



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOWN OF MESILLA  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016  
6:00 P.M.**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem  
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee  
Jesus Caro, Trustee  
Linda L. Flores, Trustee

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

**PUBLIC:** Reyna Palacios

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Barraza held a Moment of Silence for Officer Jose Ismael Chavez who died in the line of duty. She thanked the Marshal's and Fire Department for their participation in escorting Officer Chavez home from Albuquerque and in the funeral services.

Councilor Mr. Jose Luis Aguilar from Artesia passed away; his presence will be missed.

**2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

**Roll Call.**

1 **Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Caro,**  
2 **Trustee Flores.**

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4 **3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

5 Trustee Arzabal asked to place items 6 a, b and item 7 d on the consent agenda.

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7 **Motion: To approve agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**  
8 **Flores.**

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10 Trustee Caro asked to leave item 7 d on the regular agenda.

11  
12 **Amended Motion: To approve agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Caro, Seconded by**  
13 **Trustee Flores.**

14  
15 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

16 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

17 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

18 **Trustee Caro Yes**

19 **Trustee Flores Yes**

20  
21  
22 **Original Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

23 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

24 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

25 **Trustee Caro Yes**

26 **Trustee Flores Yes**

27  
28 **4. PUBLIC INPUT –** The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

29 Ms. Palacios thanked the board for all the support they have given to her family. The Marshal's  
30 Department has done a great job. She has a situation that she has been going through for five  
31 months which will need to be taken to another level. She is her mother's caregiver. The Mesilla  
32 officers have helped her understand. She was disappointed because there was only one report. It  
33 would have been resolved along time ago but she never received anything. She has had to go  
34 through another route. Mr. Shannon has helped and worked with her. Her mom is 88 years old and  
35 this has caused a lot of mental anguish.

1 Mr. McClure stated he does not feel Ms. Tamra McLeod should be reappointed as a Planning and  
2 Zoning Commissioner. She is taking advantage of the position for her own interest.

- 3  
4 **5. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**  
5 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is**  
6 **marked with an asterisk \*:**

7  
8 **Motion: To approve consent agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by**  
9 **Trustee Caro.**

10  
11 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

12 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

13 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

14 **Trustee Caro Yes**

15 **Trustee Flores Yes**

- 16  
17 a. **\*BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting minutes of August 8, 2016. *Approved by consent***  
18 ***agenda***

19  
20 **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 21 a. For approval: the hiring of a full-time Custodial/Maintenance I – **Debbie Lujan, Public**  
22 **Works Director. *Approved by consent agenda***

- 23  
24 b. For approval: the hiring of a full-time Utility Clerk. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez,**  
25 **Clerk/Treasurer. *Approved by consent agenda***

26  
27 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 28 a. Reappointment of three (3) Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness  
29 Commissioners to serve terms in accordance with MTC 18.06.020: Yolanda Lucero,  
30 Russell Hernandez, and Tamra McLeod. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

31  
32 **Motion: To approve the reappointment of three (3) Planning, Zoning and Historical**  
33 **Appropriateness Commissioners to serve terms in accordance with MTC 19.06.020: Yolanda**  
34 **Lucero, Russell Hernandez, and Tamra McLeod, Moved by Trustee Arzabal and Seconded by**  
35 **Trustee Flores.**

36  
37 Trustee Flores stated she has no criticism for Ms. Lucero's job but feels it is not a good idea for a  
38 sister to serve on the board.

1  
2 Trustee Caro stated all of the commissioners have done a good job. Although he has received  
3 complaints regarding a conflict of interest and the positions are used for their own gain. He  
4 understands Mr. Hernandez has not been attending the meetings. He would like to vote on the  
5 recommendations one at a time; he votes yes for Mr. Hernandez and no for Ms. Lucero and Ms.  
6 McLeod.

7  
8 Trustee Arzabal recommended opening up the positions to all residents as it was done in 2010.

9  
10 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the county invites residents as well as the incumbents to  
11 apply. She agrees with the conflict of interest; nepotism. As this has been acceptable practice in  
12 the past she is hesitant to vote against Ms. Lucero. She would like the specifics that Mr. McClure is  
13 referring to.

14  
15 Mayor Barraza responded nowhere in the ordinance or personnel handbook does it read that a  
16 relative cannot be appointed to a position. Nepotism comes into play when a relative is an employee  
17 under her supervision. There have been occasions where family members of the board have applied  
18 for positions. We are a small community and to get volunteers is hard. We have to find someone  
19 that is open minded; who takes time from their busy schedules to devote their time to learn the  
20 ordinances and look at the cases. In the past we had difficulty trying to get cases passed  
21 contractors did not want to come to Mesilla. Our goal is to be business friendly and ensure that the  
22 process runs smoothly. We have wonderful Planning and Zoning commissioners who do their  
23 homework, do research and attend conferences to ensure they are doing the right thing. She does  
24 not know what Mr. McClure is talking about. Trustee Caro has not brought forth the concerns he is  
25 hearing to Mr. Shannon or herself. She cannot address these problems if they are not aware of  
26 them. Ms. McLeod was a tenant of Mr. McClure who was not addressing the needs; she was paying  
27 for the repairs. She heard one side of the story; has not heard the other side of the story. Ms.  
28 McLeod is very devoted to the position. She does research and gets guidance for answers. Mr.  
29 Hernandez did request a leave of absence as previously done by another commissioner.

30  
31 Trustee Caro recommended opening it up to all the residents. In the past the trustees would submit  
32 names of interested residents.

33  
34 Mayor Barraza stated she has been on the since 1999 and does not remember it being done that  
35 way. One of these positions is up in August and the other two have expired. We will not have a  
36 quorum if appointments are not made putting cases on hold.

37

1 Trustee Flores asked if the Mayor had recommended someone to Mayor Cadena.

2

3 Mayor Barraza responded Mr. John Sullivan.

4

5 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; No=1).**

6 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

7 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

8 **Trustee Caro No**

9 **Trustee Flores Yes**

10

11 **b. Resolution 2016-14 – A resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a loan**  
12 **agreement and intercept agreement by the Town of Mesilla and the New Mexico Finance**  
13 **Authority to purchase and equip two pick-up trucks for use by the Fire Department in the**  
14 **amount of \$79,842 to be paid out of State Fire Protection Fund Revenues. – **Cynthia****  
15 **Stoehner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**

16

17 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez reviewed the resolution. This is a seven year loan out of the Fire  
18 Protection fund.

19

20 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2016-14 a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of**  
21 **a loan agreement and intercept agreement by the Town of Mesilla and the New Mexico**  
22 **Finance authority to purchase and equip two pick-up trucks for use by the Fire Department in**  
23 **the amount of \$79,842 to be paid out of State fire Protection Fund Revenues, Moved by**  
24 **Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

25

26 Trustee Flores asked if the date on page 84 is incorrect. She calculated the interest to be  
27 \$1,337.00.

28

29 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she did the same calculations based on a seven year loan  
30 and we will be short.

31

32 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez responded it will be a nine year loan; amount is correct.

33

34 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked what we are equipping the trucks with.

35

36 Fire Chief Hoban stated included is the emergency lighting, graphics, electronics, as well as cargo  
37 area to store other equipment. This includes the upgrades to make them emergency vehicles.

1  
2 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked if the vehicles will be medical emergency use versus fighting  
3 brush fires.

4  
5 Fire Chief Hoban responded the trucks have two purposes. The trucks do not carry a pump or water  
6 so they are not firefighting. Our brush trucks only carry two people these vehicles will allow us to  
7 transport more crew to brush fires. They will be equipped to respond on emergency medical calls  
8 and also be equipped as command vehicles for structure fires.

9  
10 Trustee Caro stated his concern is we are in a recession and it is going to get worse. There are  
11 going to be things coming up that are going to be more of a priority. Using it all up we will not be  
12 having anything in that fund. In talking to the Fire Marshal he is over 50% After Over 50% is in  
13 outstanding loan. In talking to the Fire Marshal it is over 50% in outstanding loan. He does not  
14 know the balances. He does not know if it is through Department of Finance but at this time it would  
15 better to go for only on vehicle. They may not have any money to resort to if they get the two  
16 vehicles. He does not feel it is a good idea.

17  
18 Mayor Barraza asked if when we receive state funding do we summarize what we are using the  
19 funding for.

20  
21 Fire Chief Hoban responded currently the Fire Department has no outstanding loans. Things are  
22 coming out of the State Fire Marshal Fund. The Fire Truck is paid through the General Fund which  
23 was the stipends the firefighters gave up. The state must approve the spending of those funds. The  
24 board approved going forward with the application in June. He appreciates the concern regarding  
25 not having money left for other items. With the addition substation at Mesilla Valley Bosque and  
26 additional funding we received for administration offices we are well with our budget to pay the loan  
27 and still be able to replace and purchase equipment for our firefighters.

28  
29 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated Trustee Caro made a good point regarding future purchases.  
30 She is comfortable with what Fire Chief Hoban responded.

31  
32 Mayor Barraza commends staff for staying within their budgets. They do not want to max  
33 themselves out without leaving some cushion for emergencies that may arise. We do our best to  
34 allow that cushion. Some grants can only be used for what was indicated on the application.  
35 Instead of always purchasing used equipment or vehicles where money is put into repairs; this is a  
36 better route.

37

1 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; No=1).**

2 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

3 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

4 **Trustee Caro No**

5 **Trustee Flores Yes**

6

7 **\*\*\* A PUBLIC HEARING MUST BE HELD PRIOR TO ACTION ON ITEM C.\*\*\***

8 *(ADDED 8/18/16 @ 9:52 AM)*

9

10 **Motion: To close regular meeting, Moved by Trustee Flores and Seconded by Trustee**  
11 **Arzabal.**

12

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

14 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

15 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

16 **Trustee Caro Yes**

17 **Trustee Flores Yes**

18

19 Closed regular meeting at 6:43 p.m.

20

21 Ms. Lujan reviewed the ICIP.

22

23 Ms. Palacios stated she is all for the improvements and Mesilla has improved. She is for all the  
24 streets being paved.

25

26 **Motion: To close Public Hearing, Moved by Trustee Flores and Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**

27

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

29 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

30 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

31 **Trustee Caro Yes**

32 **Trustee Flores Yes**

33

34 Closed Public Hearing at 6:49 p.m.

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36 **Motion: To enter regular meeting, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick and Seconded**  
37 **by Trustee Arzabal.**

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

**Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

**Trustee Arzabal Yes**

**Trustee Caro Yes**

**Trustee Flores Yes**

Entered regular meeting 6:50 p.m.

**c. Resolution 2016-15 – A resolution adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for 2018-2022. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.****

Mayor Barraza stated in order for our legislators and Department of Finance to give us money a project must be on the ICIP to be considered. If they have a little bit of extra money they will look at other projects to see what else can be funded. It is hard to prioritize with all the needs the town has. The probability of us receiving \$1million dollars is not going to happen. Projects will need to be done in phases. Ms. Lujan works diligently in getting estimates but the longer we wait dollar amounts change (more expensive). Engineering firms need to be consulted to get new dollar amounts or to work on new projects.

Ms. Lujan gave the ICIP presentation.

Mayor Barraza stated some of the roads on the ICIP have had curbs installed.

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2016-15 a resolution adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for 2018-2022, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

Trustee Caro indicated he is in agreement with the ICIP. He asked Ms. Lujan insure that the plumbing work is done if needed before paving the road. We need a lot of road work in Mesilla.

Ms. Lujan responded she adds utility improvements to the applications just in case something comes up.

Trustee Caro stated he is glad that we are looking at the parking in the Lucero area.

Ms. Lujan responded that project should start in September.

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Mayor Barraza stated the improvement on Santa Ana is just for repaving. The Perez and Lucero families do not want any parking in that area. We felt a horseshoe would help with the traffic flow. The funding received is two years of Capital Improvement money. We are hoping it will be enough to pave Calle de Santa Ana from the ditch to Calle de Oeste.

Ms. Lujan stated the funding is from the Local Government Road Fund.

Mayor Barraza stated we do not know what is going to be encountered when we start tearing up the roads.

Ms. Lujan stated we include utility improvements on the application.

Mayor Barraza responded the General Fund covers when we do not have enough in grant money.

Trustee Caro stated when he brings up concerns with spending it is because he wants to make sure that we are covered. The budgets are getting worse; we are going to have to do with less and less.

Mayor Barraza responded we have been very vigilante with regards to budget. We take a conservative measure; we do not project more money than what we think is coming in. The board has been very supportive in putting money into promoting Mesilla which helps Gross Receipt Tax. She is concerned that gas may rise which will cause a drop in tourism; eastern New Mexico is suffering. The state did not project correctly and is in the hole. She feels confident that we can sustain ourselves.

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

**Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

**Trustee Arzabal Yes**

**Trustee Caro Yes**

**Trustee Flores Yes**

**8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Trustee Arzabal no comments

Trustee Flores thanked Ms. Lujan for trying to take care of the pot holes on Bowman.

1 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the service for Officer Chavez was incredible.

2  
3 Trustee Caro stated he checked the drainage ditch and the water is about 2 ft deep and mosquitos  
4 everywhere and asking that Mr. Lee treat that area. He thanked staff for addressing Ms. Alicia  
5 Gamboa's concerns. Mr. Maese called him to inform him of his concerns; he is glad the problem is  
6 resolved.

7  
8 Mayor Barraza stated there is a Community Information Meeting on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the  
9 Community Center regarding the Zika Virus Prevention and gas leaks; presentations by Mr. Lee and  
10 Zia Gas.. The offices will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day. The  
11 Fire and Marshal Departments are moving into the Public Safety Building.

12  
13 Fire Chief Hoban stated we are moving in; working on the internet and phone system. Chief Zecha  
14 is in the building; crews are spending shifts. There have been some glitches with the HAV; have  
15 been taught how to reset. Ms. Lujan is aware of items that need to be repaired and replaced. This  
16 building is a blessing even with the problems. We are excited and happy at getting back into the  
17 building. We are going to be in there by Fire Prevention Week.

18  
19 Mayor Barraza responded an Open House will be held once they are completely moved in. The  
20 majority is existing space but made to flow easier. We are very proud of the building.

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23 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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25 The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (**Summary:** Yes – 3)

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27 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:15 P.M.**

28  
29 **APPROVED THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.**

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34 Nora L. Barraza  
35 Mayor

1 **ATTEST:**

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5 *Cynthia Stochner-Hernandez*

6 Cynthia Stochner-Hernandez

7 Town Clerk/Treasurer

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