

CENTER TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at by Mayor Garcia

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Garcia	P
Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez	P
Trustee Beiriger	P
Trustee Gonzales	P
Trustee Gallegos	P
Trustee Barela	P
Trustee McClure	P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - A motion to approve the agenda with changes was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by Trustee Beiriger. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS –**

Brian Lujan – Brian talked about the work that they have done with the North 90 and several agencies. Talked about the issues that they have issued against him.

Mona Garcia – Ms. Garcia said she is not here to argue. Center News has done worse than Mitch has done. Ms. Garcia requesting that the staff treats them with dignity and respect. Ms. Garcia said that the high utility bills. Ms. Garcia feels that all her dog tickets are retaliation. Ms. Garcia was concerned about the cost of the court costs.

Geraldine Jaramillo – Mitch Garcia asked her to read comments. Mitch is a fellow member of the Colorado University bishop leadership program also part of the Public crisis program. Mr. Garcia also is part of several other groups and programs. Police Department – Mr. Garcia found that there was a difference in the website and the Town’s website for archiving. Mr. Garcia said that he contacted the administrator about the Town’s website and it is separate.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes – No Questions were asked.

Court Report – Natalia explained the reports. Natalia thanked the Board for her position.

Police Report – Chief Fresquez, Chief spoke about his term as a chief. The Department is short officers. There is a lot of negativity and it is part of the job and hiring. The security cameras are in; they are waiting for the SD cards to come so they can get them in use. There are not drones as has been indicated. There is a direct line for them to stay away from the machines. The Department is going to start doing interviews. Saguache County will help the Town.

Public Works – Jaime spoke about the gas and the electric. Jaime is keeping a close eye on the gas. There was a huge bill, Jaime and Dave talked with Excel. Excel feels that there was an error on their side. Jaime did send an email asking for an update. Backflow was in compliance at the end of the year, and are working on this year's compliance. The vehicles for the auction – maybe have a silent auction. Utility bucket truck – 10 – 12 thousand to get it fix, should we fix it or sell it. The Street Dept. would like to have a bucket truck. Mayor Garcia asked about the year and more information in an email. Clean up days will be paused. The County is providing five dumpsters in Crestone, Trustee McClure talked to the Commissioners. Jaime is looking in to it. Brian spoke to Wendy who will bring it up at the next Commissioners meeting. They are trying for weekend prior to Earth Day. The Town is having issues with the current shelter. Jaime is thinking about maybe housing the animals at the North 90, if they are not picked up they can take them to Alamosa. Jaime did terminate the contract with the current shelter as of March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Utilities – The Dept. is working on the underground utilities.

Water – The Water Dept. are working on the housing departments to get them online for the meters.

Streets and Parks – They will start cleaning the alleys and right of ways.

Code Enforcement – Some issues are older than six months and would like updates as to the status. Jaime will mail the list to the Board. Sergio has been helping other departments. Mayor Garcia and Trustee McClure talked about the flashing speed limit signs. Jaime will follow up with Randy at the County.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by mayor pro-Tem Martinez, seconded by Trustee Gonzales. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

#### PAYABLES

Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez asked about the descriptions, Rose will email a copy to the Board. A motion to approve the payables was made by Trustee Barela, seconded by Trustee Gallegos. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

VFD PURCHASE APPROVAL – The cost of the VFD is \$9,168.50. A motion to approve the purchase of the VFD was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

MEGA DUMP TRAILER - Trustee McClure said that the Sanitation District should also pay for the trailer since they will also use it. The cost of the trailer is \$8,500. A motion to approve the purchase of the Mega Dump Trailer was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez, seconded by Trustee Barela. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries.

#### MANAGERS REPORT

Brian said that Keith wanted to report on the Art project. The Town received a \$20,000 CHAFA grant for the beautifications in Town. It is time to solicit artists. Keith handed out the proposal to the Town Board.

## RESOLUTION

GOCO RESOLUTION – This is required for the GOCO Grant, Attorney Trujillo did say that it did look good. Brian read the resolution out loud. The Town has requested \$536,000 for the Community Park. A motion to approve Resolution 2024-2 GOCO Grant was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez, seconded by Trustee Beiriger. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

## NEW BUSINESS –

Susan Banning – McKinny Vento and Housing in Center – Ms. Banning was at the meeting. Ms. Banning teaches at the Center schools and is the liaison. Ms. Banning said that she had to correct herself from the last meeting.

What can the Town Board do? Ms. Banning is recommending a RV park, either temporary or permanent. There are trailers behind houses with no electricity, water or sewer. Ms. Banning would like housing for middle income families.

Approval of WSLV Grant Awards – The Town Board reviewed the grants last week. There were seven applications, there was approx... \$9,225. All applicants were able to receive grant money. Trustee McClure read the awards out loud and what they use of the request. Brian added that the Office of Economic Development is going to do a video about what the Town is using the fund for. A motion to approve the WSLV Grants was made by, seconded by. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

Utility Bills – The post office has changed the way the bills are being delivered. Trustee McClure talked about bills being received late. Get the information out about the bills not being delivered. Flyers and

Temporary Wage Increase for the police Department – Brian talked about a wage increase like they did with the Utility Department. The Town is currently \$4 under the local agencies. There will be further workshops for beginning wages. The utilities were \$5 an hour increase. The Chief will also be compensated accordingly. K9 event will still have the coverage in Town.

## OLD BUSINESS

MEAN CONTRACT – Lock ourselves in a lower rate with a 25- year contract or continue on the five - year program that will have a higher rate. The Board will have a workshop to see which would be the best option for the Town.

PROPOSED ZONING CODE UPDATES – Keith asked about the updates. The planning commission has a meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Short term rentals, the question is still not clear, but Keith recommends that they stay at 3. The Town has sent RFQ's to qualifications for developers. Trustee McClure asked if they could contact the Army Corp of engineers. Abandoned homes in Center. Keith did not find very many people willing to sell or rehab their homes.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

March 18 – Planning Commission

March 19 – Police – Workshop -Recruitment and Retention and Mean Contract

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

MEAN CONTRACT

MORE HOUSING NOW GRANT

DONATION FOR CAPSTONE CAR SHOW PROJECT

ZONING CODE APPROVALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Gallegos, seconded by Trustee Gonzales. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Submitted by,

Rose Marie DeHerrera-CMC  
Town Clerk

Anthony Garcia  
Mayor