**Town of Estancia**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Monday February 22, 2021 6:15 pm**

**Municipal Building, 513 Williams Avenue, Estancia, NM 87016**

**Minutes**

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:18 pm and Roll Call was taken:**

**Trustee Lovato – Present**

**Trustee Sedillo – Present**

**Trustee Chavez – Present**

**Trustee Hall – Present**

**Mayor Dial – Present**

1. **Approval/Disapproval of Agenda – Action Item**

Clerk Michelle Jones requested that item #6 be heard after agenda item #3 and before agenda item #4. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Sedillo made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment as listed above. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Discussion/Approval of the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the February 1,2021 Regular Meeting minutes. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Discussion/Approval of the February 16, 2021 Bill List – Action Item**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Sedillo made a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 Bill List. Trustee Lovato seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**No Public Comment**

**6.0 Approval of new volunteer for the Estancia Fire Department- Action Item**

Estancia Fire Chief Chris Wolonsky introduced the Board of Trustees and the Mayor to Mr.

Ed Walsh. Mr. Walsh is relatively new to the area and has a sincere interest in volunteering and playing an active role in helping our community. Mr. Walsh addressed the Board and told them that he had recently accepted a job in town and would be available to volunteer when he was not working. All in attendance expressed their sincerely thanks to Mr. Walsh for his interested in serving. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to approve Mr. Ed Walsh as a new volunteer for the Estancia Fire Department. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Old Business**

1. **Roads for 2021/2022 Road Coop Project- Action Item**

Mr. Richard Runyon from Dennis Engineering came to our meeting and explained to the Board all the different elements/requirements, etc. that are involved in applying for funding for a COOP project and a MAP project. He answered questions about different roads in town and gave very good recommendations about which repairs would be better suited for COOP funding and which would be a better fit for MAP monies. He explained the 25% Match

**Page 1 of 4**

dollars that the Town would need to budget in for these projects. Mayor Dial presented the Board with a map of the Town outlining suggested project locations. The Board was very receptive to several of the suggested roads. Mr. Runyon clarified that the Board did not have to pick specific roads yet at this stage of the application process. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Sedillo made a motion to approve applying for NMDOT COOP funding to complete road improvements to various local streets. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Roads for 2021/2022 MAP Project- Action Item**

Mr. Runyon worked with the Board to narrow in on projects that would be best for MAP funding. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Sedillo made a motion to select a section of 4th street, West Highland, and Berkshire Road for application for MAP funding, with a portion of Loring and Walker as a second project. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**New Business**

1. **Community Farming Project Presentation- Jason Quintana, EVSWA -Information Only**

**NO ACTION**

1. **Request for a Zoning Variance – Amy Embic- Action Item NO ACTION**

**8.5 Approval to go out for RFP for a new Auditor and a new Town Attorney- Action Item**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Sedillo made a motion to approve going out for RFP for a new Auditor and a new Town Attorney. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Suggestions for Estancia Representative on Estancia Valley Water Association- Discussion Only** The Board discussed the challenge of attempting to replace someone who is absolutely irreplaceable- Mr. Art Swenka. Mayor Dial will contact the Town’s other representative, Mr. Ronnie Reynolds, and request that he come to our next meeting to give an EVWA update. The Town will publish a request for letters of interest. **NO ACTION, INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **Approval of Resolution 2021-01 Opposing House Bill 40- Action Item Roll Call Vote-**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 Opposing HB40. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Lovato – Yes, Trustee Sedillo – Yes, Trustee Chavez – Yes, Trustee Hall – Yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Letter of Support for Tagawa to grow cannabis- Action Item**

Trustee Hall commented that the draft letter needed to be amended in several areas. If the draft is approved, Ms. Jones will correct the grammatical errors, etc, in the letter before sending. The Board does support this effort. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to approve a letter of support for Tagawa as amended above. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Page 2 of 4**

1. **Executive Session- As per** **motion and Roll Call Vote- Pursuant to NMSA 1978-10-15-1 to 10-15-4 Section (H)(8) the Sale/Lease of real property**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to go into Executive Session per motion and Roll Call Vote- Pursuant to NMSA 1978-10-15-1 to 10-15-4 Section (H)(8) to discuss the Sale/Lease of real property. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Lovato – Yes, Trustee Sedillo – Yes, Trustee Chavez – Yes, Trustee Hall – Yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Executive Session began at 7:14 pm.**

**Return from Executive Session-**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to return to Regular Session at 8:41pm. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED** Trustee Hall stated that the only item discussed in Executive Session was the item listed on the agenda and no action was taken.

1. **Approval of the to enter into a Purchase Agreement or Long-Term Lease Agreement with Torrance County for the Fairgrounds- Action Item**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion authorizing the Mayor to handle further negotiations for this sale with the following conditions:

* The Town is requesting $50,000.00 for the sale of the Fairgrounds and agreed upon surrounding areas. The Town will control these funds once they are delivered to the Town. The Town proposes to earmark most or all of these funds for the creation/development of a baseball field.
* The Town is requesting that the County pay any fees/closing costs/ attorney fees associated with this sale.
* The Town will meet with the County to identify the sewer main and sewer lines on the property in question before the sale is finalized.

Trustee Sedillo seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

County Manager Ms. Janice Barela said that she would discuss the Town’s requests concerning this sale with the Torrance County Commission at their next meeting. Mayor Dial will attend the meeting to further facilitate this discussion.

**14.0 Mayor/Council:**

**Trustee Hall** mentioned an article he sent to Ms. Jones to distribute to the Board about Economic Development; he encouraged his colleagues to read it. He said that the park is becoming a destination for bird watching which is really great. He also talked about road repair and that he would like to see the County and the Town try to work together more to fix our roads.

**Trustee Chavez** asked why we are wanting to go out for RFP for a new Town Attorney. Clerk Michelle Jones said that, while a very good at her job, our current attorney did not seem particularly versed in our small-town municipal needs and she believes that it is time to see what another firm might have to offer. Trustee Chavez also asked if the Public Works Department could try to clean up the park and the pool area soon. She also said that she is not in favor of the Town paying the County for police calls that they are taking because we are short staffed. The proposed $40.00 per call in particular.

**Page 3 of 4**

**Trustee Sedillo** had no update for this meeting.

**Trustee Lovato** asked if Police Department Administrative Assistant Ms. Melanie Gallegos had received any responses to her request for information about hiring police officers that had not yet been certified. Mayor Dial said that she reached out but has not received any responses. Trustee Lovato also asked about the progress of the pay analysis project. Clerk Jones said that she has a contact that she will be calling tomorrow to further discuss the project. He asked if there were any new applications for the PD; there are not.

Trustee Lovato also told the Board that he had been approached by a resident who is interested in starting an Events Committee; a committee that could focus on facilitating events around town, a movie night at the park for example. He will bring more information about this to the Board. The Board was very receptive to this idea. Lastly, Trustee Lovato said that he would give an EMW Gas update at the next Board meeting and that he was interested in continuing to represent the Town on the EMW Board.

**Mayor Dial** reminded the Trustees that everyone’s term will expire in January except Trustee Lovato. They must declare in August if they wish to run for re-election in November. He said that nothing good is coming out of the current Legislation. And he said that he will soon present the Board with a proclamation declaring May Motorcycle Safety Month, that he hopes they will approve.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Lovato made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

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

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

**Page 4 of 4**