

TOWN OF DOLORES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23RD, 2020

6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Board Members present: Trustees, Duvall “Val” Truelsen, Robert “Cody” Folsom, Jennifer Stark, Melissa Watters, Tracy Murphy, and Mayor Chad Wheelus. Trustee James Biard was absent.

STAFF MEMBERS: Manager Ken Charles, Clerk Tammy Neely and Attorney Jon Kelly.

PURPOSE of CALL:

1. Emergency Ordinances # 543 and #544 (COVID-19)
2. Resolution 422 Series 2020

Ordinance No. 543 series 2020: An Ordinance concerning the CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19). Public health emergency. For approval by the Town Board of Trustees. *Trustee Truelsen motion to approve Ordinance #543 Series 2020, seconded by Trustee Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.* No discussion was made concerning the Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 544 series 2020: An Ordinance of the Town of Dolores, Colorado providing for virtual meeting and providing for its adoption as an Emergency Ordinance approval by the Town Board of Trustees. *Trustee Truelsen motion to approve Ordinance # 544 series 2020, seconded by Trustee Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.* Trustee Stark questioned as to how far the Town was from getting the G-Suite program. Manager Charles state that it was in the middle of transition. (A virtual meeting was scheduled; due to technical problems the Board met and practiced the 6 ft. rule). The Mayor requested that the Staff find a way to have the meetings virtually.

Resolution #422 Series 2020: Supporting the Grant Application for Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and completion of the Joe Rowell Community Park. *Trustee Truelsen motion to approve Resolution #422 Series 2020, seconded by Trustee Folsom. Motion carried unanimously.* This gives Manager Charles the power to proceed and sign for the grant. Trustee Stark questioned if the application will be held up because of COVID-19. Manager Charles state that there should be funding. Trustee Stark also pointed out that the Resolution states that it was a regular meeting, and the Agenda shows a Special meeting. This should be construed as a special meeting.

Discussions:

Attorney Jon Kelly stated that since the virtual meeting to include the public did not work, the Town made a good faith effort to include the public.

Manager Ken Charles stated the emergency ordinance enables the Town to receive sales tax relief and gives actions. The Staff will be moving from a tier 2 to a tier 3. He asked the Board about pay if the need to work from home order comes in. Some of the staff may have to stay home and work, as well as staggered hours. The Mayor stated the Governor issued a statement today that a shelter in place may be implemented. Trustee Stark stated that she appreciated the Staff's efforts concerning the COVID-19 events. The main concern was keeping everyone healthy through this pandemic. Public Works will need to stay healthy to be able to control the water and sewer. Trustee Truelsen emphasized that the weather is getting warmer and there is more for Public works to do.

Trustee Stark questioned the opening of the Town parks. Manager Charles stated that the parks will be open and public restrooms will be closed.

Trustee Murphy brought to the Boards attention that Susan Lisak and Rocky Moss are forming a group for businesses. Manager Charles brought up the point that because the businesses will be affected by COVID-19 by being shut down, that they may be allowed to keep their sales tax, it would be just the town sales tax and not the states. He stated that several counties and towns were doing it as it will ease the financial loss. Trustee Murphy asked about different ideas and information that could be provided. Manager Charles stated that the town could encourage people to eat out (take out or delivery) or purchase gift cards. Trustee Truelsen stated maybe a 1- or 2-month water bill moratorium for the town. Mayor Wheelus asked Manager Charles to work up the numbers or give a few different scenarios as to help the community. Attorney Kelly stated that the water rate fee hike be suspended until further notice.

Manager Charles brought up the closing of Mesa Verde and that the Montezuma County Commissioners requested to close Mesa Verde National Park. The Board the agreed that the park closures should be left to the government agencies. Trustee Murphy stated it was the Department of Interior.

Manager Charles brought up the organizational chart if one of the Board or staff should get ill. Mayor Wheelus stated in regards for staffing it would be for the Manager. Attorney Kelly was concerned about the water and sewer plants, if the Public Works Crew should become ill.

Manager Charles informed the Board that the Grant application meeting took place last week from DOLA. He informed the Board about another grant application. He also discussed the property sale for the School District. Attorney Kelly made mention that he has not yet heard from the School about the purchase of the property.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Wheelus adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Chad Wheelus

Town Clerk Tammy Neely