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7 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
8 **TOWN OF MESILLA**
9 **BOARD MEETING**
10 **MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015**
11 **6:00 P.M.**
12

13 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
14 Linda L. Flores, Mayor Pro Tem
15 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
16 Sam Bernal, Trustee
17 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee
18

19 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
20 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
21 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
22 Chris Mangusing, Marshal
23 Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator
24 Gloria S. Maya, Recorder
25

26 **PUBLIC:** Jesus Caro
27

28 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

29 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.
30

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

32 **Roll Call.**

33 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Flores, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Johnson-
34 Burick.
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36 **3. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

37 Mr. Jesus Caro referred to Mayor Barraza’s comment regarding his letter where he stated the majority of
38 the residents were not in favor of the second fire department; Mayor Barraza stated she would be
39 surprised that he contact 1,000 residents. She is correct I did not contact 1,000 residents but he gets a feel
40 how the residents when he goes to the Post Office. When he goes to the post office residents express
41 concerns to him. He might have spoken for them but he always spoke for them when he was a trustee.
42 The residents still feel they can come to him with concerns. He stated there is not a need for another fire
43 station. He read his letter. Recommends the trustees need to look at this carefully. The town has other
44 priorities that need to be looked into. Tortugas got state money to put sidewalks throughout their

1 community. Our tourist, which is our main business, need to walk in the middle of the street due to lack
2 of sidewalks.

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

5 Trustee Arzabal asked to place item A under new business and item A under old business on the consent
6 agenda.

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

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

12 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

13 Trustee Arzabal Yes

14 Trustee Bernal Yes

15 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
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18 **5. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**
19 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**
20 **with an asterisk *:**

21 • ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting of Monday, April 27, 2015. *Approved by consent*
22 *agenda*

23 • ***PZHAC Case 012347** – 2701 Calle de Oeste; Submitted by Jay Rochelle, a request to
24 replace 35 feet of wire fence along a side property line with a metal fence not to exceed 6 feet
25 in height on a property located at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR).
26 *Approved by consent agenda*

27 • ***PZHAC Case 012357** - Submitted by Francisco Torres for Chala’s Restaurant at 3421 S.
28 Highway 28, a request for a permit to hang a new restaurant sign from an existing sign pole at
29 this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR) (Legal non-conforming). *Approved by*
30 *consent agenda*

31 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as amended, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee
32 Bernal.

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

35 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

36 Trustee Arzabal Yes

37 Trustee Bernal Yes

38 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. For approval: Approval of Ordinance 2015-01: an ordinance granting Zia Natural Gas Company, a franchise in the Town of Mesilla, Dona Ana County, State of New Mexico. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer** *Approved by consent agenda.*

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. For approval: a cooperative purchasing agreement between the Town of Mesilla and Cooperative Educations Services (CES). – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer.** *Approved by consent agenda*
- b. For approval: the Town of Mesilla’s preliminary 2015-2016 Budget. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer.**

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez reviewed the preliminary 2015-2016 budget with the corrections.

Motion: To approve the Town of Mesilla’s preliminary 2015-2015 Budget, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Trustee Flores stated there is an 85% drop in employee training and asked is that was moved to another line item.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded those monies where moved to Community Development. Judge Frieze came in to her office just before this meeting to request a \$1,000 increase to his travel line item.

Judge Frieze stated that increase is needed due to conferences being held in Albuquerque this July that staff and himself will be attending.

Mayor Barraza asked is there anywhere within his budget that money can be moved to cover this increase request.

Judge Frieze responded there is not and that is why I am asking for it.

Mayor Barraza asked if Judge Frieze has spent all his budget operational money.

1 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded Judge Frieze' current operational balance is \$9,844.17 of that there
2 is a balance of \$1,399.36 in his travel/conference/training line item.

3
4 Judge Frieze stated he will be submitting a reimbursement of \$704 for this conference he attended in
5 Farmington.

6
7 Mayor Barraza asked what will be his balance once this reimbursement is submitted.

8
9 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded his operational line item will have around an \$8,000 balance.

10
11 Mayor Barraza stated we will be leaving that line item at the same amount as this current year. The
12 \$8,000 surplus should be sufficient to continue with operating expenses you current have. The balance
13 can be carried over for next year.

14
15 Judge Frieze responded we have a supply order that is not included which will reduce that surplus.

16
17 Mayor Barraza asked if that order will be \$8,000.

18
19 Judge Frieze responded he is not sure what the amount will be for the supplies.

20
21 Trustee Arzabal asked Judge Frieze meet with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez to discuss his budget. It can then
22 be brought to the board since this is a preliminary budget.

23
24 Mayor Barraza stated the current motion on the floor is to approve what the preliminary budget as being
25 presented today and the board will look at Judge Frieze' increase request in July when submitting the
26 final budget. She thanked Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez for preparing the budget and the Department Heads
27 for being patient and understanding; we are being very conservative. The proposed budget does not
28 reflect an increase for employees; at mid-year revenues will be looked at and employee increases will be
29 considered.

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

32 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

33 Trustee Arzabal Yes

34 Trustee Bernal Yes

35 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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37 **8. *STAFF REPORTS**

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

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9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Bernal asked if Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez has had an opportunity to look into incentives for staff.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded she has not had a chance to contact Department of Finance but will email them as soon as she gets to her office.

Trustee Bernal stated due to the Whole Enchilada Fiesta discontinuing and the Mariachi Conference not being as strong we need to look at what direction we want our fiestas to move toward. He spoke to Ms. Parra who has big ideas take will take manpower and financing. He feels our fiestas will get bigger and opportunities will open up. The board will need to support staff.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she greatly appreciates and supports the conservative approach taken to the budget. This is a prudent move; she does not see revenue increasing next year. She would like see funds put aside to address infrastructure needs. She appreciates the departments decreasing their operating expenses. She is glad the Animal Control budget was increased to provide safety and the wellbeing of our residents. She thanked Ms. Parra and the other employees for the wonderful Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. She is hearing wonderful things from the residents and people visiting our community.

Mayor Pro Tem Flores stated we need to be responsible toward our taxpayers. She would like hear more on the Clean and Beautiful Grant.

Ms. Parra responded the first phase of the Clean and Beautiful Grant will be used toward improvements to the plaza and signs that are needed around the community. The idea was to submit a proposal that would encompass all the different areas which feel we accomplished. The second phase will be for the plaza.

Mayor Pro Tem Flores asked Ms. Parra if business leaders were invited to attend the Border Extension Committee.

1 Ms. Parra responded they are at capacity on the number they can accommodate. Due to the amount of
2 interest expressed by all the surrounding areas they are looking at other venues for the meetings.

3
4 Trustee Arzabal stated great job on the fiesta. He recommends posting a notice that a meeting will be
5 held to discuss the second Fire Station and that no decisions have been made.

6
7 Mayor Barraza responded Fire Chief Hoban has requested more time so that they can prepare the board
8 presentation. This presentation will give the board the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.
9 A public hearing will be held after the board presentation.

10
11 Fire Chief Hoban stated they are waiting for the State Fire Marshal's office assessment of the proposal;
12 nothing happens in that realm without the State Fire Marshal Office approval. One of the public's
13 recommendations was to conduct a feasibility study which we had already proposed. We want to have
14 all the information available to answer questions and concerns.

15
16 Mayor Barraza stated the New Mexico Fallen Officer's Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, 9:00
17 am.

18
19 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the procession will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the old Kmart on El Paseo to the
20 Convention Center where the memorial service will begin at 10:00 a.m. A vigil will be held tonight at
21 8:00 p.m. at the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department. Fallen officers are honored every year.

22
23 Mayor Barraza invited everyone to attend this wonderful ceremony. She thanked the trustees for working
24 with the staff on the budget. Their feedback and comments are appreciated. We try to be as conservative
25 as possible and still provide services to our constituents. She has noticed an increase over the years the
26 budget to promote the Town of Mesilla and it is starting to payoff. The staff has also noticed an increase
27 in tourist traffic on the plaza. Ms. Parra has done a wonderful job in promoting the Town of Mesilla.
28 Construction at the Public Safety Building will begin on Wednesday. The board has expressed having a
29 cookout for the staff. They are thinking it would be better to wait until the project is completed in 3 or 4
30 months and we can do a dedication and cookout together. The Fire and Marshal staff is being temporarily
31 housed at the Community Center. Ms. Parra is working on Summer Recreation which will be held at the
32 Community Center. On Wednesday, May 20th the Organ Mountain Desert Peak National Monument will
33 hold a fiesta on the plaza beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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35 Ms. Lujan stated opening bids for Calle de Principal on May 18th.

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