

RICO TOWN BOARD MINUTES

February 21, 2018

The Regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Zach McManus.

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

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

Guests Present. Alex Wing and Cristal Hibbard.

Approval of the Agenda. The agenda for February 21, 2018 was presented for approval. Town Manager Kari Distefano would like to table the Health Insurance Renewal to next month. Zach McManus made a motion to approve the agenda as amended for February 21, 2018 and seconded by Keith Lindauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes. The Rico Town Board minutes for January 17, 2018 were presented for approval. Zach McManus made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for January 17, 2018 and seconded by Barbara Betts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Monthly Bills. The Monthly bills for February 2018 were presented for approval. Barbara Betts made a motion to approve the bills for February 2018 as presented. Seconded by Stephan Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report.

Citizens Communication. None.

Town Clerk. No report.

Public Works. The report says there has been a lot of thievery near the town shop. The fuel was broken into. The snowmobile trailer, the light bar off the old cop car, the battery and tool box were taken. The town has contacted the Sheriff's department and they are looking into it.

Plowing snow very little and moving snow off Highway 145. Working on the other Explorer, I need to place the old fuel line and some vacuum hose.

The water plant water usage has come up to 35.0 gpm and the last couple of days, we are showing more water lost. Dylan Robertson and I have looked around checking water meters and fire hydrants.

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

Parks & Recreation. Zach McManus reports the Winter Carnival was a great turn out and plan on doing it next year. Courthouse update- mention the tiles at entrance of the courthouse needs to be fix, broken window glass needs to be replaced and plastering some of the walls in the courthouse has been done.

Town Board Reports.

Geothermal Committee. Barbara Betts reports the group will be back sometimes in May 2018.

Grant Writer.

Town Manager's Report. Update on Rico Transit. Finally on February 5th, the Rico Shuttle started its runs to and from Telluride. The insurance requirements took longer than I hoped but we now have two riders on Monday and none on Tuesday but by Friday we were up to seven. The Town is in the process of writing a grant application to the Rico Center to get some funding for compensation for the drivers. That position comes with a great deal of responsibility and there are several videos and a couple of quizzes that you have to take to become approved to drive so there is a time investment. The annual cost to pay a driver \$15.00 an hour for 11/2 hours per day 52 weeks a year would be \$6,410. There are other options. We can offer free rides not only to drivers, but also their family members. We can offer food incentives. We are also in need of a ski rack and a bike rack for the shuttle.

Update on Winter Carnival. The Winter Carnival was a success. Carnival attendees enjoyed a variety of winter activities, including snow biking, pond hockey, cross-country skiing, yoga, a bonfire, a chili potluck and bluegrass music. We got a great deal of help from the following people and organizations. The Town of Mountain Village kindly loaned us not only their snow bike grooming equipment, but also three dedicated employees to operate it. The Boot Doctors Ski, Snowboard and Bike Shop brought up a dozen loaner snow bikes for our bike tour so those of us who had never been on a snow bike had an opportunity to engage in this extremely enjoyable activity. The Rico Fire Department helped us with cooking supplies and firewood and Aemono donated food. The Telluride Brewing Company and Telluride Distillery provide alcohol. The Enterprise brought in the bluegrass band, Porch Couch and Alisia Klimasewiski taught a yoga class. Joe Distefano taught a beginner ski lessons at the park and the Rico Trails Alliance and the Rico Parks staff Zach McManus, Stephen Roberts and Mike Guskea helped get everything organized. Although we had pick-up hockey, we didn't get people to sign up for the tournament. Next year perhaps we could do a kid's day and an adult day or just stick with pick-up.

Update on Community Meetings. We will be hosting our second community meeting on March 5th or 6th. I have included in your packets, a draft of what we will be addressing at the meeting. I spent quite a bit of time calculating costs of potential scenarios, but it is important to remember that the estimates are based on dated materials with a cost of living equation assigned. I tried to be conservative, particularly with the sewer estimates. Also as I mentioned in the document, the receipt of grant funding is not only competitive but also vulnerable to state and federal circumstances beyond our control. Department of Local Affairs funding for the big infrastructure grants is based on state severance taxes on energy and mineral production and these taxes can be unpredictable. The other thing to keep in mind about grants is that most require at least a 20% match.

Paradox Community Trust Challenge Grant Program Application. 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 promote economic development. I contacted Ruth

Heffron of the Artists of Rico to see if they were interested in partnering on a grant application for a space to sell and exhibit their artwork. She seemed to think that they would be unable to staff it adequately. I had decided that we didn't really have a good project until I got a call from Thea Chase of the Telluride Foundation on the Friday before the application was due. We talked about hiring someone to help develop a consistent marketing plan for Rico and she even offered to write the grant. I submitted it to the Telluride Foundation and we should hear in early March whether or not we are successful in obtaining that grant funding. I have included a copy of the application in this packet.

Discussion Items. Water Tap Payment Program. In the last couple of weeks, I have had two separate requests for a payment plan for water tap fees. We could offer some kind of arrangement where people could make a monthly payment with their water bill over the course of three or four years. I realize offering this could complicate our administrative functions but I do think that it is possible and perhaps something that we should consider. I got a tap fee inventory from Colorado Municipal League that shows our tap fees to be above the Colorado average, which is \$7,405. Town Clerk Linda Yellowman said the Town does have a payment plan set up.

River Corridor Land Trade Request. Just after I had sent out the River Corridor Map to be signed by O'Grady and Burnette, Dave Bulson forwarded me an email from Ramon Escure dated May of 2014. It has to do with the desire of Doug Clark, the owner of the Pasadena Reduction, Tract 8 on the River Corridor Map, for a land trade with the Town of Rico. I have included a copy of a drawing of the land he would like to trade in your packet as well as a google earth photo showing the proposed trade. I am not sure this is to the Town's benefit, however, if we don't agree, Mr. Clark may refuse to sign the map so it should be considered.

Regional Trails. The Rico Trails Alliance requested that the Town of Rico to express support to USFS regarding some trail projects they have in the works in the area. The following is a copy of an email that I received from Alex Wing. RTA has been working closely with the Forest Service to get three trail projects going in the Rico area as follows: Pull Circle Trail into USFS trails system and rebuild upper section- This is an existing historic trail that connects the Town of Rico to the well-used Colorado Trail, though it is currently obscure, hard to follow and unsigned. If completed, this trail would bring Colorado Trail tourism into Rico and would greatly expand our access to the area. Develop the historic Rio Grande Southern Railroad grade from Rico to the County line- Much of this section of the RGS is on USFS land, and we are working with USFS to start building the historic route out as a trail. This would provide beginner and family-level recreational opportunities to Rico (currently lacking due to our steep mountainous terrain) and could be groomed in the winter for Nordic skiing and fat tire cycling. Ryman Trail re-route- The lower Ryman trail is a non-motorized trail that accesses a beautiful, remote canyon south of Rico near the county line. Lower Ryman trail has several sections that are unsustainably steep and eroding. These sections preclude many uses of this trail, and the trail needs to be re-routed. If completed, the Ryman trail could be connected as a loop with the existing Salt Creek Trail, which is one of the area's most popular trails. This project would expand recreational opportunities near Rico and provide economic benefit to the town through tourism.

The Forest Service is currently putting together internal proposals to decide which projects will be implemented in the near future. The projects listed above will positively benefit Rico if approved however the timing of the approval process is critical. RTA has been awarded grant funding to help get this work implemented and we have impassioned volunteers ready to put in the work. Verbal and written support from the Town of Rico would go a long way to getting these projects prioritized and approved by the Forest Service. The Forest Service will be presenting these

projects internally on February 15, 2018. If the town supports this work, the first step would be to contact the USFS District Ranger Derek Padilla.

Action Items:

River Corridor Easement Agreement for Disposition Properties. Another party to the River Corridor Map, Disposition Properties is also requesting a concession from the Town in return for signing. Fortunately they are only requesting the same agreement from the Town that we gave O'Grady and Burnette. In the O'Grady and Burnette agreement, it is my understanding that the Town of Rico gave a quit claim deed of easement with no warrantee of title. In other words rights to ingress and egress to the degree we have them. Carol Viner is currently working on the agreement.


Letter Supporting the Protection of Water Quality from Adverse Impacts Caused by Mineral Mining Act. Jennifer Thurston has requested that the Town of Rico support legislative efforts to ensure that water quality be protected from mining activities. I have included a draft resolution and the information she gave me in the packet. Apparently the bill has been postponed so I would suggest that you take some time to review the material and we can revisit this at next month's meeting.

Letter for Zoning Violations in the Commercial Core. Carol Viner is in the process of drafting letters regarding zoning violations in the commercial core. I will pass them along to you as soon as I get them.

Health Insurance Renewal. Tabled to the next month's meeting.

Adoption of the 2018 Work Plan. I hope that everyone has had a chance to review the proposed 2018 work plan. Nicole Pieterse had a couple of suggestions, which is included. Of particular importance is the coordination with the Rico Fire Protection District and Dolores County Emergency Management to develop a wildfire response plan. I believe that we will also need to talk to San Miguel County, Montezuma County and the USFS since all of those entities would likely be involved. I'm not sure how the chain of command works in those situations and it is important that I find out. Zach McManus made a motion to accept the 2018 Work Plan as submitted. Seconded by Keith Lindauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment. Keith Lindauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 and seconded by Genevieve Yellowman. The motion passed unanimously.


Linda Yellowman
Rico Town Clerk


Zach McManus
Mayor