

VILLAGE OF QUESTA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
8:00 P.M.  
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 8:19pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take Roll.

Those present:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega  
Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Those not present:

Councilor Miguel Romero  
Councilor Julian Cisneros

Also present were:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo  
Finance Director Karen Shannon  
Village Clerk Renee Martinez  
Utilities Clerk Nadine Herrera  
Public Works Director Arwin Vasquez  
Chief Gerald Bates

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Gerald Bates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gallegos requested that Items A and B under Action Items be removed from the agenda due to the lack of a majority of the council being present.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Ortega YES  
Councilor Jaramillo YES

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting, January 20, 2015

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the Meeting Minutes of January 20, 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.)*

***There were no public comments.***

VI. ACTION ITEMS -

- A) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of Resolution 2015-08  
Re: Village of Questa Purchasing Policy

Removed from Agenda.

- B) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of Resolution 2015-09  
Re: Grant Agreement with NMED / Special Appropriations

Removed from Agenda.

- C) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
Re: Rio Grande del Norte National Monument Planning

Ms. Trujillo stated that included with the MOU is a letter from the Bureau of Land Management inviting the Village of Questa to be part of the planning for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument as a cooperating agency. Ms. Trujillo stated that the MOU has been reviewed by our Attorney. Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that she has been attending the planning meetings since November 2014. She stated that until this MOU is signed the Village of Questa does not have a vote in any of the decision making.

Councilor Jaramillo inquired about who the other participating agencies are. He stated that the Town of Taos as well as Taos County should be involved. Ms. Trujillo stated that she would mention it to the planning committee.

Motion: Councilor Ortega  
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

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To approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument Planning. All voted yes. Motion carried.

D) Discussion, Consideration & Action – Approval of IT Services Agreement  
Re: Ambitions Consulting Group

Ms. Trujillo stated that this agreement is for maintenance and service for a six month period through the end of our fiscal year at which time the Village will go out for RFP. The contract amount for the six months is \$19,420.50.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the IT Services Agreement with Ambitions Consulting Group. All voted yes. Motion carried.

VII. FINANCE DEPARTMENT - Ms. Karen Shannon

A) Approval of Unpaid Vouchers

Ms. Shannon stood for any questions.

Councilor Ortega – Inquired about the Questa brochure and if we have received them. Ms. Trujillo stated that they were delivered.

Ms. Shannon stated that there are a couple of invoices that she would like to go over.

- Caselle - called that support payments from August to December 2013 have not been paid. No past dues were ever reported on the invoices. She did the research and did not find any payments.
- George Rael – Work done for the Village in January and February of 2014. They are stating that the first half of the invoices were paid but the second half was not for the reason that they would be compensated by the Village trading the work for a backhoe. This did not go through so they are now billing the Village for the second half. Councilor Ortega asked if when this work was done, was it approved and signed-off on by the Public Works department or the Administrator? Mayor Gallegos stated that this work was done during a water emergency so Mr. Rael was hired to get water to these customers. One of these customers was Mr. Antonio Cordova, who is now claiming that there is foundation damage to his property because of all the digging that took place too close to his retaining wall by this contractor. Mayor Gallegos does not know if this contractor was insured. Councilor Ortega asked if a formal complaint has been filed by Mr. Cordova. Mayor Gallegos stated that there has not, but there has been discussion. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of requesting permission from DFA to make the trade for the backhoe. Mayor Gallegos stated that he is concerned that if we pay these invoices and Mr. Cordova comes back and wants his wall fixed, that will be more expense to the Village and Mr. Rael will get paid and not take any responsibility for it. Councilor Ortega stated that before we pay this invoice we need more documentation. Councilor Jaramillo stated that he would like to see this issue resolved already.

A motion to approve the unpaid vouchers with the exception of the George Rael vouchers which will be tabled until the next Council meeting was made by Councilor Ortega, seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

In Favor: All

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Opposed: None

To approve the unpaid vouchers with the exception of the George Rael voucher. All voted yes. Motion carried.

VIII. MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY – Ms. Vanessa Chavez

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that Ms. Chavez was ill and was not able to make the meeting this evening. She stated that Ms. Chavez updated her on some of the issues and in turn would like to update the Council on these items. Ms. Trujillo requested that the agenda be amended for the Council go into closed session after Item X because these issues are Attorney/Client privilege.

Motion: Councilor Ortega

Second: Councilor Jaramillo

Roll Call:

Councilor Ortega YES

Councilor Jaramillo YES

To amend the agenda by adding a closed session after Item X. All voted yes. Motion carried.

IX. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Trujillo updated the Council on the following:

- Spoke with Ms. Roybal at the Office of the State Engineer regarding leased water rights and current over diversion. Ms. Trujillo will be making a trip to the OSE office in Santa Fe to go check on these items.
- Mr. Joe Moore has been unsuccessful in his effort to get in contact with HO Construction regarding the additional work needed to complete the Cisneros Road project. The DOT is requesting the closeout documents.
- Regarding the US Geological Survey, Mr. Paul Bauer is the contact person and is requesting to meet with the Mayor and herself.
- Mr. Russell Gallegos has been hired on a temporary full-time basis to assist in the public works department.
- The audit report for the 2013-2014 year has been received. This item will be brought before Council at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

X. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A discussion was held regarding the project proposal for the 2015/2016 Local Government Road Program. Ms. Trujillo informed the Council that the proposals are due March 15, 2015. It was discussed that the proposal would be for the repair of existing roads.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion to enter into closed session was made by Councilor Ortega, seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

Roll Call:

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Councilor Ortega      YES  
Councilor Jaramillo    YES

The Council entered into closed session at 9:20pm.

A motion to re-open the meeting was made by Councilor Ortega, seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

Roll Call:

Councilor Ortega      YES  
Councilor Jaramillo    YES

Mayor Gallegos re-opened the meeting at 10:12pm and stated that there was no action taken.

XI.    ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo  
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

  
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Mark Gallegos, Mayor