

RICO TOWN BOARD MINUTES

June 30, 2020

The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Barbara Betts.

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

Staff Present. Kari Distefano and Linda Yellowman.

Guests Present.

Approval of the Agenda. The agenda for June 30, 2020 was presented for approval. Barbara Betts made a motion to approve the agenda for June 30, 2020. Stephen Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes. The Rico Town Board minutes for May 20, 2020 were presented for approval. Patrick Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes for May 20, 2020. Stephen Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Monthly Bills. The Monthly bills for June 2020 were submitted for approval. Sophia Kyriakakis made a motion to approve the bills for June 2020. Patrick Fallon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Communication. None.

Action Items.

Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Mountain Village for Building Inspection Services. The Town's building inspector Tyler Lapp is also a house designer. As a result he has occasional conflicts of interest. The Town needs a backup and the Town of Mountain Village has offered to fill in. With no further discussion, Barbara Betts made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Mountain Village for Building Inspection Services. Stephen Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

COVID-19 update-Governor's Latest Mandate.

The Governor's office was exploring the next phase of reopening and they are calling it "Protect our Neighbors". It allows more flexibility within local communities based on low disease transmission levels, local public health agency capacity for testing, case investigation, contact tracing and outbreak response as well as regional hospital ability to accommodate not only surges in COVID-19 cases but also normal health care needs. If communities can prove that they meet the required criteria, they will be allowed to engage in all activities at 50% of pre-pandemic capacity with social distancing and no more than 500 people in one setting at a time.

There are activities planning for the 4th of July and while Dolores County still does not have any confirmed cases, San Miguel County is experiencing a sizable uptick in cases. This is of concern

to Rico. The upsurge in tourist activity and our economic ties to the Telluride community put us at an increased risk. Representatives from the Dolores County participated in the discussion.

Railroad Grade and Trail Easement through Popek Property. Mike Popek has kindly agreed to a trail easement across his property that would include a bridge at the location of the historic bridge that served the Rio Grande Southern Railway. The proposed trail would provide a valuable connection to the RGS railroad right-of-way trail on the Forest Service property to the south of Rico. The proposed alignment has been flagged for Mr. Popek's review. Mr. Popek requested a minor revision and Dave Bulson will survey the alignment once Mr. Popek agrees. The Town and Mr. Popek have already approved the language of the agreement and once the alignment has been finalized, we can proceed with a trail that will connect to the RGS trail on the USFS property. Funding from Great Outdoors Colorado is available for this type of project and the Town in conjunction with the Rico Trail's Alliance plans to apply once an agreement is reached.

Mark Eleison has expressed interest in this subject and has requested some time to address the Trustees.

City Council and Committee Reports.

Town Clerk.

Public Works.

Parks, Open Space and Trails.

Sewer Committee.

Town Manager's Report.

Water Meter Replacement and Relocation Project.

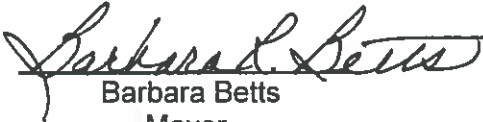
Doing the water meter replacement and relocation project in-house was approved by the Department of Local Affairs in is in process. To date, approximately 20 meters have been replaced and we are coordinating interior relocations with Mike Contilla.

New Web Site Platform and Emails Alerts. The State of Colorado web site platform that the Town has been using to host the Town's web site has been revised. While there are some improvements, there is also a learning curve since using it necessitates learning a new program. Unfortunately some of the problems that I found with the old platform like inconsistent font size still exist. It does have a function that will allow people to sign up for email notices from the Town but that function is just a form and is not linked to an email list that allows the administrator to push a button and have a batch of emails go out. San Miguel County uses a system called Notify Me. We are hoping to get more information about that system by the next meeting.

Radar Sign. The Town's radar sign is in Durango and will be here in Rico sometime this week. I have been in contact with CDOT and they say they can schedule installation as soon as it arrives in Rico. Hopefully we will have it up and running by the middle of the month. The signs that go with the speed bumps have also arrived and as soon as Dennis Swank gets a chance we will install the other two speed bumps.

Adjournment. Barbara Betts made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 800 pm. Sophia Kyriakakis. Motion passed unanimously.


Linda Yellowman
Rico Town Clerk


Barbara Betts
Mayor