

## RICO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 19, 2022

### Call to order

Mayor Nicole Pieterse called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

### Trustees Present:

Mayor Nicole Pieterse  
Trustee Christopher Condon  
Trustee Joe Croke  
Trustee Joe Dillsworth  
Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon  
Trustee Benn Vernadakis  
Trustee Brandy Randall

### Absent:

**Staff Present.** Chauncey McCarthy and Anna Wolf

### Approval of the Agenda

To add: Who will be added to the sign card for Dolores State Bank  
Continuation of mask mandate in Court House

Stricken from agenda:

Letter of interest for the creation of a public-private partnership

### Mot

To approve the agenda as amended.

**Moved by** Trustee Benn Vernadakis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

### Approval of Minutes

#### Motion

To approve the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Trustee Joe Dillsworth.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

### Consent Agenda

#### Payment of Bills

Payroll transfer was not done from water fund due to a late grant money refund application. Next month this will result in a higher payroll transfer.

#### Motion

To approve the bills as presented.

**Moved by** Trustee Joe Croke, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.



**Public Comment.**

Linda Yellowman announced her intent to run as County Commissioner.

Comment was made about Town money being spent on bridge South of Town. Addressed by Trustees with the explanation of an easement and MOU on file with the town.

Comment was made about the recycling program attempt funded via a CDPHE grant. Addressed by Town Manager that the contract was resolved due to timeline of grant application. This may be revisited next grant cycle. The truck and trailer are currently listed by the town to recoup moneys spent.

**Action Items**Consideration of Ordinance 2022 - 01.

A brief discussion on lack of spending being beneficial to the water budget as the water fund is very low. This is due to a reimbursement still being processed of approximately \$110,000. Water fund lower due to miscalculation. Corrected going forward.

**Motion**

To approve the first reading.

**Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Consideration of Emergency Ordinance 2022 – 02.

Discussion on the ordinance to increase the lodging tax from 1% to 7% as voted for in the November election with a penalty of \$10 or 10% whichever is higher. The Header needs to be changed from 2022 – 01 to 2022 – 02

This ordinance will be in affect from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

**Motion**

To approve the Consideration of the Ordinance adopting a lodging tax increase per approved ballot measure during November election.

**Moved by** Trustee Brandy Randall, seconded by Trustee Benn Vernadakis.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Consideration of Mantz Ave Lots 6 – 9 Block 29 minor subdivision.

Discussion about re-plating 4 non-conforming lots to 2 conforming lots. Planning Commission recommended approval to the board; Mayor wanted to ensure conditions from past plat approval are to carry forward to new plat. These included Fire Hydrant on the corner Mantz and Garfield and approved fire engine access by RFPD.

**Motion**

To continue to February Trustee meeting so applicant can show improvement areas.

**Moved by** Trustee Brandy Randall, seconded by Trustee Benn Vernadakis.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Appointing of Planning Commission Seats.

Appointing five members and 2 alternates. Correction of terms during this vote. 3 regular members and 1 alternate member to expire in 2024, 1 regular and 1 alternate member to expire in 2023.

Board opened discussion to candidates to address the board with more detail on their experience. One candidate listed their credentials.

Public commented there are 2 applicants who have conflict of interest in the town planning, this should be considered when voting. Also to ensure that all applicants are registered voters. Board quoted Article VII. 702.4. Board clarified if member has conflict of interest, they must recuse themselves from own applications.

Public suggested board members use a ranking system.

**Motion**

To use ballots to take vote with 4 regular spots and 2 alternate spots. To be determined by most votes per candidate in regular or alternate spots.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Trustee Benn Vernadakis

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0

Vote resulted in Garrish Wilis and Andrew Romanyshyn being appointed a regular spot. Three way tie was the result for the last 2 regular spots between Leah Chmielewski, Raegan Ellease, and Cristal Hibbard. The 2 alternates voted in were Brad Fox and Rebecca Adams.

**Motion**

Revote 2 out of the 3 tied nominees for 2 remaining regular spots.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 5-2

Vote resulted in a three way tie

Public Suggested to include alternates from previous vote.

Board discussed voting previously voted alternates and 3 regular tied nominees for 2 remaining regular spots and 2 alternate spots with person receiving least votes not being appointed a spot.

**Motion**

Re-voting previously voted alternates and 3 regular tied nominees for 2 remaining regular spots and 2 alternate spots with person receiving least votes not being appointed a spot.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0

Vote resulted in 4 way tie between Leah Chmielewski, Cristal Hibbard, Brad Fox and Rebecca Adams. Resulting in Raegan Ellease not being voted to a planning commission term

Board decides to use first vote alternative selection of Brad Fox and Rebecca Adams as alternates. Thus awarding Leah Chmielewski and Cristal Hibbard as regular seats.

**Motion**

Brad Fox and Rebecca Adams as alternates. Leah Chmielewski and Cristal Hibbard as regular seats.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Board opens discussion between appointed planning members to determine terms.

Cristal volunteers for 1 year regular term due to previous involvement on the Planning Commission.

Rebecca Adams had no preference.

The outcome is as follows:

3 regular members to expire in 2024:

Andrew Romanyshyn, Gerrish Willis, Leah Chmielewski.

1 alternate member to expire in 2024:

Rebecca Adams

1 regular to expire in 2023:

Cristal Hibbard

1 alternate member to expire in 2023:

Brad Fox

Appointing of Town Planner.

Representative from Western Slope planning and Jen Stark were in attendance via zoom to comment on their application.

**Motion**

Motion to approve Jen Stark as Town Planner.

**Moved by** Trustee Benn Vernadakis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Appointing of Town Attorney.

Mayor Nicole Pieterse commented that board had interviewed Town Attorney applicants in the past. Asked if board would like to in this case. Board comfortable with approving Town Attorney at this meeting.

**Motion**

Motion to approve Karp Neu Hanlon as Town Attorney.

**Moved by** Trustee Benn Vernadakis, seconded by Trustee Joe Croke

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

Signing of Agenda and Checks.

Board discussed Clerk and 2 members signing checks and agenda. The following trustees volunteered to be available to sign:

Mayor Nicole Pieterse

Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon

Trustee Benn Vernadakis

Trustee Brandy Randall

**Motion**

To approve Town Clerk Anna Wolf, Mayor Nicole Pieterse, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon, Trustee Benn Vernadakis, Trustee Brandy Randall to sign agenda and checks.

**Moved by** Mayor Nicole Pieterse, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Fallon.

**Vote.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved, 7-0.

**Staff Reports**

Clerk's Report. Town Clerk Anna Wolf introduced herself as new Town Clerk.

**Manager Report.**

Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy mentioned the grant money for the water meter replacement has been filed.

Manager is considering ways that the School can be used. To be continued in future meetings. Reentering conversation on Rico joining the Telluride School district.

Water system will be using Neptune 360 AMR to save 4-6 hours/week of manual labor. This would enable auto populated readings and bills that would be backed up in a cloud server.

Town Manager is taking steps to consider a new paid platform for email addresses with more functions.

**Discussion Items****Bustang Shelter Presentation.**

Jeff Prewits present via Zoom. Bustang wants to put in bus shelter between 3 – 5 Glasgow. CDOT would cover all costs. It would act as advertising as well as protection for customers.

Public commented that address is wrong, correct address is 1 – 3 Glasgow. Can it match historic vision? Public questioned if the bus shelter could be on the East side of Glasgow. Public questioned if the shelter be used by other users such as SMART, future school bus.

Board discusses who would be responsible to clean the shelter and collect the garbage. Also to have Bustang get the owners of location involved in planning. The businesses on Glasgow should also be involved in the planning stages.

According to Jeff, Bustang will start building shelters in a different region first. It would put the Rico region at least 1 year away from construction of the bus shelter. Other users would be approved to use the Bustang shelter.

**VCUP Update.**

Mayor Nicole Pieterse gave an update on the process. Public meeting at the Court House will be on February 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM or 7:00PM start and February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM agenda and packet will be posted prior to the meetings.

**Point of Diversion legal councils.**

The board decided to have Martha Whimore continue working on alternate point of diversion for the Town's water rights until project is complete or if there are any objections.

**Snow Storage / Parking Ordinance.**

Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy shared River Street from Mantz is hard to get a bucket through due to cars parking on street. Town may need to sicker cars and tow repeat offenders who park at the well site in the future. If another big storm comes in Town may need to shuttle snow from Glasgow. Town Manager is working with CDOT to keep the split lanes on Glasgow for businesses.

Board discusses if ordinance were needed a plan would need to be written up, along with legal review. All issues need to be explored: Board wants Dennis and Stephan's input on needs for Snow removal in difficult areas. New Planning Committee may be responsible for coming up with plan.

**Letter of interest for the creation of a public-private partnership.**


Board to have new legal counsel use a few hours to look into the process of creating a town wide owners association and what a transfer assessment would look like for Rico.

**Committee Updates.**

Internet Committee Update.

Jim Ostrem reports on the grant being submitted. 60 day public comment period.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

  
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Anna Wolf  
Rico Town Clerk

  
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Nicole Pieterse  
Mayor

