

CENTER TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023
5:30 P.M.

A financial workshop was held at 5:30 p.m.

Budget Hearing –

The Budget hearing was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Attorney Trujillo. The following testified at the hearing.

Brian Lujan – Town administrator – The budget has to be submitted by January 31st. Brian read a letter to the Town Board and the Citizens concerning the Budget. It will be available for review through the end of January of the incoming year. Brian added that every Dept. head have looked at the budget and only budgeted the necessities only.

Trustee McClure – Trustee McClure asked when the last review was done of the budget. It was the last week of November. There was an increase of 1.33 mills. The Town of Center is looking for an increase to the citizens along with an increase of the Utility funds.

Mayor Garcia – Mayor Garcia feels that the increase is in line with all the increases. The Town is not imposing increases to hurt the citizens.

Adeline Sanchez- community member – Ms. Sanchez said that the gas prices are hitting the public, electric prices will also be raised. Town Manager said that the prices that we pay are out of our control. Whole sale prices affect the Town at different levels. Ms. Sanchez wants the assurance from the Board that they will continue the fight along with other communities to keep the prices low.

James Sanchez – Community Member – Mr. Sanchez talked about the comments from Brian concerning the costs. The Gas system is based off the ordinance that Town Board has approved. Mr. Sanchez asked about his increase to his property taxes. The Town will receive an additional from both counties. \$283,041, this will go to strictly to the GF.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 P.M. 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

AGENDA

Trustee McClure asked that the approval of the Budget be postponed. A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the payables was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

James Sanchez – Mr. Sanchez wanted to talk about an incident involving the Police Department on December 12th. The neighbor's son is problem having trouble and abusing his parents. Mr. Sanchez said that he talked to Chief Fresquez. Mr. Sanchez said that he wasn't picked up at the time of the incident because the Mother did not want to press charges. Mr. Sanchez feels that if he was picked up the first time the second incident would not have happened.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes – November 14 & November 28 – There were no questions.

Court Report – Rose will find out how the court costs are mapped out.

Police Report – There has been an increase to citations and cases. Last year's call volume was 3483 – there is an increase of 1100 more calls for this year. Breakfast for the community members will be held – on January 6th at the Cafeteria. Chief Fresquez said that he does bulk his officers on Friday's. The Dept. has been trying to hire for the last three months. Officer Fresquez said that he wanted to ask for a 1% sales tax for his department, but feels that moving the money already out of the GF will hurt his Department. Chief Fresquez said that he has quotes for pay scales and will provide them to the Board. **Public Works Reports** – Adam Valdez presented the reports. Trustee McClure said that they use to have a utility commission that use to go over the reports. Employee Manuel Tafoya is leaving at the end of December. If employee Duane Valdez would leave the Town will be working blind with all the experience that is leaving. There is a conference in March concerning the gas.

Utilities – No Questions.

Water – No Questions.

Streets and Parks – No Questions.

Code Enforcement – Sergio Valadez presented the report – Mr. Valdez said that he was told to focus on the blight in the community. Jaime and Sergio have been working on letters for the homeowners that need to comply. Mr. Valadez is also looking to make sure the building permits are visible. Once Mr. Valadez is full time he will get the training needed to be a building inspector. Trustee McClure said that a lot of the community members have contacted him and he thanked Mr. Valadez for his work. Brian said we should focus on goals at the beginning of the year.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion to approve resolution 12192023 concerning the election was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez, seconded by Trustee Gallegos. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

PAYABLES - Trustee McClure had a concern about the gas bill at the Power plant– Trustee McClure said that is unreasonable to pay that much in gas, Rose told him that Duane said that they have 4 heaters and that they have to leave them on so that the equipment will start. Also, the cost of fuel for the Police Department and take home cars. Trustee McClure also asked about the voided checks.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

A motion to approve the November financials was made by Trustee Barela, seconded by Trustee Beiriger. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries.

APPROVAL OF 2024 BUDGET

Trustee McClure – said that the public was not given the document for review. Trustee McClure feels that the Town is losing money for not having a policy on the transferring of monies, the Town is losing a lot of money. There was discussion but not action and that’s what upsets him. Trustee McClure is opposed to passing the budget if there is no discussion.

A motion to approve the 2024 Budget was made by Trustee Gallegos, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez. Roll Call – Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Gonzales, Trustee Barela and Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez – y, Trustee McClure and Trustee Beiriger - n. Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Smart Technologies – Bankruptcy – Technology that is used for the water meters, smart water meters. Set Technologies that works off a 5g technology. File an electronic claim. Brian has tried and they have a claim agent. It would be detrimental to the Town’s community as we are in a poverty area. The Town has already paid for all the warranties. Smart Technologies was a sub contract of Iconergy Trustee McClure asked Attorney Trujillo why the Contract lead isn’t responsible. Attorney Trujillo said that we can file claims. Attorney Trujillo would like to meet with ICONERGY to have a discussion.

Police – Swear in New Officer – Attorney Trujillo swore in Eric Martinez as a New Police Officer.

Liquor Renewal – Alta – Attorney Trujillo said that everything was in order and there have been no violations. A motion to approve the liquor license for Alta Convenience Store was made by Trustee Beiriger, seconded by Trustee Gallegos. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

AT&T Contract – A motion to postpone this issue until further clarification was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by Trustee Beiriger. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

Text my Gov – Contract – The Town received a Saguache County grant in the amount of \$5,200 and the cost is \$5,250. This will help the community to report issues directly to the department needed. A motion to approve this contract was made by Trustee Barela, seconded by Trustee Gonzales. Roll Call – All in favor. Motion Carries.

Planning Commission Recommendations – Anne Cunningham who is chair for the Planning Commission along with Keith presented the recommendations. There were a few questions – Trustee Beiriger asked about the short-term rentals and how will it be controlled to just three? They will need a business license. Monday January 22nd will be the next planning commission meeting. The next step will be a joint meeting and a public hearing with the Town Board then they can adopt it.

2-year Board Member Position – Rose told the Board that they could handle this position two ways. 1 – They can draw a short straw or 2 – The lowest vote getter for the Trustee position will hold the 2-year

position. A motion to approve the lowest vote getter would hold the 2 yr. position also in the event the election is canceled, the position would be drawn for was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by Trustee Beiriger.

OLD BUSINESS

Pathway Project – FERC – Brian talked about the email that was sent to the Board. Healy Law office – Heather Starnes met with the chairmen of FERC to discuss the documents. Brian had Ms. Starnes add about being a depressed community. Brian wanted to let the Board know that they
ED Fund Discussion – This issue is based off the prior discussions, would the Board like to have the question on the ballot? Trustee McClure felt that the Town of Frederick was right on point with their question; they would be asking the voters to set up a fund. Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez asked if it would put the General fund into the negative. Brian said that he feels that it's going to cripple the funds under the GF. All allocations are still under the Economic Development dept., not under a Fund. Trustee McClure said that the issue is not accumulating monies as a separate fund would. Brian talked about how the original question was written. Urban Renewal will also help with the North 90. A motion to approve placing the question establishing an ED Fund was made by Trustee McClure, seconded by Trustee Beiriger. Roll Call – Trustee Gallegos, Trustee Beiriger, Trustee Barela and Trustee McClure – y, Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez, Mayor Garcia and Trustee Gonzalez – n. Motion Carries.

Thank you Letter from Shop with a Biker and Military Parents – The letters were submitted to the Town for contributing for their efforts.

CALENDAR ITEMS

December 21 – 6:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Martinez, seconded by Trustee Gonzales. Roll Call –All in favor. Motion Carries.

Submitted by,

Rose Marie DeHerrera – CMC
Town Clerk

Anthony Garcia
Mayor