



Dolores Colorado

To: MAYOR AND TRUSTEES
From: Ken Charles, Dolores Town Manager
Dt: April 11, 2022
RE: Meeting Information Update

Monday/s Town Board Meeting

On the agenda for our regular meeting Monday April 11th:

- We will have an update on the Community Gardens project and there will be an Action Item on the Memorandum of Understanding between the town and the Dolores Family Project. We met with Amber Lansing of the Dolores Family Project (DFP) April 2 at JRP. The purpose of the meeting was first an organizational meeting for volunteers of which there were a dozen. Second, to go over the plans for the actual garden footprint. The attached sketch of the garden shows a 45' by 30' garden plot. DFP will provide the materials for the garden. Volunteers will build the garden.

According to DFP's approach, the entire garden's production will all be distributed to the Project who will then distribute the produce to the community. There are no income guidelines for who can receive the produce. The town was under the impression that the garden would *partially be* for community members who wanted to raise vegetables for themselves. Considering this, we will discuss this later in the agenda. We may need to double the size of the garden to include a portion for the garden for community members. This raises challenges as to how the town builds, maintains and manages this second section.

- Resolution 478 Approving the application to the Congressionally Directed Spending program that Senator Michael Bennet's office offered. The program allocates funding to primarily local governments and become part of the FY23 federal budget. It is competitive in nature. In 2022, Rico received \$2.7 M for their wastewater treatment plant and Durango received \$2 M for an affordable housing project and there were 20 other projects from around the state. The proposal was due April 8. The town's proposal will be for Phase II of the water line replacement project. The request is for replacing 7,337 LF of water line, fire hydrants, valves and new service line connections.

General Updates

- The CDPHE Vaccine Bus will be in JRP on the following Fridays 9:00 am to 1:00pm: April 1 and 22, May 13, June 10 and at the Farmers Market on June 15.



- **American Rescue Plan Act Update**

The Treasurer attended a new training and information session from the Department of the Treasury on March 21, 2022 regarding the Final Rule and reporting requirements. We received some fantastic news. The US Treasury is now allowing Non-Entitlement Units, including the Town of Dolores, to elect a “standard allowance” up to ten million dollars (but no larger than the allocation your municipality has been awarded) to be used on ANY government service. This amount is not based on the amount your municipality lost during the pandemic, nor is it based on their complicated revenue loss formula. It is based on a survey that was completed nationwide in 2020 which showed that 90% of municipalities across the country lost revenue during the pandemic and 75% planned to cut services due to the revenue loss. The Treasury is encouraging small municipalities to use this standard allowance so that we can treat the ARP funding as local funding and use it to plug holes in our budget and build a stronger recovery. Therefore, the ARP funds can be used to help with the additional costs to build the Flanders bathroom. Our award is \$240,039, and we plan to submit the report this month claiming the standard allowance. This allows for easier streamlined reporting, and we will not have to categorize projects into the eligible spending types and individual spending categories.

- Community Survey and Strategic Planning-We are approaching 225 returned surveys. They continue to trickle in both by mail and online.
- May 9 & 10 are our scheduled dates for the town clean up. The dates are posted on our website and the Chamber’s. <https://townofdolores.colorado.gov/news-article/town-clean-up>
- The Galloping Goose has been running excursions in Durango on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge RR. The RGS No. 5 was involved in a railroad crossing accident on 4/2/22. Apparently, the driver failed to see the Goose and the vehicle was struck on the passenger side. The vehicle sustained substantial damage and the Goose sustained minor damage to the pilot/plow (cow catcher). The Goose was able to continue and complete the excursion. CIRSA was informed. The GGHS carries a liability insurance that names the town as an additional insured.
- The town’s reapplication to the State Historical Fund on behalf of Kokopelli Bikes is on track for May.
- Rocky Mountain Relief received the inspection approval by the town building official and Sheriff Nowlin with a planned opening of April 15.

Upcoming Events

- April 11 and 25-town board meetings
- P & Z held its regular meeting on April 5
- The Parks committee will meet Thursday April 14
- April 30 Annual Chamber Banquet-Theme is Prom Night
- May 9 & 10-Town Clean up
- June 1 Farmers Market Begins
- June 4 Riverfest