

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: October 12, 2017

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

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Zaragoza at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Zaragoza.

Roll Call

Present were Trustees: Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, and Mayor Zaragoza.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Town Attorney Ray Valdez, Police Chief Jerry Lujan, Building Inspector Joe Trottnner, Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera and Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the Agenda; seconded by Trustee Salazar.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Consent Calendar; Trustee Gallegos seconded.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

Patricia Lara is the Executive Director of Tu Casa that provides assistance to victims of domestic violence as well as abused children. She gave a brief explanation of the services that Tu Casa offers. Lara asked Mayor Zaragoza to adopt a proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness month in La Jara. In addition, Lara asked if a large purple ribbon could be attached to the welcome signs in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month. The board agreed and Lara stated she would work with town staff to attach the ribbon to the signs. Mayor Zaragoza read the proclamation in its entirety.

Recognition of Unscheduled Public Comment

No unscheduled public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig gave a brief update on the Jack Clark case and commended Chief Lujan for his hard work to get Clark convicted and sentenced to 48 years for his abuse of 4 little girls.

Town Manager reported on the drainage issues at the elementary school. He showed pictures of standing water that causes flooding in the area where kids are loading and unloading from the school buses. He explained what exactly would be done to correct the problem. The project is scheduled during the summer before school starts. In addition to correcting the drainage issue, a new ADA accessible sidewalk will be constructed.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the maintenance department has been using the grader from the Town of Sanford. Sanford wants to sell the grader for \$13,000 and is willing to spread the payments out over 2 years. Mayor Zaragoza voiced his concerns of buying a backhoe instead of the grader. Town Manager Koenig said he is still shopping for a backhoe that fits within the Town's price range, but it will likely be in December before one will be purchased. Trustee Salazar asked if we had a contract with Sanford for the grader and Koenig stated that we could get one. Trustee Salazar stated that he liked the idea of the grader and the backhoe and agreed that both are needed. He stated that he would like to see the contract first. There was some discussion on where the grader would be parked, especially during the winter since it would likely need to be plugged in.

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to go ahead and purchase the grader with a review of the contract between the two communities; Trustee Espinoza seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Zaragoza asked that Town Manager Koenig circulate the contract to all the trustees for their review. It was also agreed that the price for the grader was well worth the money.

Town Manager presented an estimate for a new maintenance building. Koenig stated that the proposal should be kept confidential to prevent unfair competition if and when the project goes out to bid. The proposal is to construct a 40'x60'x16' building that could be added on to in the future. Koenig stated that in order to build the building we would need to seek grant funding. He spoke with Christy Doon from DOLA about grant funding. Koenig explained that grants are a dollar for dollar match, so the Town would need about \$100,000 matching funds.

Town Manager Koenig reported on the upcoming La Jara Smash Fest that will be held on October 28. He asked for volunteers to be judges for the pumpkin carving contest as well as the pumpkin chunking event. Building Inspector Joe Trottnier volunteered to be a judge. Koenig stated that we received donations of \$97 from Wal-Mart for supplies as well as Lawrence Ortega from Mosca, who donated about 100 pumpkins for the entire event.

The Northern Senior Center lease agreement was also discussed. Koenig stated that the lease will expire in April. He stated that the senior center is being subleased by South Central Seniors who provides Meals on Wheels to seniors. The subleasing is not in the current contract and Koenig feels a few items need to be addressed in the new contract in order to protect the town as the owners of the building. Koenig showed the latest inspection report from the Colorado Department of Health that needs to be addressed. He stated that most of the items on the list deal with cleanliness. Koenig stated that he has concerns with some demands and or restrictions that South Central Seniors is trying to impose; such as not allowing anyone to use the kitchen facilities when most of the equipment in the kitchen belongs to the town. Koenig also mentioned that the town purchased the car that is used to deliver the Meals on Wheels as well as provides all the maintenance on the vehicle. Mayor Zaragoza suggested that prior to the April meeting; the trustees should sit down with Francis Valdez from South Central Seniors and discuss all the concerns.

Trustee Espinoza stated that if the building is the town's community center for the town's seniors, then the town's citizens should have access to the kitchen and other facilities. Trustee Salazar stated that the trustees should keep in mind that it is a commercial kitchen so other entities that may want to do some type of manufacturing and may want to use the facility as well. Trustee Salazar stated that a commercial kitchen is pretty valuable and could provide additional revenue for the town. Trustee Salazar suggested compiling a list of concerns that the trustees have and present them to South Central Seniors and ask for remedies that will eventually lead up to a very detailed lease that will be reviewed by a committee or by the board itself. He stated by doing so this will give support to Lynette DePriest, Northerners Senior Center director. Trustee Espinoza stated that when meeting with South Central Seniors they should also mention that Lynette is not in a legal position to provide a sublease and the town is considering not extending a sublease to them because of the concerns that the town has. Trustee Salazar would like a little more research on who are the members on the South Central Senior board and also who are all the funders for this program so that relationships can be built with those individuals. Koenig also mentioned that Conejos County had allocated \$6,000 to Northerner Senior Center but has only given them \$4,000. He stated that the senior center in Antonito had received the entire \$6,000 that was allocated to them and the meals for the Antonito area are prepared here in La Jara and distributed by the vehicle that the town owns.

Koenig reported that he had been in contact with an individual from Dollar General, who is planning to open a new store in La Jara. He has also met with the architect and the building will be located within the city limits by the Catholic Church.

Koenig reported that the survey for the Community Housing Development project at the park at 312 S. Main has been completed. He stated that there will be room for 20 houses. Trustee Salazar asked about a needs assessment and the cost of the homes. Koenig stated that these are all sweat equity homes. Trustee Salazar asked if Community Housing Development could provide information on a needs assessment and compare it to the income for the area and a cost of the building. Koenig stated that he would invite the director of the program to come and meet with the board to answer any questions that they may have.

Koenig presented the trustees with the proposed 2018 budget. He said that other managers from around the state were inquiring about the percentage of the total budget that is being allocated to salaries. He said the percentages ranged from Limon having the lowest at 30% and the highest at 66% for Vail. He calculated the wages for La Jara are we are at 37%, other towns were somewhere between 40% and 45%. He stated the total budget for the town was \$1,060,000. He asked the trustees to take the budget home and review it and to bring any questions to him prior to the November meeting when the budget will need to be ratified. Trustee Espinoza asked about a work session to review the budget. Trustee Valdez asked if money was set aside for the repairs to the pump houses. Koenig stated that we would approach Water and Power Authority for a loan and possibly a grant; however, he stated that currently Water and Power authority does not have any grant money available.

Approval of the Town Manager's Report:

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Town Manager's Report and Trustee Cummings seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez prepared an ordinance to annex the enclaved properties. He stated there was no need for a hearing because the properties are completely enclaved. Attorney Valdez stated that the ordinance needed to be published one time by title only. Mayor Zaragoza introduced and read the ordinance by title only.

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to approve Ordinance No. 2017-3, an ordinance of the board of trustees of the Town of La Jara annexing certain enclaved real property situate within the exterior boundaries thereof. Trustee Espinoza seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Attorney Valdez discussed an article that was published titled "Justice Derailed" regarding an ACLU investigation of a local municipal court judge. As a result of the article Attorney Valdez spoke with Koenig and asked some questions about how our municipal court is conducted. He stated that he had not had the opportunity to observe how Judge Miller conducts his courts, but from the reports that he has received Judge Miller is doing a very good job. Valdez asked the trustees for permission to call on other attorneys who might be willing to serve as a backup judge in the event that Judge Miller was not able to attend court.

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to approve the Town Attorney's Report and Trustee Valdez seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Board of Trustees Comments

Trustee Valdez: Nothing to report.

Trustee Espinoza: Had nothing to report, but asked anyone knew of houses for sale.

Trustee Salazar: Reported that the paving came out great. He has some concern about big trash trucks driving on the new pavement. Chief Lujan is going to talk to the trash company about getting a business license. Salazar was approached about the cul-de-sac at Granda Court regarding all the trailers that are parked on the street. The concern was that there are a number of small children that live in the area and with the trailers parked on the street it is difficult to see the children. Salazar asked if signs could be put up warning that children are in the area. Trustee Valdez stated that a few years back the town was advised to remove these types of signs because the signs assumed liability and was sending the message that the town allows children to play in the street. Chief Lujan commented that the town could look at revising the ordinance regarding parking trailers along frontages. He stated that the ordinance could be changed to say that citizens are allowed to park trailers for a short period of time, but then park them off the street over the long term.

Koenig stated that there is a handicapped citizen who crosses the street and was nearly run over. Koenig asked if a sign could be put up warning drivers to watch for handicapped persons. Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera stated that he would look into getting a sign.

Trustee Cummings: Stated that the weeds along the Richfield Ditch are a huge fire hazard. Koenig stated that the manager for the ditch company had been given warnings that the ditch needed to be cleaned and a ticket was in the process of being issued.

Trustee Gallegos: Also wanted to ask about signage along the highway warning of pedestrians crossing the street. She noticed that a lot of big trucks are parked along the highway making it difficult to see around. Gallegos thanked everyone that worked on the CML District Meeting.

Mayor Zaragoza: Asked about the signs at the school that reduces the speed limit during the times of 3 pm to 4 pm. He stated that with the 4 day school week, the school day ends at 4 pm. He suggested that the

times on the sign be revised. Mayor Zaragoza also asked if the town was still utilizing the services of Martille Faatz and if they were still needed. Town Clerk Pagnotta stated that she thought Faatz's services are very much still needed so that all the financial responsibility does not fall on just one person. Pagnotta stated that as a good financial control procedure it is always a good idea to have a third party overlooking the finances of the town. Mayor Zaragoza also was very impressed on the great job done by Town Clerk Pagnotta, Deputy Clerk Ross and others that helped in putting together the CML District Meeting on such a short notice. Mayor Zaragoza also stated Deputy Clerk/Events Coordinator Krista Ross asked if the Glory Days Committee would be interested in vending hamburgers for the upcoming La Jara Smash Fest. He stated that he asked the committee, but they declined. Mayor Zaragoza asked if anyone was interested in vending food during the event to contact Ross.

New Business

Annexation #7: Issued was discussed and approved earlier during the Town Attorney's report.

2018 Budget Proposal was discussed earlier. Mayor Zaragoza asked if anyone had concerns or questions to meet with Town Manager Koenig to discuss. Mayor Zaragoza also stated that he would meet with Town Clerk Pagnotta to set up a budget work session sometime next week.


Old Business

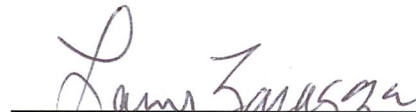
No old business.

Adjournment

Trustee Salazar moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

