

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2016
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Pro-Tem Julian Cisneros called the meeting to order at 3:12pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Julian Cisneros asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Julian Cisneros
Councilor John Anthony Ortega
Councilor Lawrence Ortega
Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Mayor Mark Gallegos was present via telephone.

Also Present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo
Village Clerk Renee Martinez
Finance Director Karen Shannon
Taos County Emergency Management Director Dominic Martinez
Mr. Max Ortega
Fire Chief Mark Ortega

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Karen Shannon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was requested to add Public Comments to the Agenda following the Approval of Agenda.

Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the agenda as amended. All voted yes. Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Patty Torres, Questa Health Center Administrator – asked what people can do to protect our buildings. Mr. Dominic Martinez, Emergency Management Director from Taos County stated that the best thing people can do is stop using water and try to keep as much water in your lines as possible. Turning up the heat in your homes and businesses will also help prevent your pipes from freezing. Heat tape would also help.

Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if Well #1 was in operation. Ms. Trujillo stated that Well#1 is pumping at its full capacity, pumping 120 gallons per minute. Well#2 is supposed to be pumping at 120 gallons per minute, but it is fluctuating. It's pumping 20-25 gallons per minute at times and at 100 gallons per minute at times. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that it sounds like a water table problem. Ms. Trujillo stated that she believes that the water table is part of the issue because of all the air in the lines. Mr. Lupe Aragon from the NM Water Association also believes it may be the screen that may be plugged. Well #2 has been shut off for the time being.

- Mr. Gary Sanchez stated that he is curious to see if the Village has another pump on standby. Ms. Trujillo stated that we do not have another pump on standby. It was replaced on November 5th of this year, it is brand new and it is under warranty. We are in contact with Phoenix Mechanical who installed it to get them out here to pull it so we can check the screen.
- Mr. Isaac Cisneros, Town of Red River Public Works Superintendent, stated that he recommends that if we are using Well#1 to capacity, that we isolate it and pump it into the tank and fill the tank. This way the system can charge, put some dye tablets in there, open the system and then start looking for leaks.

Ms. Trujillo stated that the pump is pumping directly into the distribution system and going into the tank. The intent for tonight is to fill up the tank and stop pumping into the distribution system. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he wasn't sure about that, it needs to be discussed. Mr. Max Ortega suggested we have a well driller on standby when we pull the pump out in case we need to drill deeper.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cisneros stated that he wants to be clear about what we are going to do after this meeting is adjourned. He also asked if anyone has looked into what these gentlemen are proposing. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that if we shut the water off to the distribution lines we are going to leave everyone without water. This really needs to be thought out because if we are only filling up the tank, no one is going to have water. Mayor Pro-Tem Cisneros asked is the people who have water now, be guaranteed to have water at 5:00am tomorrow if we filled the tank only. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated no, not if we valve the system off.

Mr. Max Ortega asked that if the Governing Body would allow the command staff to work on this, this is why it was set up. He stated that of course they will keep the Governing Body updated and will not make any decisions without running it through Ms. Trujillo and the Governing Body.

- Mr. Honorio Rael asked how many people have water. Ms. Trujillo stated that we are trying to get this information. Mr. Honorio Rael stated that it may be the pump or a leak. Mr. Max Ortega stated that we do not know yet. We are trying to gather all the information we can.

Mr. Max Ortega asked the public to please be patient. We are working very hard to get the information out to the public as soon as we find out anything. Mr. Honorio Rael asked how the information would be dispensed. Ms. Trujillo stated that the Village website is being updated. She is also working on getting out the information to the Taos News, Channel 7, 13 and 4.

Mayor Gallegos asked that we make sure that the elderly and those who are in need of medical attention be taken care of. Mr. Dominic Martinez stated that the EMS /Fir staff has been taking care of this already. They are delivering water and checking if there is anything additional they will be needing. Mayor Gallegos suggested the water stay on at the schools to be a place for a possible housing location. The schools dismissed this afternoon and for the next two days.

Mr. Max Ortega stated that we are pulling all the resources possible to assist us.

VI. ACTION ITEMS - (Discussion, Consideration and Action)

**A) Resolution #2016-32 – A Resolution calling for a State of Emergency in the Village of Questa
Re: Water Emergency**

Ms. Trujillo stated that this Resolution is required for the declaration of the water emergency. It states that once our resources have been exhausted, Taos County will then step in. At this point they will provide all the resources they can and then move on to the State of New Mexico.

Motion: Councilor John Anthony Ortega

Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES

Mayor Pro-Tem Julian Cisneros YES

To approve Resolution #2016-32 – A Resolution calling for a State of Emergency in the Village of Questa.
All voted yes. Motion carried.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39pm.

ATTEST:

Renee Martinez, CMC

APPROVED:

Julian Cisneros, Mayor Pro-Tem

