

TOWN OF DEL NORTE
Regular Town Board Meeting
October 9, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Del Norte, Rio Grande County, State of Colorado, met in regular session at 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Colorado at the hour of 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. There being present at call of roll the following:

ROLL CALL

Town Board present: Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato, Mayor Shelly Burnett, Trustee Andrew Velasquez, Trustee Louie Velasquez, Trustee Bob Muncy, Mayor Pro tem Sarah White, Trustee Brenton Williams absent. Mayor Burnett declared quorum present.

Members of Staff: Town Attorney Eugene Farish, Town Treasurer Ramona Dordan, Town Administrator Bernadette Martinez, Public Works Kevin Larimore, Chief of Police Frank Archuleta.

MINUTES AND FINANCIALS

Minutes of Public Hearing and Regular Meeting from September 11, 2024- Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato motion was seconded by Trustee Andrew Velasquez. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor declared motion carried.

Review and Approval of Financial Accounts /Reports-Motion was made by Trustee Louie Velasquez to approve the financials, and motion was seconded by Trustee Bob Muncy. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor declared motion carried. Trustee Lobato asked if she could receive a cost to date on Element Engineering.

Accept 2025 Town Proposed Budget- Set Budget work session- Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato to accept the 2025 Town Budget, seconded by Trustee Bob Muncy. Roll call: All ayes,

CITIZEN COMMENTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Micah Reynolds- 590 French Street- Alley concern between French Street and Lowes parking-Micah approached the Town Board about making the alley north of his home a one-way access there is a lot of traffic going and coming from the Lowes parking area. Town Attorney recommended that he should attend a Planning Commission meeting and have then review and set public meeting if he would like to make this a one-way access. Micah will attend the meeting in November.

Arlene Harms- Rio Grande Hospital – USDA refinancing –Town as Issuer of Bonds- Arlene Harms, turned meeting over to Ashley Dennis, attorney with Kutak Rock. Ashley explained that the Hospital is currently planning to issue bonds to refinance its USDA obligations. This is to help with Wellness Village Center loan, refinancing would help with additional funds of \$1.7 million, at a lower interest rate. As a nonprofit, the Hospital cannot issue tax-exempt bonds without going through a qualified governmental issuer. The tax-exempt status of the bonds can make a significant impact on the interest rates and overall cost of the refunding, and it is therefore crucial that the Hospital find a willing governmental issuer. They reached out to ask the Town of Del Norte would consider acting as the issuer of the proposed refunding bonds. The Town is not financially responsible for bonds, nor will the Town pay debt service on bonds. She has presented an Ordinance that has to be published in the local paper, that has a seven day requirement posting for the public hearing of October 23, 2024. Town Attorney Farish stated that this is not unusually for the a municipality to do this, but he has taking this a step further and has

asked that Kim Crawford, from Butler and Snow Attorneys out of Denver to serve as special counsel on this matter for the Town. Ashley did mention to the Town Board that Ordinance No. 766 would have to be approved to send to Del Norte Prospector for publication, she has already contacted the Del Norte prospector, and they will be able to publish. Public Hearing will have to be held, and a special board meeting called to take action on the Public hearing. This has been set up for October 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. following with Special Board meeting. Trustee Louie Velasquez made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 766 for publication and set public hearing, motion was seconded by Trustee Andrew Velasquez. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor Burnett declared motion carried. Rio Grande Hospital's banker did say a few words thanking the Town Board. **Town Signage for Del Norte Trailheads-Bonnie Asplin** had presented to Town Board the list of signs that needed to be replaced that were posted on the trailheads, and updated the maps to include two new trails, one will be from the hospital wellness village to existing trail. With more discussion motion was made by Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato to approve the expenditure for signs and monies to come from the ARP funds, motion was seconded by Trustee Louie Velasquez. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor Shelly Burnett declared motion carried.

Del Norte Chamber report- no one from Chamber was in attendance-Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato stated she had attended under Broken Arrow, and there was very little discussion on Caboose. Del Norte Chamber was given an offer to sell the Caboose, by an outside individual.

STAFF REPORTS

Police- Chief Archuleta reported that he did have an individual apply for the police officers position and is processing is applications. He also mention that he is still trying to get the local newspaper to put in the police information. Trustee Andrew Velasquez asked if he had done a report on Claude Trujillo's missing stove he had talked to Claude and no one from the police department has picked up his written statement. Chief Archuleta stated that he had the conversation with Mr. Trujillo on his body camera and didn't need the written report. But a report has been filed on his stolen stove from his yard.

Public Works- Kevin mentioned to the Town Board that CDOT will be upgrading the railroad crossing next to the Town shop, along with a an overlay from the stoplights to highway 112 to 285. He mentioned that next year would be a good time to replace any water lines that cross Oak Street before the overlay takes place. Kevin did bring up that we will be getting a change order on the downtown improvement project it is for putting in metered electric lighting on our forty eight pedestrian lights. It's an upfront cost now, but in the long run the lighting will pay for itself. Since, we don't have an exact amount Element Engineering is going over the cost that RMS has submitted since they add a twenty percent markup. **Town Hall-** Administrator Martinez mentioned that she attended the Del Norte Fire department safety sales tax proposed increase. The department doesn't know yet what they are projecting in a sales tax increase, they will use the monies if approved by voters for equipment, renovation of the new fire department building, firefighters retirement, and full -time firefighters.

Town Attorney mentioned that he would like to hold a board orientation for new members and refresher for existing members. Board orientation is scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Also Attorney Farish brought up that he did get Butler and Snow, Law Firm on the RG Hospital refunding bonds, and asked the Town if they were agreeable he would sign the engagement letter, the hospital has agreed to pay her fee in the amount of \$5000. Town Board was agreed to have Attorney Farish sign the engagement letter.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Upper Rio Grande School District –Safe Route to School grant for French Street update-Work Session scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Opting in to Prop 123 – Andrew Atchley from Co Division of Housing gave the Town Board a brief background on how Prop 123 was started it was to help with affordable housing through Colorado state income taxes. But in order to have access to these monies the municipality had to opt-in to get some of the tax credits for those who qualify with 80-100% AMI. With some discussion motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Sarah White to proceed with application of Prop 123, motion was seconded by Trustee Louie Velasquez. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor Shelly Burnett declared motion carried.

Policy on Virtual meetings procedures- with some discussion motion was made by Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato and seconded by Trustee Bob Muncy to adopt the virtual policy meeting procedures. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor Burnett declared motion carried.

Public Meeting for Water Improvement Project- with some discussion it was consensus of the Town Board to table this public meeting, until we receive more information on funding.

Trustee Comments – Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato mentioned that she had a local painter repair the tagging on the north bathroom mural, with a cost of \$200.00. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato and motion was seconded by Trustee Louie Velasquez. Roll call: All ayes, Mayor Shelly Burnett declared motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING- With no further business meeting was adjourned.

Submitted this 13th day of November.