

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5:45PM**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS**

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 5:46pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Councilor Miguel Romero

Councilor Julian Cisneros

Councilor Brent Jaramillo arrived at 5:55pm.

Also present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo

Village Clerk Renee Martinez

Public Works Director Arwin Vasquez

Utilities Clerk Nadine Herrera

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Romero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Councilor Romero

Second: Councilor Cisneros

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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

**V. FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Discussion, Consideration and Action)**

**A) Approval of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Adoption Resolution 2015-27**

Ms. Trujillo stated that the only changes that was made from the last meeting were the beginning balances and line item changes. She stated that the numbers on the report are exactly what is in the bank accounts minus outstanding checks, etc. The line item changes were as follows:

- Attorney Fees – A discussion was held regarding increasing the amount. It was decided that if the Village exceeds the amount a BAR would be done. Councilor Ortega inquired if we could get some of

the attorney fees regarding Taos Mountain Energy Foods paid by the QEDFB. Mayor Gallegos stated that we could make a request to Chevron that because we are absorbing our attorney fees on our side on Economic Development issues, it is worth it to ask. It was decided to stay at the \$42,080.00.

- IT Services – Ms. Trujillo stated this is the amount we will need to move forward this fiscal year. It was decided to budget \$40,000.00.

- EMS Department – We are anticipating receiving \$126,000.00 in total revenues, salaries come out to \$139,791.00. We did not budget anything for operating costs. We know that each quarter we are going to have to supplement from the General Fund. More money was added to fuel. A discussion was held about bringing the billing in-house.

Motion: Councilor Cisneros  
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

Roll Call:

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

To approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Adoption Resolution 2015-27 with the proposed changes. All voted yes. Motion carried.

\*\*Councilor Cisneros excused himself from the Council Meeting at this time.

## VI. WORK STUDY SESSION

### A) Village of Questa Water & Sewer Ordinance

Ms. Trujillo went over some of the changes from the last work study session.

Mr. Bobby Ortega asked how many businesses were classified under Classes II and III. Ms. Trujillo stated that she does not have them broken down into categories. A discussion was held regarding the classifications for RV Parks and mobile home parks.

A misunderstanding regarding the two different versions of the ordinance was discussed and explained. The correct version was identified, the only change that was not reflected was the bulk water charge increase to \$30.00 per 1,000 gallons.

The rate structures and connection fees were agreed upon. Councilor Jaramillo expressed that maybe the connection fees for the water should be raised for the reason that it currently does not cover the costs. A discussion was held and it was decided that all connection fees go up by \$300.00. Mr. Vasquez was directed to check on the costs of the meter cans and lines in order to make sure that the cost would be covered by the amount of the connection fee. This item would be revisited at the next Public Hearing.

Mayor Gallegos stated that another area we need to look at is possibly giving Ms. Trujillo the authority to work with delinquent accounts (page 20). Mayor Gallegos stated that people who are delinquent should still pay the full amount owed. He would like to see in the ordinance that Ms. Trujillo have the authority to 'freeze' the delinquent account and create a current account. The customer would pay on the current account

every month on a timely basis as well as pay an agreed amount on the delinquent account. Councilor Ortega asked if this would be from this point forward or would there be customers grandfathered in. Mayor Gallegos stated that in order to get payment from these delinquent accounts and get people to catch up the penalties on these big amounts need to freeze. People are making payments and their bill is not going down because of the penalties. A discussion was held. Councilor Ortega stated that he has a difficulty seeing the fairness in this. He stated that we need to do something. Councilor Jaramillo suggested that once this ordinance is passed, send out letters to customers who are 60+ days passed due to come in and set up a payment plan. He agrees that two different accounts should be set up. If the customer is non responsive to the letter then their water should be disconnected. Councilor Ortega stated that he is comfortable working with something like that but is not comfortable with just forgiving. Mayor Gallegos stated that we will not be forgiving anything. Customers will be responsible for the total amount owed. A discussion was held regarding liens.

It was decided that Item J regarding payments on past due accounts be re-worded to give the Administrator the discretion to waive accrual of any further penalties on the account in order to collect on the account.

## VII. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Trujillo stated that she and Ms. Shannon attended the CDBG workshop. She stated that it was very informative. She stated that she would like to do it internally and feels confident that she and Ms. Shannon can do it.

## VIII. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilor Ortega inquired if the process for the RFP for the Sewer line project has started. Ms. Trujillo stated that she has already sent an RFP to DFA for review for an on call engineer. There was a question about the Legislative appropriation monies and the CDBG monies for this project and also the areas that the project will cover. A discussion was held. Ms. Trujillo stated that she will look into it. Mayor Gallegos asked that Ms. Trujillo have this information for the next meeting.

Mayor Gallegos stated that we need to get natural gas to the business park building for Taos Mountain Energy Foods. He stated we will be meeting with New Mexico Gas Company to see if we can get a line to the building. A discussion was held. Mayor Gallegos stated he would update the council on this as he gets information.


## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Romero  
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

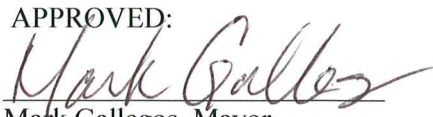
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

ATTEST:

  
Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:

  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor