

Regular Meeting
March 10, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Nuñez, Trustee Torres, Trustee Whitlock, Trustee Atencio, and Trustee Crist.

Others Present: Tim Thornton, Shirley Rice, Mike Castillo, Alice Soto, Lisa Neal, David Shields, Manuel Sanchez, Sal Ramirez, Linda Alvarez, Cynthia Atencio, Michele Hipolito, Jorge Au III, JoAnn Au, Andres Martinez, Joseph Mata, and Elizabeth Porras.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hatch was held in the Trustees Chambers located at 133 N. Franklin Street, Hatch, New Mexico, on the above date. The Clerk Treasurer called the roll as follows: Mayor Nunez – Present, Trustee Torres – Present, Trustee Atencio – Present, Trustee Whitlock – Present, and Trustee Crist – Present. There being a quorum, Mayor Nunez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Crist led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and Trustee Whitlock gave the opening prayer. Mayor Nunez then called for a moment of silence.

Trustee Whitlock moved to approve the agenda as amended, by moving #8 Consideration and approval to amend Chapter 2.12 Fire Department, Section 2.12.050 Drills; Pay until after #10 Personnel. Seconded by Trustee Crist. Motion carried with all Trustees voting aye.

Trustee Whitlock moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Torres. Motion carried with all Trustees voting aye.

Shirley Rice, Municipal Court Judge, reported that the School District is getting stricter on kids driving other minors. Also, mental health issues and the opioids are a great challenge with the court system with all the new laws coming up, and constitutional rights.

Manny Sanchez, County Commissioner reported that the county is working on a plan to address the Coronavirus issues, and what resources from the State Government are available. Trying to keep working on existing projects on some of the roads across the county.

Dave Shields gave an update on the different projects for the Village of Hatch. The Canal Road Low Water Crossing project, after meeting with the USACE, we were informed that removal of the CBC structure will require 404 Permitting. Also met with Dona Ana County and they informed us that additional right of way on Canal Road to Castaneda Rd., will have to be transferred to the Village. Both issues will delay the construction of the project. Now working on developing a revised schedule and cost for the additional permitting, while also researching possible emergency action that could help move the project forward. The Hatch Airport design for the pavement preservation project is in process. The Hatch Water Preliminary Engineering Report had a kickoff meeting with the Village and are currently working on the report and running water models of the system. The Hatch NPDES Permit has been completed, all data

needed was gathered from Juan from the WWTP and have completed the permit application. Should be ready to send out this week for review. The NMDOT LGRF funding application has been submitted for paving the unpaved portion of Fajardo Street.

Trustee Whitlock moved to approve Ordinance No. 407 An Ordinance Amending Title 13 Public Services, Chapter 13.04 Water System Regulations, Section 13.04.060 Water Rates. Seconded by Trustee Atencio. The Board was polled as follows: Trustee Torres-aye, Trustee Atencio-aye, Trustee Whitlock-aye, Trustee Crist-aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Whitlock moved to approve Ordinance No. 408 An Ordinance Amending Title 13 Public Services, Chapter 13.08 Sewer Connections and Service Charges, Section 13.08.010 and 13.08.030. Seconded by Trustee Crist. The Board was polled as follows: Trustee Torres-aye, Trustee Atencio-aye, Trustee Whitlock-aye, Trustee Crist-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Nunez recommended that Board of Trustees approve Resolution opposing “RED FLAG” gun control bills passed in the 2020 Legislature.

Trustee Torres moved to approve Resolution No. 983 A Resolution opposing “RED FLAG” gun control bills passed in the 2020 Legislature. Seconded by Trustee Atencio. The Board was polled as follows: Trustee Torres-aye, Trustee Atencio-aye, Trustee Whitlock-aye, Trustee Crist-aye. Motion carried.

*6:39 p.m. Trustee Whitlock moved to convene in closed executive session to discuss threatened or pending litigation, employment matters as authorized by the open meetings act § (H)(7). Seconded by Trustee Torres. The Board was polled as follows: Trustee Torres-aye, Trustee Atencio-aye, Trustee Whitlock-aye, Trustee Crist-aye. Motion carried.

*7:14 p.m. Trustee Whitlock moved to reconvene in open session from closed executive session where no decisions were made. Seconded by Trustee Atencio. The Board was polled as follows: Trustee Torres-aye, Trustee Atencio-aye, Trustee Whitlock-aye, Trustee Crist-aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Torres moved to approve Officer Aurora Hernandez’s 2% pay increase on anniversary of date of hire effective March 11, 2020 as per FOP contract. Seconded by Trustee Whitlock. Motion carried with all Trustees voting aye.

Trustee Crist moved to approve to promote Frank Angel to Lieutenant at \$25.00 Hourly Rate effective March 9, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Atencio. Motion carried with all Trustees voting Aye.

Trustee Whitlock moved to approve to amend Chapter 2.12 Fire Department Section 2.12.050 Drills; Pay. Seconded by Trustee Crist. Motion carried with all Trustees voting aye.

Lisa Neal reported that all the improvements to the Library have been completed. The Summer Reading program continues. The Census will begin on April 1, 2020. Mike Castillo reported

that El Paso Electric will be giving us an estimate cost analysis of how much it will cost the Village to get phase III for the lift station down in Rodey. The department is working on cleaning up the weeds at the Village of Hatch Utility yard. The department will be working on getting the Pool ready for the first week in May. The Village helped the schools move some dirt to put up bleachers. Also, have been working on moving all the extra dirt out of the baseball fields for when the summer season starts.

Tim Thornton, Chief of Police, introduced himself to the public, and expressed that he feels welcomed to the Hatch Community and looks forward to working with everyone in serving this great community. The statistics were low for the month of February, has met with the department and officers know the expectations now. Technology is a big issue, records management system, has also been reviewing policies and procedures for the department, and looking into funding streams for K-9 grants.

Jorge Au III, Interim Fire Chief expressed how grateful and honored he is for the opportunity to help and serve as Interim Fire Chief. It is a difficult time when it comes to the Hatch Volunteer Fire Department but wants the Mayor, Board of Trustees and the Village Community to rest assured that his staff will do everything in their power to provide only the best emergency services to the Village of Hatch and its surrounding communities. Hopes that the Village will embark in understanding the arduous effort and time it will take to accomplish the many tasks to establish a culture that encourages and promotes recruitment, retention, and a Fire Department that the Village can be proud of, he asked the Mayor and Board of Trustees for their support and guidance to rebuild.

There being no further business Trustee Crist moved to adjourn at 7:52p.m. Seconded by Trustee Torres. Motion carried with all Trustees voting aye.

Signed: _____, Mayor

ATTEST:

Date: _____