

# TOWN OF LA JARA

PO Box 273  
La Jara, CO 81140  
Phone: (719) 274-5363  
Fax: (719) 274-5986

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Regular Meeting  
Date: September 9, 2021

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at [www.colorado.gov/townofajara](http://www.colorado.gov/townofajara)

## Call to Order

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 the Regular Meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was held as a hybrid meeting by trustees attending either in person or virtually via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Medina at 6:00 pm.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Medina.

## Roll Call

Present in person were Trustees: Gallegos, Villagomez, and Mayor Medina. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez joined via Zoom. Trustee Espinoza arrived at 6:13 via Zoom and Trustee Chavez arrived at 6:30 in person.

Absent: Trustee Wagoner.

A quorum was present. Also present were Chief Lujan, Public Works Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos, Town Attorney Pacyga, Town Manager Zaragoza, Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez, and Town Clerk Pagnotta.

## Approval of Agenda

Mayor Medina asked to move New Business items on the agenda before Guests.

**Motion:** Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the agenda with the changes; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valez.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Gallegos, Villagomez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## Consent Calendar

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Trustee Gallegos

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Gallegos, Villagomez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## New Business

Liquor License renewal for T&D Liquor – Darlene Burh requested renewal. All paperwork was in order and Chief Lujan stated that he had no issues.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the liquor license renewal for T&D Liquor; seconded by Trustee Villagomez.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Gallegos, Villagomez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

Front Range WinWater – Water meters – Steve Sloan presented a proposal for new water meters to the board. He explained the different features of the system including leak detection, backflow detection, and tamper alarms. He explained the reading process (a radio read system) that would reduce the amount of time spent reading meters to about one hour versus two days.

Trustee Espinoza arrived at 6:13 via Zoom.

Dave Conaway from Master Meter joined the meeting virtually and explained the data logging feature that captures water usage for each customer. It was explained how the meters will integrate to the current utility billing software. It was explained the battery has a 10-year full replacement warranty and the meters have a 20-year life span.

Trustee Chavez arrived at 6:30 in person.

Trustee Espinoza asked about the pricing of the meters. Steve explained that ARP funds could be used to purchase the meters. He stated that the meters are \$250 each, the reading equipment is \$13,555, the 2-day training and software integration is \$5,500 and the annual support is \$1200 per year. Steve stated that if the town purchased all 400 meters, he would offer a \$2000 savings. Mayor Medina thanked Steve and Dave for making the presentation.

#### **Guests**

Robert Taylor and Laura Cordova addressed the trustees regarding their proposed drive through. Mayor Medina stated Planning and Zoning Commission has not made any recommendation to the board. Town Manager Zaragoza stated that the Planning Zoning Commission has requested more information. Mayor Medina stated she understood their frustration but explained the town had concerns about the light pole and guidewire that would cause traffic flow issues. Attorney Pacyga stated that he has asked for an agreement for an easement to cross the right-of-way as well as maintenance to the sidewalk. Attorney Pacyga stated he needs a legal description to complete the agreement. Trustee Espinoza stated that the property needed to be surveyed.

#### **Citizen Comments**

No Citizen Comments.

#### **Old Business**

CIRSA follow up regarding letter – Mayor Medina stated that she and Attorney Pacyga spoke with Sam Light from CIRSA regarding the complaint letter from Luis Gallegos. Light suggested that the board should not have a personnel hearing because he felt the letter was just a complaint and no disciplinary action was needed. Light felt the issue was resolved. Trustee Gallegos mentioned the possibility of harassment charges; Attorney Pacyga stated again that the letter was just a complaint and that if there was a claim for compensation the proper channels would need to be followed.

Reminder for CML District Meeting – Mayor Medina reminder the trustees that the town is hosting the CML District Meeting on September 14 and encouraged all to attend.

#### **Reports**

##### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Zaragoza presented his report. A copy of his report is included in the council packet. In addition to his report, he explained the control panel for the water system has been sitting for over a year

because of scheduling conflicts with the electrician but is to be installed in two weeks. Zaragoza reported that he placed an ad in the Valley Courier for 9/11 thanking the first responders and the DAV.

Trustee Gallegos asked what was being done at the lagoons. Public Works Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos explained how the lagoons were short circuiting not allowing the proper detention time. Zaragoza explained Mark Foxworthy is an independent ORC that has been helping Hinojos with daily monitoring at the lagoons. Foxworthy feels that if the lagoons are dredged aeration is not needed.

Trustee Gallegos asked about the collateral for the lease purchase agreement for the maintenance building; Mayor Medina stated those questions were answered at the special meeting in August.

### **Town Attorney Report**

Town Attorney Pacyga reported on the following:

- Researched personnel issue and consulted with Sam light from CIRSA
- Addressed an issue with the subpoena of personnel records.

Attorney Pacyga informed Trustees that he no longer has the time to serve as the town's attorney and would be resigning. Mayor Medina stated that she appreciated all his work and would be sad to see him leave.

### **Police Report**

Police Chief Lujan thanked Attorney Pacyga for working with the police department. Chief Lujan presented a written report and asked if there were any further questions.

### **Maintenance Report**

Maintenance Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos submitted a written report. Trustee Chavez stated the alleys look nice and commented that Thomas Dufresne was doing a great job.

### **Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Pagnotta submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions. Town Manager thanked Pagnotta for working diligently on the audit.

### **Building Inspector Report**

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez submitted a written report.

### **Committee Reports**

Planning and Zoning Commission – Trustee Villagomez reported on the plans for Dollar General.

Building Inspector Rodriguez addressed his questions and concerns. It was recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the plans presented for the new Dollar General store.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the plans for Dollar General; seconded by Trustee Chavez.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Espinoza, Gallegos, Villagomez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Policy and Procedures Committee – Mayor Pro Tem Valdez stated there is nothing to report.

Community Engagement Committee – Trustee Espinoza reported that she is working with DCI and has submitted a grant.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Espinoza – Asked that the board not lose site of the condemnation of the building on Main Street and asked that this be put on the agenda next month so they could proceed. Trustee Gallegos asked about incentives for personal property improvements; Trustee Espinoza explained that there weren't any incentives for personal property mostly just commercial. She explained that participation is needed.

Trustee Valdez – Nothing to report.

Trustee Chavez– Reported that she heard a complaint about the water/sewer rate increase. She asked if the usage amount would be increased. Town Manage Zaragoza explained that CDPHE is requiring an increase if we are to seek funding from them because our rates are so low. Trustee Chavez asked about the CD's and annexing the Trading Post.

Trustee Villagomez – Commented that it is nice to see new businesses and growth, but not drastic growth.

Trustee Gallegos – Inquired about getting an air conditioner in Town Hall and a water dispenser. She commented on the newsletter. She asked about engine break restrictions in town. She asked about the Valdez annexation; Town Manager Zaragoza stated that he has not been able to meet with them. She commented on the new restaurant.

Mayor Medina – Attended the Mayor's Day at the State Fair. She commented on the small library on the sidewalk by Town Hall.

Water meters – Mayor Medina asked if the board wanted to decide on purchasing water meters.

**Motion:** Trustee Gallegos moved to purchase 400 water meters and the reading equipment; seconded by Trustee Valdez.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Espinoza, Gallegos, Villagomez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Wagoner moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

  
Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta, CMC

  
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

