

1 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**
 2 **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
 3 **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017**
 4 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
 5 **6:00PM**

7 I. **CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO-TEM JOHN ANTHONY ORTEGA**

8
 9 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

10
 11 II. **ROLL CALL**

12 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

13
 14 Present:

15 Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 16 Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 17 Councilor John Anthony Ortega

18
 19 Not Present:

20 Councilor Julian Cisneros
 21 Mayor Mark Gallegos

22
 23 Also Present:

24 Administrator Nicholas Maestas
 25 Village Clerk Renee Martinez
 26 Finance Director Karen Shannon
 27 Village Attorney Lance Hough

28
 29 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

30 Attorney Lance Hough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

31
 32 IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

33
 34 Councilor Brent Jaramillo requested Item D under action items be removed due to the fact that this project has
 35 already been completed.

36
 37 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 38 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

39
 40 In Favor: All
 41 Opposed: None

42
 43 To approve the agenda as amended. All voted yes. Motion carried.

44
 45 V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 46 • November 28, 2017 – Regular Meeting

47
 48 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 49 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

50
 51 In Favor: All

52 Opposed: None
53

54 To approve the November 28, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.
55

56 VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - *(It is the policy of the Governing Body to accept public comment. Because*
57 *your particular issue is not on the agenda the Governing Body cannot respond immediately, but may direct staff*
58 *to address issues at a future Council Meeting. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes.)*
59

60 There were no public comments.
61

62 VII. **ACTION ITEMS**

63 A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-23 / 2018 Municipal Election
64

65 Mr. Maestas stated that this Resolution calls for the 2018 Municipal Election.
66

67 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

68 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
69

70 Councilor John Ortega expressed his concern on how the absentee ballots will be distributed and received. Ms.
71 Martinez stated that the statute states that when an absentee ballot is mailed out, it can be returned by mail or
72 brought in by the voter casting the ballot, by a member of the voter's immediate family or by the caregiver to the
73 voter. She stated that she is very aware of who brings in an absentee ballot and it is noted on the absentee ballot
74 list who brings the ballot in. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked who is considered an 'immediate family member.'
75 Ms. Martinez stated that it refers to a spouse, children, parents, brother and sister. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked
76 if the Clerk tracks who drops the ballot off. Ms. Martinez stated that she does keep a record of who brings the
77 absentee ballots in. Councilor John Ortega expressed his concern with the mail ballots and how we know where
78 they are being mailed to and mailed from. Ms. Martinez stated that on the voter list the physical address as well
79 as the mailing address is listed so she can match the voter to the address. If the address does not match, a call is
80 made to the voter to confirm they sent the ballot in. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if someone can come in
81 and request 20 absentee ballots. Ms. Martinez stated that someone can come in and request 20 absentee ballot
82 applications. There is no restriction on the amount of absentee ballot applications that someone can request.
83 Councilor John Ortega asked Ms. Martinez if she could keep track of who is taking the applications. Ms. Martinez
84 stated yes and if she sees a large number going out she will definitely call the Secretary of State's office to see if
85 there is anything legally that can be done.
86

87 Roll Call vote was conducted by the Clerk by the direction of the Mayor Pro-Tem, with the vote as follows:
88

89 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

90 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

91 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega YES
92

93 To approve Resolution 2017-23 / 2018 Municipal Election as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.
94

95 B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-24 / 2017 CDBG
96

97 Mr. Maestas stated that this Resolution was passed previously by the Council, with the amount of the request at
98 \$700,000.00. Local Government Division has requested the amount be reduced to \$500,000.00 due to the amount
99 available. This is the only change to the Resolution.
100

101 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if we need to rescind the previous Resolution. Attorney Lance Hough stated
102 that he does not believe it needs to be.
103

104 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 105 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

107 Roll Call vote was conducted by the Clerk by the direction of the Mayor Pro –Tem, with the vote as follows:

108
 109 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 110 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 111 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega YES

112
 113 To approve Resolution No. 2017-24 / 2017 CDBG as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

114
 115 C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-25 / NMDOT COOP Project SP-5-16(195)
 116 Extension Request

117
 118 Mr. Maestas stated that this extension request to the NMDOT is due to the time constraints we are facing. The
 119 deadline is December 31, 2017. He spoke with Ms. Godina at the NMDOT who in turn sent an agreement to be
 120 executed for the extension approval with a completion date of December 31, 2018. With the approval of this
 121 Resolution we will be able to execute the agreement and submit the paperwork to the state.

122
 123 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that if he is not mistaken, this is the second extension request we submit for this
 124 project. Mr. Maestas said yes and that the state reestablished the grant for the Village in March of 2017. He stated
 125 that because we already got the approval from the state for the extension, he believes that it will get extended.
 126 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that this has been going on for over two years now and we need to get these
 127 projects done. Mr. Maestas stated that we are working on getting this project completed. An ITB was put out in
 128 the Taos News and we did receive a response from a company out of Santa Fe. Before going ahead with the bid,
 129 a local bid request was put out into the community. He stated that we are comparing the cost per square yard for
 130 the project in the quote and the bid request we received. He stated the intention is to try and get the project done
 131 by the end of the month but wanted to also have the extension request in place in case we did not get the money
 132 expended on time. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if we have to have the funds spent by the end of the month
 133 or encumbered. Mr. Maestas stated that the funds have to be spent.

134
 135 Councilor Jaramillo agreed with Councilor Lawrence Ortega in that we need to get these projects going; work on
 136 the bid process in the winter and get the contractor secured to start work in the spring.

137
 138 Mayor Pro Tem Ortega stated that since we are going to start paving Cabresto Road next summer and Abra Road
 139 is complete, he believes all this project funding should be used on Embargo Road; it is in very bad shape.

140
 141 Mr. Maestas stated that he is going to ask for clear guidance because his intention moving forward, we had had
 142 this conversation about dedicating all these funds to Embargo Road and that we also wanted to take care of one or
 143 two areas on Cabresto Road. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that he believes that the conversation then was that
 144 we were thinking that pavement was going to be dropped in November. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that
 145 there are only 2 or 3 areas that have been identified on Cabresto that are really bad. He would like to get those
 146 areas done if possible; but agrees the majority of the funds should go to Embargo. Councilor Jaramillo, for
 147 clarification, asked Mr. Maestas if it is his intention, if the bids come back, and he can get a contractor to pave in
 148 December and bill us- that part of Cabresto will be done? Mr. Maestas stated yes. Councilor Jaramillo stated that
 149 he had thought that Mr. Maestas said earlier, with regards to the extension that he was going to hold off until next
 150 year. Mr. Maestas stated that the request for extension is a last resort. His intention is to try and get it done by the
 151 31st. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that realistically we cannot get it done now; there is probably no asphalt
 152 available this time of the year; the best way to go is in the spring. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated if we rush it
 153 now we may not get a good job done. Mr. Maestas stated that he has been working very hard to get this project
 154 completed and has reached out to local asphalt providers to see if they still have some available. He was told that

155 they would run their asphalt operation with a couple days' notice. Mr. Maestas stated it is a tight squeeze but
 156 wants to try to get it done before the deadline.

158 Mayor Pro Tem Ortega asked when we were going out for bid on the MAP project; spring 2018? Mr. Maestas
 159 stated yes. Mayor Pro Tem Ortega stated that he is in agreement with Councilor Lawrence Ortega in that if we get
 160 this project done now in December, the problem areas in Cabresto should be fixed. If we wait until the spring,
 161 we'll be going out for bid on the Cabresto MAP project so this coop project money should be focused on Embargo.

162
 163 Councilor Jaramillo suggested that in one of the January meetings, having a work study session and have Mr. Joe
 164 Moore come up so we can go over all of our paving projects for 2018, so we are all on the same page. Councilor
 165 Lawrence Ortega stated that we need some schedules from Mr. Moore as to what the timeframes are for these
 166 projects because we keep going back and forth.

167
 168 A lengthy discussion was held regarding the number of square yards and bids versus proposals.

169
 170 Mr. Maestas stated that he doesn't believe we should rush into it because of all the procurement questions he still
 171 has. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked isn't Mr. Moore assisting with this solicitation process. Mr. Maestas stated
 172 that he has assisted him quite a bit.

173
 174 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega – with discussion. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that the bid documents
 175 and other documents will come to the Council before anything is constructed, correct? Mr. Maestas stated yes.
 176 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that it is standard procedure for the Council to award it. Mayor Pro-Tem John
 177 Ortega asked if we will need to hold a special meeting to award that bid. Mr. Maestas stated that if we award the
 178 bid in December, we will need a special meeting. Councilor Lawrence Ortega requested a copy of the ITB. Mayor
 179 Pro-Tem John Ortega stated that we need to take the weather and the time of year into consideration. Councilor
 180 Lawrence Ortega stated that it has to be 45 degrees and rising to place the hot mix, if the ground is frozen, it make
 181 it worse; it is not a good time to lay hot mix in December and January, that is for sure. Mr. Maestas stated that he
 182 will follow up with the Council on this.

183
 184 Second: Unclear

185
 186 Roll Call vote was conducted by the Clerk by the direction of the Mayor Pro –Tem, with the vote as follows:

187
 188 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 189 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 190 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega YES

191
 192 To approve Resolution No. 2017-24 / 2017 CDBG as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

193
 194 **D) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-26 / NMDOT COOP Project SP-5-17(195)**
 195 **Extension Request**

196
 197 Removed from Agenda.

198
 199 **E) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-27/ Employee Holiday Schedule**

200
 201 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 202 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

203
 204 Roll Call vote was conducted by the Clerk by the direction of the Mayor Pro –Tem, with the vote as follows:

205
 206 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

207 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 208 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega YES

210 To approve Resolution No. 2017-27/ Employee Holiday Schedule as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

211
 212 F) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Approval of Facility Build Cost Proposal
 213

214 Mr. Maestas stated that we are eligible to use Facility Build under the State price agreement for the NMED grant
 215 to enclose the new water well. In order to protect the well for this winter, we have been working with Facility
 216 Build to build on top of the permanent structure, a temporary housing structure to protect from freezing and any
 217 intrusion. The majority of the cost will be the site work and demolition. He has requested of the contractor to do
 218 a permanent structure and concrete footing and the temporary structure. The temporary structure will be 8x8 and
 219 be able to be removed and placed up by our 30,000 gallon water tank to protect our SCADA (Supervisory Control
 220 And Data Acquisition) and electronic infrastructure. It is protected at this point, but could use something better to
 221 protect it. Once spring comes around we will be able to do the full build out of the structure which will include
 222 electricity to the structure, wall heaters, and an exterior door to be able to store our chlorine at the site. With all of
 223 this the cost will be \$40,000.00 in which come spring, we won't have to do any of the concrete work or demolition.
 224 Mr. Maestas stated that when they are ready to do the permanent structure, he will bring the scope of work before
 225 the Council. Mr. Maestas stated that he has provided the Council with the scope of work for the temporary work.
 226

227 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if all of this work was at the new well. Mr. Maestas stated yes. Councilor
 228 Lawrence Ortega asked if any local bids were solicited. Mr. Maestas stated that he did not solicit locally because
 229 of the urgency with this project. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that we need to do better planning and
 230 scheduling so that we can get local contractors to do the work. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked to see the plans
 231 for the final design.
 232

233 Councilor Brent Jaramillo encouraged getting a local subcontractor on this project.
 234

235 Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega asked if we will have to approve another contract in the spring for the remaining
 236 funds. Mr. Maestas stated that we will have to come back and approve the final build out project proposal.
 237 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked isn't that included in the \$40,000.00? Mr. Maestas stated that the concrete pad
 238 is included in this round. The walls and the other extra improvements will be in another contract. Councilor
 239 Lawrence Ortega stated that this price includes the 8x8 building; so what are they going to do later that will add
 240 more cost in the spring? Mr. Maestas stated that in an effort to get it done quickly, we are putting the temporary
 241 8x8 facility; the build out proposal in the spring will connect the old building with the new building and will have
 242 larger garage doors. Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega stated that his concern is that this time of year is not the best
 243 time to be working with concrete. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked if we have been putting heating blankets on
 244 the ground. Mr. Maestas stated yes, we have to protect the well as well as around the well to protect the soil from
 245 freezing. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked wouldn't this be sufficient without putting a temporary building? Mr.
 246 Maestas stated he was under the impression that it needed to be enclosed as soon as possible.
 247

248 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 249 Second: No Second

250
 251 Motion dies due to lack of a second.
 252

253 G) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Approval of Governing Body Member to Questa Land & Water
 254 Board
 255

256 Attorney Lance Hough stated that at the last meeting the Council approved the QLW Corporate documents as well
 7 as a consensus that Councilor Lawrence Ortega would serve on the QLW board from the Village Governing Body.
 258

259 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 260 Second: Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega

262 In Favor: All
 263 Opposed: None

264
 265 To approve Councilor Lawrence Ortega to the Questa Land & Water Board. All voted yes. Motion carried.
 266

267 **H) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Approval of at-large community members as candidates for**
 268 **Questa Land & Water Board**

269
 270 Mr. Hough stated that it was decided at the previous meeting that the 3 at-large community members would be
 271 presented at this meeting.

272
 273 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega stated that now would be the time for the Council to give their nominations.
 274

275 Councilor Brent Jaramillo: Charlie Gonzales, Leroy Romero, Juan Cisneros
 276 Councilor Lawrence Ortega: Donald Gallegos, Louise Gallegos (was not sure about the stipulations regarding
 277 immediate family members) and Andamo Sanchez
 278 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega: Juan Cisneros – and agrees with all that have been nominated.
 279

280 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if there is something in the by laws that would prohibit a board member to apply
 281 to the QLW? Mr. Hough stated that no, there is nothing that prevents that.
 282

283 Mr. Hough asked which 3 individuals the Village would like to proceed with.
 284

285 ; Mr. Hough stated that there are 3 recommendations from the fund board, 3 recommendations from the Village
 286 Council, for a pool of 6 people.
 287

288 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega stated that he is fine with all the names that were presented and wants to know who
 289 ultimately is going to choose this board and for the record is it going to be the same names we saw on that list a
 290 month ago? Are the names on that list going to be the board? Are we wasting our time submitting these names
 291 when the board has already been decided? Mr. Hough stated that it could have the same people, it is not based on
 292 that list; it is based on the recommendations from this Council and Fund board. The legal counsel of the village,
 293 fund board and CMI are going to get together and say, ok, these are our potential candidates for 3 positions. Mayor
 294 Pro Tem John Ortega stated that his understanding was that this entity was going to be separate from the fund
 295 board, so why do they have a seat at the table for the final pick? Why do the three entities get to decide and the
 296 Village Council doesn't have a vote? Mr. Marcus Rael explained it to us differently. Mr. Hough stated that Marcus
 297 Rael and probably Tom Campbell from Chevron is who will ultimately choose. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated
 298 that the minutes back in October reflect that the Governing Body will select the 3 at large members. Mr. Hough
 299 stated that that was a prior discussion-since then in conversations with CMI, there's been changes. Mr. Hough
 300 stated that Councilor Lawrence Ortega is correct, that was what was originally was represented, it has been subject
 301 to change since then. Councilor Lawrence Ortega then stated that it could be that none of our recommendations
 302 for the at large members will be selected; other than the Council member. Mr. Hough stated that that was correct
 303 because all the recommendations will go into a pool of no greater than 6 people that would be narrowed down by
 304 legal counsel and CMI to 3.
 305

306 Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked why we couldn't recommend six people since Mr. Marcus Rael and Mr. Tom
 307 Campbell are going to decide, there's nothing really preventing us from submitting all of our recommendations.
 308 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that we are just giving you our top choices but all the names would work. Mr.
 309 Hough stated that the idea is to get the top candidates to choose from.
 310

311 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega asked the Council members if they have spoken to the individuals they nominated to
 312 see if they would consider being part of this board? Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that he spoke with Mr.
 313 Gonzales, Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he spoke with his individuals and Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega
 314 stated he spoke with Mr. Cisneros.

315
 316 It was decided that the following names be the 3 recommendations:

- 317 • Mr. Charlie Gonzales
- 318 • Mr. Donald Gallegos
- 319 • Mr. Juan Cisneros

320
 321 A footnote to this recommendation is that if Mr. Gallegos is being considered by the fund board, then Ms. Louise
 322 Gallegos would take his place in the recommendation.

323
 324 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 325 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

326
 327 In Favor: All
 328 Opposed: None

329
 330 To approve the above named individuals as potential members to the QLW Board. All voted yes. Motion carried.

331
 332 **Mr. Maestas stated that he was not sure on Item F if Mayor Pro-Tem Ortega was sure if he could second a
 333 motion, and if the Council wanted to go back to that item to be able to get that project moved forward since there
 334 wasn't initially a second. If it is the will of the Council. Councilor Jaramillo stated that it ended with the lack of
 335 a second and doesn't believe we can bring it up again at the same meeting; unless Mr. Hough says there is a legal
 336 way to do this. Mr. Maestas stated that he will look it up to be sure.

338 VIII. FINANCIALS – Ms. Karen Shannon, Finance Director

339 A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of Unpaid Vouchers

340
 341 Ms. Shannon stated that the Vouchers presented are as of December 8, 2017.

342
 343 Councilor Lawrence Ortega:

- 344
- 345 • Page 1, Diesel Exhaust Fluid (55 gallon) what is that used for – Ms. Shannon said it is for the ambulance.
- 346 • Page 4, Does QUILL charge us freight. Ms. Shannon stated that they do not charge freight.

347
 348 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega:

- 349
- 350 • Llano Community Ditch invoice – Did we get any answers on this. Mr. Maestas stated that since they are
- 351 billing us, they need to provide the documentation and we should not be using village resources if they are
- 352 not available. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that they should have their records to justify what they
- 353 are billing us. Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega stated he is ok with staff reviewing the information. Councilor
- 354 Lawrence Ortega stated that he agrees that we need to review the information but not make special trips
- 355 to the OSA in Santa Fe to research. Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega stated that he believes that they do need
- 356 to provide us with the information. Mr. Maestas stated that the association is having their annual meeting
- 357 if anyone would like to attend.

358
 359 A motion was made by Councilor Lawrence Ortega to approve the vouchers excluding the Llano Community
 360 Irrigation Ditch invoice. This motion was seconded by Councilor Brent Jaramillo.

361
 362 In Favor: All

363 Opposed: None
 364

365 To approve the vouchers as presented with the exception of the Llano Community Irrigation Ditch invoice. All
 366 voted yes. Motion carried.
 367

368 IX. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR** – Mr. Nicholas Maestas

369 Mr. Maestas updated the Governing Body on the following:
 370

- 371 • Alumbra will be held this Saturday. A Village leadership booth will be set up if the Council is available.
- 372 • Street Lights – A local electrician has submitted a quote. We are hoping to get them fixed by the end of
 373 the month.
- 374 • Youth Center – Two windows still not operable. They should be taken care of soon.
- 375 • Calendar – working on the quarterly calendar and should have one available for the Council by the next
 376 meeting.
- 377 • MVD Position – Interviews were conducted with 2 of the applicants. We will be moving forward with the
 378 required background checks and fingerprinting with one of them.

379
 380 ***Regarding Item VI. (F) - Mr. Maestas stated that he, and Mr. Hough have looked into the parliamentary
 381 procedure regarding item F. Mr. Hough stated that the general rule is if a motion dies, it doesn't come back up.
 382 However; we did find a secondary source (not state statute) that states if it dies on a technical error, rather than
 383 lack of support, then it can be brought back up. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked, with that being said, what is
 384 the technical error that would justify bringing it back up. Mr. Maestas stated that for clarification, the Councilor
 385 acting as mayor pro tem, if he is eligible to motion. Mr. Maestas asked Mayor Pro Tem Ortega to correct him if
 386 he is wrong, but he had heard that he asked if he could second a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Ortega stated that he
 387 never asked if he could 'second' on that motion; he did say on the next motion that he didn't realize he could
 388 'second' but he prefers to keep it clean and move it to the next meeting, unless for some reason you need to get it
 389 done tonight. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked Mr. Maestas if he could guarantee that Facility Build will start next
 390 week. Mr. Maestas stated that he can't guarantee it but at least we can be in place to move it forward.

391
 392 A discussion was held regarding cancelling the meeting on December 26th and holding a special meeting instead on
 393 December 19th.
 394

395 X. **MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY**

396 Attorney Lance Hough updated the Council on the NRDA Meeting. The Village did have all the projects awarded
 397 however there was a concern from community members regarding the project in Midnight Meadows from Amigos
 398 Bravos. Mayor Pro Tem Ortega stated that he believes that they had a good explanation, but believes that the
 399 project money could be better used here in the Village limits for property that was actually damaged by the mine.
 400 Amigos Bravos and the Forest Service could be spending their money on that Midnight Meadows project.
 401 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked how they are justifying the work at Midnight Meadows as a restoration project.
 402 Mr. Hough stated that the meadows act like sponges, so they have a holding capacity of water that can percolate
 403 down over time; technically the beginning of a watershed that brings it all down. The intent behind their plan was
 404 that you have creeks running through these meadows that are eroding down (head cuts). They want to have the
 405 meadows continue to act like sponges, which helps the groundwater. Modifications to plan may be solicited or
 406 something else in lieu of that may happen. Mr. Hough wanted to update the Council on this. Moving forward Mr.
 407 Hough stated that he senses that there is a concern about the Midnight meadows Project. Mr. Hough stated that
 408 he will state something to the effect that 'the Village has identified that community members are concerned about
 409 the Midnight Meadows project, somewhat removed nature, from the affected area which is the Village of Questa
 410 and in accordingly the Village joins them in their concern.' Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked how this project
 411 specifically is impacting the Village positively. Mayor Pro Tem Ortega stated that he believes that the money
 412 that's going to that project is taking money from the river restoration; Midnight Meadows was not affected by the
 413 mine. It was decided that Mr. Hough's response will be that the community has concerns, the Village shares the
 414 concerns, and as a result would like to see an alternative project ideally in the Forest Service area or in the municipal

415 limits-closer to where the river was affected. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated there should be a radius of how
416 far the work goes. Mr. Hough stated that the NRDA money should come through in the summer or fall of 2018.

418 **XI. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

419 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked Mr. Maestas how the CES contract process works. Ms. Shannon stated that she
420 receives an invoice from CES with the backup from the vendor. The Village pays CES and the vendor. It is
421 reviewed and signed off on by the Administrator. Councilor Ortega also asked on the progress of the Beautification
422 Project. Mr. Maestas stated that he has it on his calendar and will get to it as soon as possible.
423

424 Mayor Pro Tem John Ortega asked Mr. Maestas if he followed up with Mr. Joe Rael regarding the issue with his
425 sister's property on Lower Embargo and SR 522. Mr. Maestas stated the he has not but will contact him this week.
426 Councilor John Ortega asked if it is possible to have a Christmas party for the employees this year. Mr. Maestas
427 stated he would look into it.
428

429 Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that we need to get on the same page on our Legislative priorities. We can use
430 the Legislative monies to get our projects shovel ready. It was decided to hold a work study for the legislative
431 priorities.
432

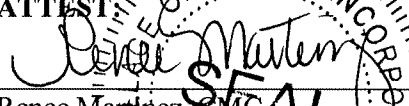
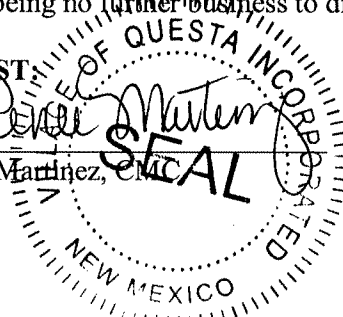
433 **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

434
435 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
436 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
437

438 In Favor: All
439 Opposed: None
440

441 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.
442

443 **ATTEST:**

444 
445 Renee Martinez, Clerk
446 

APPROVED:

John Ortega, Mayor Pro-Tem