

## **Regular Meeting Minutes–DECEMBER 20, 2023**

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 6:00 P. M. in the Court Conference Room of the Public Safety Facility located at 609 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa, New Mexico.

**Present:** Mayor Margaret Trujillo  
Trustee Patrick Garcia  
Trustee Robert Sainz  
Trustee Deborah Cooksey  
Trustee Mark Garwood

Also present was Rebekah Bryant Village Clerk  
Attorney Jeff Rhodes-Absent

At 6:00 P. M. Mayor Margaret Trujillo called the meeting to order asking that all rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

**1.** Trustee Garcia made a motion to accept the agenda. Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

**2.** Unscheduled correspondence and public comments:

Rusty Helton- Stated that he was wanting to express his support for Chief of Police Brandon Boyle and Utility Supervisor Richard Guilez. Mr. Helton expressed that he thinks they are doing a good job, and he hopes they will continue on with the village.

Joan Price- Stated that there was something that happened on Durazno and all utility workers were running everywhere to make sure to get it fixed. Joan stated that she wanted to talk about agenda item #7 the Resolution for the execution and delivery of a Colonias Infrastructure Project. From her understanding she knows that the village was working with Shoemaker and Associates to get a supplemental water source. She is very interested in maybe including wetlands as a concept for this loan/grant. She stated that the wells in this area have been dropping for many years in a place that use to be a wetland area. She stated that wetlands have been proven by research to recharge ground water. If possible, to include wetlands restoration back in this area for moisture in the air as well. She also stated that there are several other people wanting to get involved and asked if that village could take into consideration this idea.

Manuel Brusuelas- Stated that wetlands would be good for Tularosa because the water would go back down, and we could pump it right back up and it would keep

cleaning itself and restoring itself. Mr. Brusuelas also stated that he wanted to talk about agenda item #9 about the neighborhood watch. He believes that it is something really important and, in his neighborhood, if someone is walking around late at night they all call each other to let everyone know what's going on and they all go outside to make their presence known. He also stated that if somehow the village can bring back the curfew because the kids are running around at night and the parents aren't taking responsibility.

Sabrina Warren- Stated that she also wanted to speak about the neighborhood watch. She said that she moved here three years ago and the neighborhood she lives in is really bad. There needs to be neighborhood watch signs and also need a committee to support them. Ms. Warren stated that Chief Boyle has been wonderful. She has had squatters right next to her home and they have been arrested but there is just too much going on. She is a single woman living alone and she is afraid at night. They are looking in their cars and doing other things and she doesn't know how to address this, and they need their village standing with them. She can't sleep at night because they are out there, she doesn't want to go on and on but if the village can please do something about the drug problem in our community.

**3.** Margaret Trujillo, Mayor asked to recognize John Montoya and the volunteer fire dept. for all their hard work and dedication. Mayor Trujillo expressed that John, and all the volunteers go out at all hours and go to fires, wrecks and whatever else is happening and they get no compensation whatsoever. These are young volunteers that risk their lives every day to help the community. These are the people that I want to make sure and get recognized for the work that they do. Just recently John and his group had to come to her home because she had an incident going on with someone in her family. Her son could have gotten killed if it wasn't for John and his volunteers that were there, her son is now on life support but if it wasn't for John and his crew he wouldn't be here. Bottom line is these people do a lot of work for us and they go beyond what they must do. So, at this time she asked for John to come up and she would like the community, not just herself, the board of trustees but the community to recognize all the hard work John has done. She presented him with a plaque for all the hard work and dedication he has put in.

**4.** Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk requested to approve the Resolution #2023-24-9 authorizing the execution and delivery of a Colonias Infrastructure project fund/loan grant agreement by and between the New Mexico Finance Authority and the Village of Tularosa in the total amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$2,500,388), evidencing an obligation of the borrower/grantee to utilize the loan/grant amount solely for the purpose of financing the costs of the design and construction of an alternative water source for the borrower/grantee and solely in the matter described in the

loan/grant agreement; providing for the pledge and payment of the loan amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$250,039) solely from revenues of the state shared gross receipts tax distributions received by the borrower/grantee. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll Call: Cooksey-Aye, Garcia-Aye, Garwood-Aye, Sainz-Aye.

**5.** Richard Guilez, Utility Supervisor asked to approve the credit application for a combo unit. Richard stated that it would be used for many things including hydro blasting when they have water breaks, cleaning and maintaining the water/sewer lines. He also stated that this would prevent us from having to call Alamogordo and have them help us and pay them five thousand dollars every time they come down. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**6.** Baxter Patillo, Alamotero Land Surveyors LLC asked for a lot line adjustment for 907 Posey Ln. Mr. Patillo stated that the preliminary survey they had in front of them is a proposed lot line adjustment, essentially the swapping of an alley. Originally the Allen and Klump subdivision which is passed that alley that they are vacating but on the westside of the property you can see is says vacated for alley and originally the alley for the Allen and Klump subdivision is to the north of the property. That was the original intention for the alley that was dedicated to the village. What Baca is proposing on behalf of her mother, and we propose an exchange tract to basically vacate the alley where her property line is and allow her property to expand north into the original alley, essentially correcting the misplacement of utilities on the west side of the property. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**7.** Deborah Lewis, Individual asked for input regarding a property she owns and wants to rezone. Mrs. Lewis stated that they bought the property, and it has nine lots. She stated that it is zoned for one trailer for each lot, but she wants to see if she can put small buildings not little homes. They would be fixed on the inside by contractors that would make it accessible for people that are handicapped. The building would be like 14x24, and she would like to get two of them and she would run it by the village if she does. She is trying to get something for handicapped people around here because she knows it's hard for them. She also stated that her neighbor has several abandoned cars and trailers that are just sitting there, and the crime rate is crazy because people go stay in those abandoned trailers so is there any way, they can get those out of there. Mayor Trujillo stated that there is an ordinance that deals with that situation, but the

only thing is that they have to get somebody to go out there and enforce it but unfortunately right now they are short handed with the police dept. But she is sure that this is something that can be taken care of. Trustee Garcia asked what the address to the property with the abandoned cars and vehicles. Mrs. Lewis stated that it was 1605 west 3<sup>rd</sup> St. She stated that she understands that we are low on police officers why don't we get security cameras on every block to watch the neighborhoods.

**8.** Mark Garwood, Trustee wanted to discuss the use of jake brakes by vehicles. Trustee Garwood stated that he has received several calls on the east side and also towards Horseman's Park. What is happening is that they are not seeing the signs until it's too late. He is wanting to get ahold of NMDOT, and he will shoot them an email to see about putting signs a little further out or maybe a lighted sign that is more visible. He stated that a lot of people are complaining about it and the diesels are using their jake brakes even through the village. It happens in the late hours of the night. Trustee Garwood stated that we had a sheriff just move in from El Paso and his parents lived on the corner of Old Mescalero and HW 70 and he told Mr. Garwood that his parents had to build a barrier fence to keep the noise down so we may need to address this and get some further action on.

**9.** Mark Garwood, Trustee wanted to discuss having a neighborhood watch within the village of Tularosa. Trustee Garwood stated that he has been contacted by several people regarding this and he told them that the village cannot be responsible for running this program, but they can act as a liaison between the police dept. and the residents in Tularosa. He also stated that everyone should get with their neighbors and get together and basically watch out for each other. Maybe get some neighborhood watch signs out and there is also some literature on the internet about these watch programs. Maybe they can give a weekly update to Chief Boyle. He wanted to reiterate that the village cannot have any involvement with the program, so it's up to the villagers to do that. Trustee Garcia stated that getting some signs out there would be good and that it is no secret that stuff is going on not only here but everywhere. He stated that he is afraid that eventually someone is going to get shot and take it into their own hands and go vigilante on us. Trustee Cooksey stated that there are guidelines for neighborhood watch programs like getting a chairman and guidelines to be followed like no weapons to be carried and also wear a vest that way you are not confused with the perpetrator. She also stated that this is something that is very well needed and if you get someone who is knowledgeable about the law and can help the community out. She encourages all residents to get out and help each other, especially at night when most of the crime is happening. Trustee Cooksey stated that she is not trying to put the police dept. down but they are just very short handed at the moment and we don't have enough help for the issues that we have, and every other law enforcement agency is going through the same issues. She also stated that she really wants to tell the public that we've been hard on our Chief of Police and we really need the communities support for our

police we have here, we need our community to welcome them and not shun them because we all know Tularosa is a little rough place sometimes but we need the support so that we can keep our officers or it will just be like a revolving door.

**10.** Old Business: None

**11.** New Business: None

**12.** Adjourn: Trustee Cooksey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

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Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk