



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Linda L. Flores, Mayor Pro Tem
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
Sam Bernal, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: Jesus Caro

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Flores, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-Burick, **Seconded by** Trustee Arzabal.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

Trustee Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

1 **4. PROCLAMATION:**

- 2 a. A proclamation declaring the month of November 2015 to be American Diabetes Month in
3 the Town of Mesilla. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

4 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read a proclamation declaring the month of November, 2015 to be American
5 Diabetes Month in the Town of Mesilla.

6
7 Mayor Barraza indicated there is a Diabetes Awareness at the Court Cultural Center on November 21st.
8 Her father died of the complications that come from diabetes; this cause is very dear to her heart.

9
10 **5. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

11 Mr. Alexander stated he wants to take this opportunity to say what a great job the firefighters are doing
12 for the town. He stated 20 years ago the residents voted for a tax to purchase this property to build a new
13 town hall, fire department, court facility and police station. The people voted, an ordinance was
14 approved. If the town needs a second fire department after the renovation it should be inline. The
15 location was taken into consideration before purchasing the property. There was a final consensus that
16 this is where we are and this is what we are doing. A new fire department should be built where the
17 people wanted it and where they continue to pay to have it; placing it anywhere else is misappropriation
18 of funds. He does not want to present this as a threat but he would hate to see the town brought forth on
19 misappropriation of funds. We need to follow through with our long term plans. Some of the current
20 trustees voted on the design of the building. We need to stick to plan when it comes to the public safety
21 factor for the Town of Mesilla and be cognizant of what the will of the people was.

22
23 Ms. Caro stated the Bosque is on state land; it is not about Mesilla. The fire department was implemented
24 here to take care of Mesilla. We cannot afford nor need another substation anywhere else. There are not
25 houses in that area. If the state could purchase a brush truck and hire their own people. The town should
26 not be subsidizing out of the core of Mesilla; they need to stay here.

27
28 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**
29 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**
30 **with an asterisk *:**

31
32 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Flores, **Seconded by** Trustee
33 Johnson-Burick.

34
35 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

36 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

1 Trustee Arzabal Yes
2 Trustee Bernal Yes
3 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

4

5 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of October 26, 2015. *Approved by consent*
6 *agenda*

7 b. ***PZHAC Case #012450-** Submitted by Jose Tarin of 2571 Calle de Parian, a request for a
8 building permit to allow the installation of brick and rock landscaping in front of a 6 foot high
9 stonewall at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

10

11 **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

12 a. An update on the Mesilla Explorer Program. **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.**

13 Assistant Chief Zecha gave an update on the Mesilla Explorer Program.

14

15 Mayor Barraza stated she had the opportunity to see the enthusiasm of these young adults. The hands-on
16 experience is so vital and keeps them interested. She sees this program only getting better; what they have
17 put together is fantastic. Not all students are college material so this opens the door for other careers. She
18 thanked everyone for taking their time in working with these students.

19

20 Assistant Chief Zecha stated scholarships are available for those students that are looking at going to
21 college. We will assist them in filling out the necessary paperwork. We hand selected the instructors;
22 Captain Embrey is the lead. Captain Embrey is teaching them life skills as well as fire skills. We are
23 working on planning fund raisers.

24

25 Mayor Barraza responded the enthusiasm is great.

26

27 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if anyone has created a press release regarding the program.

28

29 Assistant Chief Zecha stated one of their main concerns was how would these kids be protected. He will
30 ask them to put out a press release.

31

32 Trustee Johnson-Burick indicated what a great job and thanked everyone involved.

33

34 Fire Chief Hoban stated we are working on press releases but need releases since they are minors and
35 permission needs to be obtained.

36

1 Mayor Pro Tem Flores asked if there would be separate adults supervising during brush fires.

2

3 Assistant Chief Zecha responded there will be separate adults supervising. The core's job is to supervise.
4 They will not be deployed if there is no supervision and only as a group. They can ride on the fire trucks.
5 Once they get through the academy they will be able to work supervised shifts. They will be trained in
6 first aid; they will have separate uniforms.

7

8 Mr. Caro asked why Zia was not included.

9

10 Fire Chief Hoban responded the program is open to youth, 14 to 21 years of age and out of the eighth
11 grade; high school students. Sergeant Shepan is also assisting in our training program. The staff will
12 complete training through the Boy Scout of America to be part of this program. The training is for both
13 adults and the youth.

14

15 **b.** Discussion regarding a possible substation at Bosque State Park. **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.**

16 Fire Chief Hoban made a presentation for a possible substation at Bosque State Park.

17

18 Mayor Barraza stated the fire department currently has no outstanding loan in the State Fire Fund.

19

20 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked what the annual increase is for.

21

22 Fire Chief Hoban responded it is for fire department and equipment.

23

24 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked so it is unrelated to the substation.

25

26 Fire Chief Hoban responded if we have the State Fire Marshal's approval for this substation we will
27 receive \$28,547 above the base rate.

28

29 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated a substation means a structure owned or leased by the local government.
30 She asked if we are going to lease the building.

31

32 Fire Chief Hoban responded yes for \$1.00 a year.

33

34 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked there will be no personnel just the brush truck.

35

36 Fire Chief Hoban responded yes.

37

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if there is a brush fire we are going to dispatch out of this building and
2 drive them to the Bosque until we the state gets their own people trained.

3
4 Fire Chief Hoban responded if personnel are on site they can respond. We would dispatch our primary
5 brush apparatus out of the Parian station and send additional personnel as they become available to pick
6 up the second truck. If needed other agencies will be called in to assist.

7
8 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated so initially it will be storage. She asked if this would impact our insurance
9 rating.

10
11 Fire Chief Hoban responded there is no impact on ISO since it is not a main station. If we get to the point
12 where we have an additional station that would house large apparatus, have assigned personnel, and a
13 natural barrier; it would impact the ISO rating. Mesilla Valley Bosque does meet the natural barrier
14 requirement due to the river. That is why it is only a substation status but it will get us additional funding.

15
16 Trustee Arzabal stated so reason for this substation is so we would like to receive the \$28,547.

17
18 Fire Chief Hoban responded yes and also to partner with state parks. It provides them training
19 opportunities and provides us a special consideration when applying for grants. Cooperate agreements
20 make a difference when apply for grants.

21
22 Trustee Arzabal responded it sounds great. He asked who will draw up the Memorandum of
23 Understanding.

24
25 Fire Chief Hoban responded the state has already done that. The proposed draft is being reviewed by our
26 legal counsel; looking into loop holes.

27
28 Trustee Bernal looks good.

29
30 Mayor Barraza stated she is the vice chair for Public Safety for the New Mexico Municipal League Group
31 and money leftover in the State Fire Fund goes to the General Fund. Firefighters are working diligently in
32 insuring that any leftover monies are distributed to the established fire departments in the state rather than
33 the General Fund. The annual State Fire Fund budget is around \$61k. The \$28k would supplement their
34 budget in allowing them to do so much more. She commends the Fire Chief and staff for applying for
35 grants and being creative in generating revenue to meet the needs of the department. He mentioned the

1 only expense would be \$1.00. If the park is willing to partner with the Town of Mesilla it is a wonderful
2 idea.

3
4 Fire Chief stated Jan, deputy director of state parks, was bragging about this partnership. He applauds his
5 staff they are always looking at solutions. Even though a substation does not affect ISO rating; ISO does
6 affect the funding. We are waiting for a response because if we drop to a 4 it will mean additional money
7 for both the main station and substation.

8
9 Mayor Barraza stated Fire Chief Hoban received notice on a grant submitted to a Special Project Fund
10 where the department has been awarded \$77k; state provides 80%. It is for equipment for the station that
11 cannot be purchased since there is not enough money. This grant will have a self-contained breathing
12 apparatus filling station, gear washer extractor, and washer and dryer to stop contamination. The Marshal
13 and Public Works Departments will also have accessibility to these services. We are pleased to receive
14 the award and will be working with the mayor to bring forth.

15
16 Mayor Barraza stated this was brought to the board who approved if this grant was awarded the match
17 would be made; this is a good investment. The substation at no cost is good for Mesilla. She asked about
18 the utilities for the building.

19
20 Fire Chief Hoban responded the park will cover utilities. The benefit is their insurance protection may be
21 affected as they will have the apparatus on the property. He will train people to fight side by side.

22
23 Mayor Barraza thanked him for his hard work.

24
25 Fire Chief Hoban stated it is a pleasure; he loves protecting the people of this town. The next step is once
26 the MOU is approved it will be sent to the State Fire Marshal office who will do the feasibility study. It
27 will then come back to the board for their approval.

28
29 Mayor Barraza asked if the board needs to approve the MOU before it is sent to the State Fire Marshal.

30
31 Fire Chief Hoban responded he would not like to get tied up in an MOU that could not be followed
32 through because the State Fire Marshal turned it down. The State Fire Marshal would like to review the
33 MOU for appropriateness and the results of the feasibility study. The board will then approve the final
34 MOU and forward it to the State Fire Marshal.

35
36 **7. *STAFF REPORTS –**

1 Community Development
2 Community Programs
3 Finance Department.
4 Fire Department.
5 Public Works Department
6 Marshal's Department
7

8 8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

9 Trustee Arzabal no comment
10

11 Mayor Barraza stated the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Parque de Veteranos at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Parra has a
12 great agenda.
13

14 Trustee Bernal no comments
15

16 Mayor Pro Tem Flores indicated she may not be able to attend the program. She brought diabetes
17 magazines for anyone who is interested.
18

19 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated El Dia de Los Muertos was a fabulous event; well attended. Ms. Parra told
20 her the Halloween Carnival was fantastic. She finds it ironic that in the past people have been upset with
21 so many law enforcement personnel on the plaza; she was approached by residents that this year there
22 was a lack of law enforcement personnel. The amount of dogs on the plaza is also a concern. There were
23 dogs everywhere; wants to make sure there is a consistent message sent to the attendees.
24

25 Mayor Barraza responded Dia de Los Muertos is not a town sponsored activity and are responsible for
26 security. That event has grown much that some of the roads needed to be closed off. There were some
27 snags that will be rectified such as pets, security, facilities and smoking on the plaza. She asked Ms.
28 Stohner-Hernandez to address those concerns to Ms. Parra. The Halloween Carnival attendance was
29 great; Ms. Parra did a great job. She invited everyone to Veteran's Ceremony on Wednesday at 11:00
30 a.m. The Gadsden Purchase Reenactment will be Saturday from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. on the plaza. The
31 Town Hall offices will be closed on Wednesday in observance of Veteran's Day.
32

33 9. ADJOURNMENT

34
35 The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes – 4)
36

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Unofficial