a Fee Agreement with Carol Viner. Town Attorney Carol Viner has left Masters and Viner P.C. to venture out on her own. The fee agreement for Ms. Viner is the same as the original agreement without Masters. Neither agreement mentioned one free trip to Rico per year although Ms. Viner has been willing to do that. After a brief discussion, Nicole Pieterse made a motion to approve the fee agreement from Carol Viner. Seconded by Brandy Randall. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of an Eligible Governmental Entity Agreement with the Statewide Internet Portal Authority of the State of Colorado. Town applied for some grant money available through the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) to buy a new ArcView GIS license. Sophia Kyriakakis made a motion to approve SIPA application. Seconded by Stephen Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of a Member (alternate) to the Region 9 Board. Joe Dillsworth and Brandy Randall expressed interest to serve on the Region 9 Board. Nicole Pieterse made a motion to appoint Brandy Randall as an alternate. Sophia Kyriakakis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Signature Cards for Dolores State Bank. The Town of Rico requires two signature on checks written. Joe Dillsworth made a motion to renew the signature cards with the Dolores State Bank. Seconded by Nicole Pieterse. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **City Council and Committee Reports.**

Town Clerk. Town Clerk Linda Yellowman mentioned 2020 dog tags are available for purchase.  
Public Works. None  
Parks, Open Space and Trails. The 2020 Winter Festival was a success. Trails are being groomed.

#### **Town Manager's Report.**

Sewer Plan B. Revisited the sewer question with the goal of making the commercial buildings on Glasgow Avenue either functional or more compliant with State regulations. In other words bringing central sewer to buildings like the old mercantile, which doesn't have water or sewer at all and the Rico Town Hall, which has a cesspool. The mercantile building is vacant and if the Town Hall's cesspool fails, the building will become effectively dysfunctional. Ms. Distefano says she received some information about what are essentially package plants from a firm called ORENCO. Also a preliminary estimate of what it would cost to install one of these plants from the ORENCO engineers. Preliminary estimates suggest that a phase 1 system that would serve the area shown on the map could be constructed for \$1,696,441. This number includes a 20% contingency but not engineering costs. The Town should be eligible for a grant through the State Revolving Fund for engineering. Assuming a Department of Local Affairs grant with a 50% match and a low interest loan (1.5%), the Town could install this system for around \$49,117 per year. The money that currently exists and comes in to the sewer enterprise fund through taxes would be user fees for maintenance.

There are still some questions about this scenario. This system would include Delos processor that is shown in the information the manufactures sent that would be installed in each individual building. The Town asked the manufacture's engineers how often these need to be replaced and

maintained. High maintenance of these appliances could be a deal breaker. Suggestion was made to form a committee of five. The Town Board members were supportive to continue with Sewer Plan B.

Rico Center Grant Application. The Town applied for grants from the Rico Center for snow removal costs and to fix and buy chains for the old loader. Also applied for funding to reseal the Town Hall masonry. Both grants have been approved by the Rico Center.

**Discussion Items:**

License Agreement for the Hot Springs Property. A copy of a draft easement agreement was sent to Mr. Swanky, owner of the Hot Springs property and Mr. Swank did not like the agreement. He felt that it would be an encumbrance on his property. Staff asked the Town Attorney Carol Viner to look at some sort of a license agreement. Ms. Viner provided the Town with an example and added some additional elements to the draft. If the Board chooses to approve this agreement, the agreement will be sent to Mr. Swanky. The Board were in favor of the draft agreement.

Annexation of Popek Property. Lynn Markey sold the property to the south of Mike Popek's property to Mr. Popek. This is good news because he has expressed a willingness to extend the trail easement that he has agreed too over his lot on to the Markey parcel, which he just purchased. This will allow the Town to connect the Rio Grande Southern Railroad Grade trail through Town to the US Forest Service trail south of the Markey property.

Mr. Popek asked whether the Town had the ability to annex commercial property. Apparently he is planning to build a campground on the property. This is worth some discussion by the Board. There are both advantages and disadvantages to annexation. The advantage would be that the Town could collect sale tax. The disadvantage would that while he would have to install his own improvements, roads, water, electric etc. The Town would likely have to maintain them once the annexation occurred.


Work Plan for 2020. A draft work plan for 2020 was submitted. It includes a lot of ongoing projects. Staff would welcome any additions and a discussion. Possibly a retreat or work session. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to have a work session February 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the courthouse.

Executive Session Regarding Personnel Issues C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f). Nicole Pieterse made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel issues at 8:30pm. Seconded by Joe Dillsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

Out of executive session, the regular meeting was called back to order.

**Adjournment.** Nicole Pieterse made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Stephen Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Linda Yellowman  
Rico Town Clerk

  
Nicole Pieterse  
Acting Mayor ProTem

