

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos (present via conference call) asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Councilor Julian Cisneros

Councilor Brent Jaramillo (present via conference call)

Councilor Miguel Romero was not present.

Village of Questa Staff present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo

Village Clerk Renee Martinez

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Julian Cisneros led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilor Cisneros

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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

IV. PUBLIC HEARING –

A) 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing at 6:02pm and stated that this is the third Public Hearing that has been held.

The Public Hearing was then opened to the public for their input and suggestions. No one from the public was present. There was no public input.

Mayor Gallegos closed the Public Hearing at 6:03pm.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS -

Village of Questa Special Council Meeting  
March 10, 2015

A) Approval of Resolution 2015-12  
Re: CDBG Application

Ms. Trujillo stated that we need to decide on a project we would like to pursue so that we can include it in the Resolution. The following items were suggested by members of the public during the past public hearings:

- Contacting the owners of vacant buildings in town to see if they are willing to sell or rent their properties in order to open business there.
- Opening a community kitchen so that residents can produce their items and sell them.
- Adding onto Questa Business Park for Economic Development

Mayor Gallegos proposed that we use the CDBG monies for Wastewater Improvements. Councilor Cisneros stated that at one of the last meetings the Council had decided to do an assessment of the sewer to identify the needs in different areas. Councilor Ortega stated that at the March 3, 2015 Council meeting the Council decided to approve the \$50,000.00 state appropriation money for the engineering of wastewater line extension. Councilor Cisneros asked if a location needs to be decided on right now and what locations are we looking at. Mayor Gallegos stated that we are looking at the Cabresto Road area.

Councilor Ortega stated that the application is due on March 18. Councilor Ortega also stated that he prepared some cost estimates for sewer line extensions on Cabresto Road, Abra Road and Embargo Road. Councilor Jaramillo agreed with this project stating that the Village is at a point where we can start concentrating on sewer projects.

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Cisneros

Roll Call:

Councilor Miguel Romero	ABSENT
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES
Councilor Julian Cisneros	YES

To approve Resolution 2015-12. All voted yes. Motion carried.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Cisneros  
Second: Councilor Ortega


In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

ATTEST:

  
Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:

  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor

Village of Questa Special Council Meeting  
March 10, 2015

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 03, 2015  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Mayor Gallegos acknowledged Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe who was in attendance.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Miguel Romero  
Councilor Lawrence Ortega  
Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Councilor Julian Cisneros was not present.

Village of Questa Staff present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo  
Public Works Director Arwin Vasquez  
Finance Director Karen Shannon  
Officer Victor Alvarado  
Officer Brian Garcia  
Police Chief Gerald Bates  
Village Clerk Renee Martinez  
Utilities Clerk Nadine Herrera

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Brent Jaramillo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Village Administrator Loretta Trujillo informed the Council that she would like to acknowledge some employees during Public Comments.

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

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

Village of Questa Regular Council Meeting  
March 03, 2015

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

##### (1) CDBG Public Hearing February 17, 2015-

Councilor Ortega inquired if the Public Hearing Minutes need to be approved. Ms. Trujillo stated yes.

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the CDBG Public Hearing Minutes of February 17, 2015 as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

##### (2) Regular Meeting, February 17, 2015

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2015 as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS - *(It is the policy of the Governing Body to accept public comment. Because your particular issue is not on the agenda the Governing Body cannot respond immediately, but may direct staff to address issues at a future Council Meeting. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes.)*

Ms. Pam Kidd – Ms. Kidd stated that she has passed out some paperwork to the Council. Ms. Kidd informed the Council that on Sunday, February 1, 2015 she came upon a 2 car accident. She stated that she was the second person to call 911 and remained on the scene for an hour. She stated that the injured person was bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth and she did have him in her vehicle because of the weather. She stated that it took 28 minutes for a response. She stated that her purpose is to continue to bring this issue up and to encourage the Council to look into how the response time could be cut. She stated that she has spoken to Mark Gallegos to have the Taos County handle the EMS and Fire services. She stated that we could have three more full-time employees and someone would always be at the station and we would have 24 hour coverage. She is asking that the Council get back to her for the next meeting to discuss this. She stated that she has researched this extensively.

Ms. Trujillo – Village Administrator Loretta Trujillo recognized the following employees:

- Ms. Dina Coleman – Hired as the Village Receptionist, began working on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Mr. Jamie Archuleta – Received his Water I certification
- Public Works Department – Recognized the department for their work during the winter weather and working long hours.



- Police Department – Thanked the department for their hard work great attitudes.

Chief Bates - Informed the Governing Body that Officer Garcia completed the NM Police academy's certification by waiver program and graduated first in his class.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe - Sheriff Hogrefe introduced himself as the newly elected County Sheriff and also recognized his predecessor Councilor Romero stating that he has some big shoes to fill. Sheriff Hogrefe stated that he would like to attend community meetings throughout the county at least three or four times per year to update about what is going on with the Taos County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Hogreff updated on the following:

- Working closely with Crime-stoppers – they hold 7,000-7,500 active warrants from all agencies in the County.
- Held a series of community meetings in Taos where 7 law enforcement agencies were participating for community input.
- Reaching out to all homeowner associations / neighborhood watch
- Crested a Taos County Facebook page
- Working with all schools
- Vision is to solve cases and prevent crime
- DWI Checkpoints
- In Partnership with BLM and Forest Service- Received grant money for overtime
- Concerns regarding the Penasco Health Clinic closing on April 1<sup>st</sup> – put more pressure on the Taos County EMS. Looking to train deputies in first aid to assist.
- Tri-County possible closure – Extra burden on departments and EMS
- More video arraignments are being done - reduce costs in transfer
- Hired two additional deputies

Mayor Gallegos thanked Sheriff Hogrefe for his update and for attending the meeting this evening. Mayor Gallegos also stated that he would like to maintain a good working relationship with the Taos County Sheriff's Office.

#### VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

A) 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

\*\* At this time Councilor Jaramillo requested that we amend the agenda to move Item VII Presentations up before Item VI Public Hearings so the families who are present for the swearing-in are able to leave if they choose to.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Romero

Roll Call:

Councilor Miguel Romero	YES
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES
Councilor Julian Cisneros	Absent

To approve the amendment to the agenda. All voted yes. Motion carried.

#### VII. PRESENTATIONS – Swear-In of Village of Questa Police Officers

A) Officer Victor Alvarado & Officer Brian Garcia

Village of Questa Regular Council Meeting  
March 03, 2015

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that Officer Victor Alvarado completed the academy in December and Officer Brian Garcia completed the academy in February. Ms. Trujillo stated that all our officers are all certified.

Questa Municipal Judge Michael Rael administered the Oath of Office to Officer Garcia and Officer Alvarado.

# VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

## A) 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing at 6:39pm and stated that this is the second Public Hearing that has been held.

Ms. Trujillo read aloud the purpose and information regarding the Community Development Block Grant to the people of the public who were present. The Public Hearing was then opened to the public for their input and suggestions.

Ms. Holly Howard, citizen, inquired about the last public hearing and what ideas were presented. Ms. Trujillo stated that the ideas presented were:

- Contacting the owners of vacant buildings in town to see if they are willing to sell or rent their properties in order to open business there.
- Opening a community kitchen so that residents can produce their items and sell them.

Councilor Ortega stated that in the past we have used these funds for basic infrastructure needs. The last project was a water project.

Ms. Howard inquired if adding or completing the Business Park would be suitable for the CDBG. Councilor Jaramillo stated that this would fit the funding criteria.

There was no other public input at this time.

Mayor Gallegos closed the Public Hearing at 6:46pm.

## B) Village of Questa Water & Sewer Ordinance

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing at 6:47pm.

Ms. Trujillo stated that one more Public Hearing will be held regarding this proposed ordinance as well as it going up for approval at the March 17, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.

Ms. Holly Howard asked if the tailing pipes could be relayed along Old Red River Road going south. She asked if the water pipes on going up in the area of Vigil Road have been taken out of the tailings that they were laying in and have been put in better soil so that the tailing would be seeping into the water. Mr. Vasquez stated that there are no tailings going up to Vigil Road.

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that the following items were looked into as requested in the last public hearing:

- Structure of the water service rates – Ms. Herrera polled several Municipalities close to our size to see how their rates were structured. All six municipalities were all different.

There was no uniform way that it was done. Ms. Trujillo suggested we keep the way we are doing it for now, knowing that this is a working document that can be amended if needed.

- Utility Bill due date - Ms. Trujillo stated that currently it is due 20 days after the day of mailing. She suggested we change it to 15 days after the day of mailing. This would allow us to clear these balances before another billing cycle is started.

Mayor Gallegos closed the Public Hearing at 6:53pm.

#### VIII. ACTION ITEMS -

- A) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of Resolution 2015-10  
Re: Grant Agreement with NMED / Special Appropriations

Ms. Trujillo stated that this Resolution is for \$100,000.00 for Water Rights Purchase and is necessary for purpose of the Village requiring a fiscal agent.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Miguel Romero	YES
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES
Councilor Julian Cisneros	Absent

To approve Resolution 2015-10. All voted yes. Motion carried.

- B) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of Resolution 2015-11  
Re: Grant Agreement with NMED / Special Appropriations

Ms. Trujillo stated that this Resolution is for \$40,000.00 for Well and Storage and is necessary again for purpose of the Village requiring a fiscal agent.

Ms. Trujillo asked for clarification on how we will be using this money. A discussion was held. Councilor Ortega suggested that should look at replacing the water well pumps. Mr. Vasquez stated that the pumps need to be replaced and need to be drilled deeper. It was decided that we see how much we can do with the \$40,000.00 regarding the pumps and drilling.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Julian Cisneros	Absent
Councilor Miguel Romero	YES
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES

To approve Resolution 2015-11. All voted yes. Motion carried.



Ms. Trujillo stated that she also needs clarification on Resolution 2015-09 that was passed last Regular Meeting regarding the \$50,000.00 for Wastewater System Improvements. It was decided by all the Council to use the money for the planning and design work for sewer line extension on Cabresto Road.

IX. FINANCE DEPARTMENT - Ms. Karen Shannon

A) Approval of Unpaid Vouchers

Ms. Shannon stated that the vouchers and bank balances presented to them are as of Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Ortega: Voucher for Safety Instruction Ltd., LLC, for \$7,000.00 – Ms. Shannon stated that this is a grant from Chevron to the Fire Department for a Res-Q-Jack stabilization kit. Councilor Ortega stated that he does not have a problem with it as long as it is run through the Administrator's Office. Ms. Trujillo stated that this item was not. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body should know about these grants so that we know what is going on. Councilor Romero stated that the Council made a request last meeting that the Fire Department be present to address questions from the Council. Ms. Trujillo stated that they were not able to be in attendance this meeting. Ms. Trujillo stated that they will be placed on the next agenda. Mayor Gallegos stated that they need to come before the Governing Body and answer questions and concerns that the Council may have.

Councilor Ortega asked Ms. Shannon when the BAR's will be coming before the Council for approval. Ms. Shannon stated that they will be up for approval next council meeting. Councilor Ortega also asked for monthly financial reports. Ms. Shannon stated that they will have them on a regular basis as soon as everything is caught up.

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the Unpaid Vouchers as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

X. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Trujillo updated the Council on the following:

- She and the Mayor have been invited to attend a meeting with the tribal leaders who purchased the water rights from Santa Fe County.
- Met with Karen Roybal from the State Engineers Office regarding water rights

XI. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Gallegos updated the Council on the Economic Development Board meeting.



Councilor Ortega:

- Street Lights – When will they be working? Ms. Trujillo stated that the ones to the North side should be on as we speak. She stated that there are others out in town that we are responsible for.
- Cisneros Road Project – Ms. Trujillo stated that the contractor is waiting for Joe Moore to come do the inspection. She will continue to pursue this.
- Application for DOT Project Request – Ms. Trujillo and Ms. Martinez stated that they are working on the request.

Councilor Jaramillo – None at this time

Councilor Romero – None at this time

Mayor Gallegos stated that a discussion or decision needs to happen regarding the Kit Carson lease agreement. He feels that we should at least get half of the rent they will be receiving from Taos Energy Bars. The Mayor would also like Mr. Reyes to come before the Governing Body to do a presentation regarding the Business park building.

Mr. Jim Vaughn inquired about the Animal Control Ordinance. A discussion was held if the Village of Questa would move forward on its own or wait for the County. It was decided that in one of the past meetings that the Village would move forward without the County. Ms. Trujillo stated that she will call the Village Attorney and move forward on this.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Romero

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

ATTEST:

  
Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:

  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor