

RICO TOWN BOARD MINUTES

October 21, 2020

The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Mayor ProTem Nicole Pieterse.

Members Present. Barbara Betts, Joe Dillsworth, Patrick Fallon, Sophia Kyriakakis, Nicole Pieterse, Brandy Randall and Stephen Roberts.

Staff Present. Kari Distefano and Linda Yellowman.

Guests Present.

Approval of the Agenda. The agenda for October 21, 2020 was presented for approval. Brandy Randall made a motion to approve the agenda for October 21, 2020 as presented. Sophia Kyriakakis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes. The Rico Town Board minutes for September 16 and October 13, 2020 were presented for approval. Barbara Betts made a motion to approve the minutes for September 16 and October 13, 2020. Stephen Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Monthly Bills.

The Monthly bills for October 2020 were submitted for approval. Joe Dillsworth made a motion to approve the bills for October 2020. Nicole Pieterse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Communication. Mark Eleison brought up the ARCO sales and Forest Service.

JOINT WORK SESSION: RICO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND RICO PLANNING COMMISSION.

Proposed Bedrock Subdivision.

(Nicole Pieterse discloses that they are her clients.)

Dave Bulson and Dave Ballode are considering a subdivision application on a parcel owned by Disposition Properties. Maps were presented. Any major subdivision application in Rico will necessarily bring up the issue of water. This proposal was discussed in a work session with the Rico Planning Commission. The Rico Planning Commission decided that it would be appropriate to have a joint work session to discuss major subdivisions in general and Rico's limitations with respect to water supply.

The North Rico Well is currently supplying water to the Town of Rico but the water rights on this well are limited. Based on the settlement between Rico and the Dolores Water Conservancy District, Rico has rights to .178 cubic feet per second (cfs), which equates to 80 gallons per minute or 3.5 million gallons per month for uses including municipal and industrial, domestic, commercial, irrigation and recreational.

In addition to the well that is currently serving the Town, Rico has water rights on Silver Creek and a water system that was decommissioned in 2014. The decree for the Silver Creek diversion point allows Rico 0.28 cfs with an additional 2.72 cfs being conditional. Due to changes in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations regarding filtration of surface water, the Silver Creek system is no longer in compliance and is being used only as an emergency back-up should the well fail.

Growth economic activity and lack of affordable housing in Telluride suggest that Rico is poised to experience an uptick in housing starts. Lots are still relatively reasonable and middle managers and tradesmen who would like to remain in the area but are unable to afford housing in Telluride are starting to look at Rico as a possible home. Reactivating the Silver Creek system would allow for moderate growth as well as redundancy should the well fail.

The analysis of Rico's water system by Harris Engineering that was done in June of 2016 was brought up. This report includes a survey of lots and buildable lots and suggests that there are approximately 400 homes that could be served with the existing well, however, there are approximately 650 buildable lots within the Town limits. GIS information from Dolores County indicates that there are 481 existing parcels. Dolores County considers any group of lots owned by a single entity one parcel and does not consider whether or not the lots are platted separately or contemplate the ability to subdivide. Regardless of the number, there is not enough well water to serve Rico at potential build-out unless we are able to re-activate the Silver Creek System.

There was discussion last month about several approaches to the Bedrock Subdivision. There are several approaches the Town could take to determining which landowner gets guaranteed water taps. The outcome was to suggest to the applicants for the Bedrock Subdivision that the subdivision be phased so as not to exceed the number of parcels that are currently platted in that area so that they would not need additional water taps.

The Board of Trustees directed the Town Manager to research changing the Town's water rights/point of diversion on Silver Creek to the well up valley.

Action Items-

Consideration of a Sign Application for an Interpretive sign located at the Historic Atlantic Cable Site, Artists of Rico, applicant.

No action needed.

Acceptance of the Audit.

The Audit for 2019 is complete and there were no findings, which is good news and a credit again to Town Clerk Linda Yellowman's bookkeeping abilities. The Board of Trustee needs to accept the 2019 Audit although a Resolution is unnecessary. Barbara Betts made a motion to accept the 2019 Audit. Joe Dillsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of a Bustang Proposal to Change the Location of the Bustang Bus Stop.

Bustang is the bus service that runs daily between Durango and Grand Junction. It stops in Rico twice a day, in the morning and in the evening. It stops at the Lawson Hill Conoco station going in both directions but does not go into Telluride. Currently the bus stops at Mountain Top Fuel but after discussion with the San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation, Bustang and the Town, we decided that it made sense to be consistent with the Rico/Telluride shuttle and stop in front of the Enterprise Bar and Grill. We are in the process of working on signage but prior to installing anything permanent, Bustang would like to have Board approval of the site change for

the stop. Joe Dillsworth made a motion to approve the Bustang Proposal to Change the Location of the Bustang Bus Stop. Nicole Pieterse seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of a Transfer of Ownership of the Liquor for Mountain Top Fuel.

Mountain Top Fuel is selling and the new owner is requesting a liquor license transfer of ownership. The paperwork is in order. Barbara Betts made a motion to approve the Transfer of Ownership of the Liquor License for Mountain Top Fuel. Sophia Kyriakakis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of the Sarah Kelly Spearing Proposal for Space on the Second Floor of the Town Hall.

Sarah Kelley-Spearing is a family medicine physician that would like to use the Courthouse to see patients one day a week. She is seeking to supply some very basic health care to the community. After a brief discussion, Nicole Pieterse made a motion to approve a lease with 6 month probation and no rent cost for a space on the second floor in the courthouse with strict restriction and sanitation requirements. Joe Dillsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager's Report.

Update on Water Tank Rehabilitation and Water Meter Project.

The water tank rehabilitation project is complete. Two of the three water tanks were drained, repaired, resealed and painted. Because proposals from all three companies that answered the request for proposals were higher than anticipated, the Town decided to work on the newer two tanks and try to find grant funding to replace the third tank in 2022.

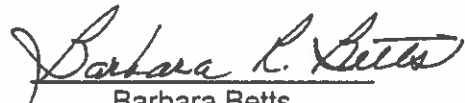
The water meter replacement project is getting closer to being done. By next month we expect to have the ability to read all meters in town remotely. The new meters will be more accurate and reading them will be much easier and less time consuming especially in the winter. There is also a function in the software that flags unusual water usage so that we can spot leaks more easily.

The Town Cleanup is schedule for November 7, 2020.

The Board and staff thanked Sophia Kyriakakis for her service as Board of Trustee.

Adjournment. Sophia Kyriakakis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Barbara Betts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.


Linda Yellowman
Rico Town Clerk


Barbara Betts
Mayor

