

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 7:07am.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Present:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Councilor Brent Jaramillo – By Phone

Councilor John Anthony Ortega

Not Present:

Councilor Julian Cisneros

Also Present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo

Village Clerk Renee Martinez

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gallegos asked Ms. Trujillo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Second: Councilor John Anthony Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion Carried.

V. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION & POSSIBLE ACTION

A) Water Emergency

Mayor Gallegos informed the Council that the NMED stated they were willing to assist us and expedite the review of the engineers report within 2-4 days. They asked us to make sure to have extra water on hand just in case it doesn't move as quickly as we would like. They also stated that there are the regulatory requirements we need to meet for the new well and/or the exploratory well that require primary and secondary sampling. Locally, we can do the Bacti, Pot ability and Nitrate tests. The other tests need to be taken to Hall Laboratory in Albuquerque. Mr. Anthony Martinez arranged to pick up the extra testing bottles we will need from Hall Laboratory. The turnaround for the testing is

usually 30 days and some take 45 days. We contacted Mr. Michael Preston of NMED who assured the turnaround would be fairly quick. He asked his supervisor what the minimum testing would be for us to tap into the system. She stated that as long as we have the nitrates and 2 pot ability tests done and with the condition that they have the engineer report, they would allow us to do this. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if that would include the drawing of the well, the cross sections and the connection. Ms. Trujillo stated yes, the report will include these items. The engineers are currently working on the report. They are needing the well pump dimensions. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if we have found that information. Ms. Trujillo stated that we only have the information that TP Pump provided for us. Ms. Trujillo stated in never came in. Mr. Russell Gallegos opened the box and there was no paperwork in there. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that this is critical and that the engineer will not do anything without that information.

The engineer from Wilson & Company stated that it would take two more days, at the least to get the engineer report in. Mr. Preston stated that when he received it, he would try his best to review the engineer's report in one day.

Mayor Gallegos stated that last week he reached out to the Governor's office to expedite in getting Homeland Security up here. Secretary Jay Mitchell was here on Saturday and we did the debriefing then. He contacted NMED also.

Ms. Trujillo stated that she has to go this morning to take pictures of the current setup so they can design the tie-in. The application has been sent in.

Mayor Gallegos stated that he is hoping for the best but also preparing for the worst. A PSA will need to go out this afternoon with some timelines. Mayor Gallegos stated that we are going to have to let the community know that we may not be able to get them water until next Wednesday. Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that he is not satisfied with the idea that we're going to tell somebody that because they live on a hill we aren't going to be able to provide them with water. He stated that we need to provide them with the water that they were receiving prior to the summer. Mayor Gallegos stated that what we do today to get people water is of the utmost urgency. It was agreed that the crews need training on the operation of valves and prv's. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that there should be a complete training on the water system. He contended that there are some valves that are closed that should be open that would allow well #1 to feed water to some of the people who don't have water tight now. Councilor Brent Jaramillo agreed. Ms. Trujillo stated that she also agrees. Mayor stated that today, all PRV valves will be identified and see if they are operable.

Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that the reason he wanted to look at the specs is to make sure that if we stick another pump down there that the pump and motor are going to be strong enough to pump water to the tanks. This did not happen with what was done previously. It was not set deep enough, so it pumped it dry. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he wants to make sure the pump is big enough. Ms. Trujillo stated that it is already in.

A discussion was held. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that as soon as we know the timeline for getting people water we need to inform them, no matter how unpleasant it will be. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that we should have informed the public on Tuesday night about the reports. Ms. Trujillo stated that we didn't know this information until yesterday. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that we need to work on a PSA and give people the worst case scenario that they may not have water for the Christmas holiday and if we are able to get them water before Christmas, that's great. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that Wilson needs to tell us that the pump is strong enough. It is critical that we know.

Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that the Incident Command system needs to stay in place and we need to support it and not work against it. He stated that the system was working really good last week and this week it's faltered; it's being undermined. Mayor Gallegos stated that he does not agree for the reason that Incident Command is still in charge of everything they have been. Mayor stated that what we are doing on the governmental side is we are taking care of what we need to do. The field operations is not being undermined, all we are doing is bring in ideas to see if they work. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that this is where information is getting lost; a week ago, that issue came up and he told Mr. Romero that he did not think it was a good idea to do that. This had already been discussed and is

still being kept around and is a waste of time. Mayor Gallegos apologized and stated that he kicked it around yesterday only for the fact that he was not in town Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Mayor stated that he is going to participate in this and understands that the incident command has their duties but there needs to be representation from the Village. Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that Ms. Trujillo has been representing the Village. Mayor Gallegos stated that now that he is here he will be taking on that role. A discussion was held. Ms. Trujillo stated that we need to keep good communication. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he appreciates everything the incident command has done, they have been invaluable, but when it comes to the technical aspect of it and things like this that is a Governing Body issue and decision.

Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he is concerned about the schools who have already lost a week.

Mayor Gallegos asked the Council about the overtime. Ms. Trujillo state that she prefers to have a schedule, we don't need everybody. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that this was her call, we don't want employees here getting paid overtime and not being productive. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he is in no way stating that this is currently happening. Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that he does agree with the overtime but does not want people standing around. Ms. Trujillo stated she was concerned about the budget, it is going to cost us. Councilor John Anthony Ortega suggested we give Ms. Trujillo the direction to allow for overtime, at her discretion. A discussion regarding the scheduling was held.

Further information will be discussed at the 3:00pm Special meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

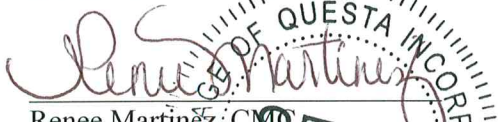
Second: Councilor John Anthony Ortega


In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08am.

ATTEST:


Renee Martinez, CMC



APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor