**TOWN MEETING/ PUBLIC HEARING**

**Monday, June15, 2020**

**6:15 pm**

**Municipal Building**

**513 Williams Avenue**

**Estancia, NM 87016**

**MINUTES**

**HEARING:**

1. **The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.**
2. **Roll Call was taken:**

**Trustee Lovato – Present**

**Trustee Sedillo – Present**

**Trustee Chavez – Present**

**Trustee Hall – Present**

**Mayor Dial – Present**

1. **Approval of Public Hearing Agenda- Action Item**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Lovato made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Public Hearing Agenda. Trustee Sedillo seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Discussion concerning adding a paid Fire Chief position to the Town of Estancia- Information Only** The Town’s current Volunteer Fire Chief is requests to be compensated for his work as the Chief. While all agree that Chief Wolonsky does a very good job, there are differing opinions about what would be an appropriate compensation amount and about how he would be paid; by stipend or as an employee of the Town. There are also questions about whether this would be an appointed/at-will position or not. The Chief was offered a monthly pay of $500.00. He requested $2,000.00 per month. The Town has determined that he cannot be paid a stipend. Ms. Jones has been tasked to research what an appropriate pay for be for our ISO rating. She will also research what similar size municipalities pay their Fire Chiefs. There was much discussion about this issue. In summary, more research is needed for the Board to make an informed decision. Trustee Sedillo requested that Chief Wolonsky and Ms. Jones work to get more information that will assist the Board. **INFORMATION ONLY**

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1. **Discussion concerning amending the Utility Ordinance with respect to deposits- Information only** Clerk Michelle Jones has requested the following amendment to the Utility Ordinance:

From:

9-2-2 DEPOSIT. There shall be paid to the clerk-treasurer at the time of application for the use of water, a deposit to be refunded to the consumer without interest when such service is terminated, providing all water bills have been paid in full. Deposits shall be: Residential Home Owner $35.00, Residential Renter $100.00, Commercial Property Owner $50.00, and Commercial Lessee $150.00. If and in the event water bills have not been paid in full at the date of termination, then the clerk-treasurer is authorized to apply said deposit or so much thereof as may become necessary to the payment of the past due water bills. Such deposit shall be paid in order to establish a new account for any customer, regardless of whether it is necessary to turn on the water for that customer or not.

To:

9-2-2 DEPOSIT There shall be paid to the Clerk/Treasurer at the time of application for the use of water, sewer, and garbage, a deposit at the rate listed below:

* Residential Homeowner $75.00 with proof of ownership (copy of deed)
* Residential Tenant $200.00 with proof of rental (copy of rental agreement and notarized application for tenant billing)
* Commercial Property Owner $100.00 with proof of ownership (copy of deed)
* Commercial Lessee $250.00 with proof of rental (copy of rental agreement and notarized application for tenant billing)

No interest will be paid on utility deposits and no refund to the customer account will be made upon termination of their utility service until final full payment has been received by the Town on all amounts owed under the subject utility account.

The property owner is responsible for all fees assessed to the account and will be held liable for any fees not paid by a tenant, even if the property owner does not receive the bill.

It is the Town of Estancia’s policy that collection action, including liens, are taken against the property owner, not the tenant. The Town of Estancia will notify a property owner by certified mail of the recording of a lien. If a lien is filed against the property owner and the property owner pays the final bill including lien fees, the property owner will receive the deposit for the account.

Ms. Jones said that this amendment will update the ordinance with our current fees and will clarify the process of closing a utility account. It will also help landowners if their renters abandon a property and leave them with the final bill. This amendment will allow a landowner, after the account is delinquent and a lien has been placed, to pay the final bill and fees and receive the delinquent account’s deposit. **INFORMATION ONLY**

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**Adjournment of Public Hearing**

**ACTION TAKEN-** Trustee Hall made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:06 pm.**

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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