

## Dolores Colorado

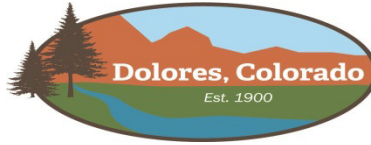
To: MAYOR AND TRUSTEES  
From: Ken Charles, Dolores Town Manager  
Dt: September 13, 2021  
RE: Meeting Information Update

### **Monday/s Town Board Meeting**

On the agenda for our regular meeting Monday night, the Trustees begin with considering several items on the consent agenda followed by a presentation by the County Health Department and a proclamation proclaiming September as the Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Following that presentation will be Department, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee and Chamber reports. Later in the agenda will be the review and action on the Chamber's Harvest Fest beer and wine license application. The town did receive one reply to its RFP for architectural services for a Flanders Park restroom. A resolution approving that submittal is included in the packet.

### **General Updates**

- The Town continues to receive STR License applications. The town has now opened the application process to the entire community. Several safety inspections have occurred. All resulted in the need for modifications, but nothing that is insurmountable by the owner.
- AquaHab began its review of the Dolores River fish structures installed 20 years ago to develop a plan for which ones need improvements and cost estimates to do so. If the design and cost estimates are expensive, the town would apply to the CPW-Fishing is Fun grant program for a 75% grant. This would be a 2023 construction project.
- Mayor Wheelus, Trustee Truelsen and I attended the Local Government Coordination breakfast meeting with the BOCC, managers and mayors from Cortez, Mancos and Dolores. The county has hired a firm to ascertain the public's sentiments regarding a county sales tax question for the November ballot. Mancos has declared a moratorium on new STR applications due to the surge in requests, loss of long-term rentals and the interest from outside entities in acquiring Mancos property for STRs. This adds to Dolores's proactive and successful efforts to get ahead of the STR demand. Mancos has hired Elizabeth Garvin to draft their STR regulations. Telluride has also enacted a six-month moratorium on new STRs. The next breakfast meeting is at the Ponderosa Monday October 4 at 7:00 am and hosted by Cortez. All board members are welcome.
- There was activity at the Del Rio last week as the owner successfully moved in the I-beams required to provide the necessary structural support for the building. The owner's structural engineer highly recommended the structural improvements be completed prior to the winter snow season.



## **Salter Y EA**

The USFS released the approved Final Environmental Assessment, the Finding of No Significant Impact, and the Draft Decision Notice were released. Please find those documents here, under the *Analysis* tab on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57671>

The Objection Period for the project is open for 45 days from yesterday, June 23, when the notice was published. See the Objection Period Letter on the project website for additional details.

The town responded to the EA with objections regarding the issues of truck traffic with concerns about noise, safety and congestion. The Objection letter is posted on the web site and included in the packet.

The mayor, Trustee Wheeler and I attended a virtual meeting with the National Forest Service Superintendent regarding the Town's Objections to the EA.

## **Severance Tax and Mineral Leasing Revenue**

Annually, the town and most other municipalities and counties receive what is referred to as Direct Distribution of these two funds. Severance taxes are collected by the state when non-renewable resources are severed by production and mineral lease revenue is collected by the federal government when they lease public lands for energy development. There are formulas for how these funds become distributed. These are the source of funds DOLA uses for their Energy Impact grant program, but there is also some set aside for Direct Distribution. Dolores places these revenue sources in the Streets Fund and for 2021 the amounts were \$5,200 from Severance and \$37,500 from Mineral Lease. Unfortunately for this year and likely for the first time ever there was no direct distribution. This amounts for 14% of the Streets fund revenue. Treasurer Gibson will shed further light on this issue. I will recommend for 2022 that we budget \$0 from these two sources and then in subsequent years the town budget what is received in the previous year. Many counties and municipalities budget this way for severance and mineral lease. This removes the uncertainty. The town should be able to back fill sales tax revenue.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Farmers Market every Wednesday in Flanders Park
- Food Truck Fridays every Friday adjacent to the Kokopelli building
- October 2 Harvest Fest-JRP