

## Regular Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2018

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2018 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 A. Garcia  
Trustee Robert L. Sainz  
Trustee Janie Portillo  
Trustee Jeni Alexander

Also present was Margaret Lucero Village Clerk

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. Consideration of Agenda and Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes of April 18, 2018-Regular & Organizational Meeting  
Clarification on motion for Mr. Rice to move trailer to Fairview
  - b. Site & Sign Permits-April 2018
  - c. Business Registrations-April 2018
  - d. Village Bills List
  - e. Public Library Monthly Report
  - f. **Next Regular Meeting-June 11, 2018**

Trustee Janie Portillo motioned to have item #4 to read 85/15 for employee insurance. Motioned to accept the consideration agenda and consent agenda. Jeni Alexander seconded the motion. It was passed with all members voting aye.

### **2. Violet Norman, Senior Center Director, approval of new hire Shelly Bryant as a PT Program Coordinator.**

Ms. Norman stated that she is hiring Ms. Bryant as a PT coordinator to work from 12:30pm to 4:30pm Monday- Friday. She had a full time coordinator that was moved to a PT data entry clerk. This position will not effect the budget as she was originally budgeted for a Full Time coordinator. She will now have two PT employees instead of one full time. Trustee Garcia asked if this would effect her budget and Ms. Norman stated no, the budget will accommodate this position.

Motion from Trustee Sainz, second from Trustee Portillo. All voted aye. Motion carried.

**3. Janie Portillo, asking that all Grant Writing on behalf of the Village be approved and made by Village employees.**

Trustee Portillo motioned to have all grants including Keep Tularosa Beautiful be handled by our grant writer and all grants received on behalf of the village be submitted to the board for approval. Seconded by Jeni Alexander. Mayor Trujillo asked for discussion or debate. Trustee Garcia stated that there were a bunch of folks here with Keep Tularosa Beautiful including Susan herself. This is a handful, I have been involved with this going on 7 years now. I have seen some of the work, not always agreeing with the campaign but realizing it has been a very useful tool as a volunteer. I have seen some sprinkler systems being built, help at the Little League field and the roses. I think we need to have some more open discussion. Do we want to put this on our grant writer.

We have her writing water, sewer and other grants do we want to over burden her. She has other jobs and duties when we have a volunteer who can so and is well versed in this area as she has been a volunteer for many years. I question whether we want to ask the grant writer, who will say yes, but she runs a very busy operation and office. I would ask the board to reconsider what we may be giving with volunteers. Trustee Sainz stated if he understood this right, we are not getting rid of the grant writing possibilities, and that we are asking for board approval for grants. Mayor Trujillo stated that her understanding that all grant writing, including Keep Tularosa Beautiful, be done by the Village grant writer, we have a grant writer, and that all grants will be submitted for approval by the Board of Trustees so that all of you will be aware of how the money is spent. Trustee Sainz said that he is all for accountability but as far as the grant writing he would like to see others ideas but have all approval of grants go through the grant coordinator for approval, previously some grants were turned in and approved without the board approval. Trustee Garcia stated that as he saw it we are getting rid of a volunteer grant writer, but what about the volunteers? The Mayor stated that she doesn't think this has anything to do with the volunteers, she stated that the volunteers were still going to be able to volunteer under the program. Anyone can volunteer. I think the reason they are asking for this motion is simply for accountability and to have grants written by the employee. Am I correct? Trustee Portillo stated that was correct.

Trustee Garcia stated again that the board should reconsider as there was a lot to this. Mayor Trujillo said we have a motion and a second.

All in favor: Portillo, Alexander. All opposed: Garcia, Sainz. The Mayor will break the tie. The Chair votes with the aye's. Motion carries.

**4. Janie Portillo, approve the employee insurance paid by the Village be at a new rate of 85/15.**

Trustee Portillo said originally it was to be at 65/35 but after the meeting with the insurance company, that with the increase at 40% or more that the Village pay the employees only at 85%. Trustee Sainz asked what about dependents and families? Mayor Trujillo said that after speaking with the insurance she understood that families and dependents would still be covered, but the Village would no longer be paying for it. That would be on the employee to pay for dependent coverage. We are taking care of the employees only. Trustee Garcia, asked if we are staying at Presbyterian. In light of the increase, I agree. Trustee Garcia motioned to approve. Trustee Sainz seconded. All members voting aye. Motion passed.

**5. Keith and Susan Kaplan, asking the Village take action to condemn and tear down an abandoned house behind their property.**

Susan Kaplan, we have lived here for 17 years. We love this Village and think its beautiful however the house behind us is not. It is a fire hazard, noises in all hours of the night, our dogs bark throughout the night. I am a nuisance to the police department and do not want to be anymore. I am here to see what we can do about the house. Trustee Sainz has some information about the house, he stated that as far as he knew it went up for auction at the court house. He stated that he thought the sale went through and the bank owned it. Trustee Garcia said he would have the Chief and our Code enforcement officer look into citing who owns this property and making sure it gets cleaned up. Trustee Garcia will work hard to get this cleaned up as soon as possible. No motion taken as The Village can not tear down the house.

**6. Margaret Lucero, Grants Coordinator, Statement and Update on the Capital Outlay funds that were reported on KRQE incorrectly.**

Margaret Lucero stated that she was speaking as the Grants Coordinator. She stated that the information that was on Facebook and reported was incorrect. She started as the Grants Coordinator on Jan 8. 2018. She went through every single piece of paper in the office which took about 3 weeks. In the process she found that several invoices had not been paid from March 2017. She did her research, realized they were capital outlay grants for the senior center and sent them to the Capital Outlay Bureau for payment. She was informed that these invoices were not able to be paid through the capital outlay funding, as several emails notices were sent out concerning the fiscal year ending. These invoices were from March 2017, not March 2018. Margaret brought this information to Monica Voorbach and Mayor Cordova in February; however it was after the cut off for the February meeting. She was told to put in on March's meeting, she did. Trustee Garcia asked if the Village can still apply for grants, Ms. Lucero stated yes. However the Village needed to be good fiscal agents and submit the paperwork on time. She assured the board this would happen under her watch. Trustee Garcia thanked her for clearing up the information.

**7. Janie Portillo, asking the board to look into the contract for the PMS medical center.**

Trustee Portillo stated that the PMS contract is renewed every 5 years and it is up for renewal this year. When PMS came in, the Village was told that it would have a Dr. on staff, be able to accommodate walk-ins and be considered an Urgent care. Trustee Garcia agrees it is hard to staff. We need to investigate.

**8. Monica Padilla, asking for approval to move a 1984 Trailer to 322 Padilla Lane.**

Monica Padilla brought pictures for the board to look at. It is a 3bedroom 2 bath Ridgecrest. The Trailer is in great condition. We have been to look at the trailer several

times. It is obvious the people who took care of their mother, took great care of the trailer. Trustee asked if Monica was aware of the ordinance of 12 years. I would like to postpone this until the next meeting. Is it up to code with the wiring and such. We need to look at the ordinance. The Mayor stated that changing the ordinance is a process that can happen. Billie Ann stepped to the podium, she has that she has a copy of the latest ordinance and has some questions regarding the wording. She stated she was in the land usage section. Where in this section does it state the age? Single family unit, multi section manufactured home, with a heated area and square foot section. She is stating that the way she reads it, it would be larger and would meet requirements. Trustee Garcia motioned to postpone until our attorney could be present. Ms. Billie-Ann agreed. Trustee Portillo seconded. All voted in favor of postponement.

**9. Jen Gruger, Tularosa Arts and History Council, requesting 10 trash bins and Road Closure on Granado from St. Francis to 3<sup>rd</sup> on June 2 as well as to assistance in moving bleachers from current location to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Granado.**

Jen Gruger contacted Margaret and Ralph. I would like to sneak one more item in, tables and chairs. Just clarifying that moving the bleachers might take a piece of equipment. The area where we would want to place the bleachers is in an intersection. The Mayor asked if the Village has done this in the past, Jen said yes. Motion to approve Trustee Garcia, seconded by Alexander. All voted aye, motion passed.

**10. Valerie Delgado, Finance Officer, to approve Budget Resolution No. 2017-2018-18 to approve revised budget figures for certain line items in the village budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.**

Margaret Lucero spoke on behalf of Valarie. This resolution is to approve the moving for funds from one line item to another in several funds to prepare the budget for end of year. We need to correct overages and shortages for end of year. This is for this current years budget. It is not approving the budget for next fiscal year. Trustee Portillo motioned to approve, Alexander seconded. All members voting aye. Motion passed.

**11. Margaret Trujillo, reading of Proclamation for Tammie Jo Shults**

Mayor Trujillo read a proclamation honoring Tammie Jo Shults for heroism.

**12. Unscheduled Correspondence and Public Comments (3 Minutes)**

1. Jen Gruger: wants to understand the grant writing passed. The Mayor explained that if was for accountability for grants where the village was the fiscal agent. The Village and Board of Trustees is accountable for all the funds when the village is the fiscal agent. Jen then stated that since they were a non-profit and would not use the village as fiscal agents, she can continue to write grants. The Mayor said that was correct.

2. Rafeal Ramirez: Asking for public comments to come before the items so that the public would have the opportunity to speak and be heard about the agenda items. I had some comments but the board has already voting on the items. Mayor Trujillo comments that when she was a trustee, public comments were in the beginning however there is a portion of the population that can not come to the meetings so public comments were changed to the end of meeting as to not sway the way a trustee would vote. Trustee Garcia agreed with the Mayor, he stated that there was a group that would come in and

use up 30 minutes on their own platforms. When we moved the comments to the end that stopped. Mayor Trujillo stating that anyone can come in and put themselves on the agenda for any topic. Mr. Ramirez asked if at future meetings the comments could be at the beginning but limiting the amount of people and time for each item.

3. Chris Jones: lives on east side of Tularosa. Wanting to know of status of having a sewer system for the east side. Mayor Trujillo agrees that a sewer system needs to be on the east side.

4. Chris Rupp: Citizen Tularosa. No comments tonight, just making a little speech. Webster's defines ignorance as lack of knowledge and awareness. Tonight I see one of the councilmen trying to bring awareness to the situation regarding Keep Tularosa Beautiful. I have seen over the years what this program has done for this community, whether its recycling, putting in sprinkler systems, the roses, animal shelter. The problem is that we have asked one person who is very educated and well rounded in grants, I will give her that much, but you can only put so much on one person's back. As a tax payer I want to know how this is saving us money when now we are going to pay someone when we have someone who has been doing this for free. Some of these grants take weeks and months to do the research and write. How can you as a board agree to have her neglect her other duties to write this grant, I don't see how this is beneficial to our community. I think that the decision tonight was made wrong. You sit up here tonight to represent each and everyone of us. You are suppose to be listening to us, you are suppose to be representing us. But tonight our voices were not heard. A decision was already made and that is terrible, that is not what this election was suppose to be about. This is not what our government is suppose to be about. We are not being heard. You can ask all of these people here tonight, their voices were not heard.

5. Susan Flores: I am the Executive Director of Keep Tularosa Beautiful, I have been doing this for 10 years, I have been writing grants for the Village for 10 years. I have never lost a single dime of the funds. This grant is a pass through grant like you said. Every year, I write the grant, submit to the Mayor and he signed it. So you are wrong. You have only been on the job for 2 months, maybe you should have asked and talked to me, talked to Pat, talked to some of these people who have been doing this for the past 10 years. Mayor Trujillo said she had not had the opportunity to talk and Susan said no, you just went and got rid of the whole thing. Hold on this is my 3 minutes....Mayor Trujillo stated that when we did talk we were in agreement about....Susan Flores injected an said no, no we were not. Anyway lets go back to this grant, this grant requires a 25% match, I got \$15,000 for this year so it will cost the village 25% to get your reimbursement. The Village never had to pay a dime of that because I did this for free. I used my hours and my time to off set that. Everything that was purchased with this grant money belongs to Keep America Beautiful and its affiliates, not to the Village, so everything will be leaving, according to Keep America Beautiful you need to have an Executive Director, so you have to have it. Have to keep records. All purchases go through the village, Valerie Delgado does that, you have to sign the check and pay the bills, so everything goes through the village. Copy of grant and what it is going to be spent on is in the Village offices. When the grant across the street did not come to fruition, I went to the State of New Mexico and asks to do the landscaping at the animal shelter. So that is where the money was spent. We got tacos for the JPO kids to help on Cinco De Mayo. When the village takes over this you will lose your match, so it will be at a cost to the Village. I have asked for more than 25%, I usually ask for around 88%. I can do that. We are a village of 3000 people, we get more funding than communities that are larger than us. We got more than Alamogordo. I have been writing grants for over 20 years, I am a state grant fellow with New Mexico. I have never lost any funds. I

put in a requisition and then get a PO from the Village before I can purchase anything. I touch no money. I have to balance every year and guess what, I do balance. I have gotten over 1million dollars for the county of Otero. I am proud of what I have done. I am sad because you need an program coordinator and executive director to not only write the grant but to run the program. This is a pass through grant just like the juvenile justice one with the County. The County is the fiscal agent. I would never have employees doing this grant, because now you are using tax payer money to do what someone was doing for free.

6. Alicia Kumke, I am here for the same reason but from a different angle. I am with Forever Homes rescue. The Village should be at a 98% rescue rate. I do what I can to help, I provide shots to every dog. I have called other shelters who I work with very closely to help with all the animals. I have spent over \$2500.00 and I am grateful to help, but I will not have funds to help forever, so I am hoping that the board looks at the budget for food, and help with the shelter. Chief Woods said that he appreciated everything that Ms. Kumke does to help, she has been amazing. You have one employee who is working 7 days a week, the shelter often smells, and I understand that the village does not have another employee. Mayor Trujillo said she was concerned with the way the building was built. She said she thinks the animals should have runs. She was under the impression that food was being donated and was not aware of the food issue. The Mayor said she would look into it. She kindly asks again for the board to look at the budget and possibly opening up the shelter for viewing for adoptions.

7. "refused to give name screamer". Can everyone hear me. I am talking really loud, cause apparently you blind. Susan was waving her hand, and you couldn't see her. The Mayor stated she was not blind and could hear fine. He stated well good, now you can listen to what I have to say. Thank you very much, awesome. Here is what I want to know. Why is there not a budget for the animals, do they not have to eat. You think you at the city can abuse animals and that's OK. Where is the food! You can lie all you want, where is the food. No food in the animal shelter for the animals. Abuse, Abuse, Abuse.

8. Chris Jones: I just have a question about the action taken earlier with regards to the grant writing. Was that a resolution or an ordinance? Mayor Trujillo responded that is was neither. It was a motion. Mr. Jones said the wording says approved by and made by. What does made by mean? Mayor Trujillo answered that the grants will be written, administered by the village with board approval for all. The Board is accountable for all finances. Mr. Jones said he was looking for some common ground, it seems like the village could allow someone to write a grant if the board approves it. He finds the action a bit vague.

9. Buddy Ginardi: I am going back to the dog issues. This is a very passionate issues for many people including those who do not even own them. This area, in the southwest, it is known to not treat animals very well. I am asking to treat those in our care with some compassion and also make room for a food budget. Keeping the grass watered. Help with volunteers, and have a budget for food. Less face it, shelters are a nice name for dog pounds. The village needs to have a budget for food and access for medical care. Please listen to the people in the village before you vote on issues. Please do your jobs and listen to us before you vote on issues.

10. Kathy Icester: High school teacher and science club teacher, the kids asked her to start a club. She worked closely with Susan with Keep Tularosa Beautiful. This year with won the State award for recyclables. They really enjoy themselves and benefit from this club and the partnership with Keep Tularosa Beautiful.

11. Corbin Chavez: I really believe in this. I have been in this club since freshman year and it has helped with socially. I really believe in what I am doing. I see more and

more trash and this helps with all that. I really do believe in cleaning up this place and making it better with recycling, with everything. Mayor Trujillo assured Corbin and Ms. Icester that the program would not be going away and she thanked Corbin for everything he has done through the program to help his community and she hopes he continues to come out and volunteer. The Mayor stated that the program was not going away, that the grant was just going to be administered through the village and she appreciates everything that the volunteers do for the Village.

12. Koy Griffin: I appreciate the opportunity, I am running for Otero Co. Commissioner, District 2. The distention today has be dis-heartening but unfortunately its politics. If I am elected I hope that the county can work with the village for a common good. If there is grant monies out there, I say lets get to writing grants and turning over rocks and working in a positive way.

13. Susan Flores: Otero County Commissioner, The County Commission of Otero Co. provides landfill opportunities for you and provides other things as far as trash, we will talk about that next contract too then.

14. Lori Soto: Besides the emotional issues going on tonight, I am just wondering if this grant dies where are you going to be on the money side of things. The money has already been spent, you are just going to throw way that money as well as the money that was lost by the senior center. I pay taxes too. What happens to our money. Do you know what happens to the money. That's your tax dollars at work.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Alexander, seconded by Trustee Portillo. Meeting was officially adjourned by motion at 7:15pm.

**13. Old Business:**

**14. New Business:**

**15. Adjourn: 7:15pm**

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Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Margaret Lucero, Tularosa Village Clerk

The written minutes are the official minutes of the meeting. The recorded Compact Flash are part of the minutes only for interpreting any ambiguity in the written minutes. When the minutes are approved and signed the written minutes are the official minutes of the meeting.