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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

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

19 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
20 K.C. Alberg, Marshal
21 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
22 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
23 Jack D. Younker, Public Works Foreman
24 Gloria Maya, Recorder
25

26 **PUBLIC:** Eric Robinson Lucy Telles
27 Cynthia T. Rivera Courtney Prahl
28 Susan Krueger Ouida Touchon
29
30

31 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

32 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.
33

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

35 **Roll Call.**

36 **Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Flores, Trustee**
37 **Johnson-Burick.**
38

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

40 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**
41 **Flores.**
42

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

44 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

45 **Trustee Caro Yes**

46 **Trustee Flores Yes**

47 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**
48

1 **4. PRESENTATION:** Certificate of Commendation to Matthew Rivera for outstanding
2 performance in assisting a child in distress at Zia Middle School. – **Nora L.**
3 **Barraza/Marshal K.C. Alberg.**

4 Marshal Alberg presented Mr. Matthew Rivera for his performance. Mr. Rivera also received
5 high accommodations from the Las Cruces Public Schools.

6
7 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Rivera never ceases to amaze her. He does so much for the Town of
8 Mesilla and the public schools. Mr. Rivera is a volunteer but he goes above and beyond. She
9 cannot say enough about what he has done for the town.

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

12 Ms. Krueger stated she has information regarding feral cats. Mr. Tom Townsend applied and
13 was awarded the PetSmart Charity \$30,000 Grant to spay and neuter 500 community cats in the
14 southern part of Dona Ana County. The applicant is required to identify zip code approved with
15 this grant (88046 and 88047). The Planning Committee’s process will be to do appropriate
16 outreach in advertising; town staff does not need to be involved. They may request the use of the
17 Fire Department to sign up applicants. This will be for all community cats not just feral. She
18 will keep the board informed as it progresses.

19
20 Ms. Parra stated as the trustees have approved wage increases for Public Works employees she is
21 hopeful they would extend the same request for those have yet to receive one. As trustees you
22 are aware there are areas that require continued investments for the Town of Mesilla to be
23 successful; infrastructure, equipment and technology, marketing and advertising. At the forum
24 the candidates spoke on continue investments in marketing and advertising because of the return of
25 the investment we have seen. Above all we need to invest in our employees who are the heart
26 and soul that keep this community going. We work together as a team and not just wear the one
27 hat we were given initially. She feels we need to demonstrate value for the work we do and
28 hopes the board takes that into consideration.

29
30 Ms. Mariscal stated Gross Receipts are up for the Town of Mesilla now it is time to reward your
31 employees. We cannot afford to hire more people but we can give a COLA so the employees
32 will stay. We are all dedicated and hardworking employees. She makes customer service her
33 priority. The trash report has been cleaned up and generating the correct revenue. If you decide
34 you do not want to reward your employees I need to ask why not.

35
36 Ms. Maya stated we are here to ask you to consider a COLA for all the employees. We all work
37 very hard and are a great team. As you can see the audit proves it as we had zero findings. It is
38 not just one person or two people it takes a team. We as well as the board put our residents as
39 number one and that you value them. All we ask is that value us as well.

40
41 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** – The Board will be asked to approve by
42 **one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent**
43 **Agenda is marked with an asterisk *:**

44 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by**
45 **Trustee Flores.**

46
47 Trustee Johnson-Burick referred to a typo in the minutes – treasurer should be treasure.

48
49 Mayor Barraza stated she will get with Ms. Maya regarding the concerns with the minutes.

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

2 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

3 **Trustee Caro Yes**

4 **Trustee Flores Yes**

5 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

6
7 a. ***BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting** of Monday, January 22, 2018. *Approved by*
8 *consent agenda*

9
10 b. ***PZHAC Case 060685 w/conditions** – a property just west of 2230 Calle Del Sur,
11 submitted by Steven Cadena; a request for a building permit to construct a dwelling at
12 this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

13
14 c. ***PZHAC Case 060686** – 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Ouida Touchon; a
15 request to for a building permit to construct an adobe wall on the property line at this
16 address. Zoned: Historical Residential. *Approved by consent agenda*

17
18 d. ***PZHAC Case 060683** – 2750 Boldt Street, submitted by Solar Smart Living for
19 Jerome Walker, a request for a building permit to allow the installation of solar
20 photo-voltaic panels on the roof of a dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historical
21 Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

22
23 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

24
25 a. For acceptance: Town of Mesilla Audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017. – **Erick**
26 **Robinson, Integrity Accounting and Consulting.**

27 Mr. Robinson reviewed the Audit Report for fiscal year 2016-2017. We are able to get what we
28 need when we need it. There was one finding last year regarding Bank Reconciliations when has
29 been resolved.

30
31 Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Robinson. Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez and Ms. Maya are very
32 comfortable working with you. She is so pleased and appreciative with the job that Ms.
33 Stoechner-Hernandez and Ms. Maya do with our financial department. Is so proud that we can
34 say we have a clean audit to present to the State of New Mexico. Thank you to all the ladies that
35 work in the Finance Department.

36
37 **Motion: To accept Town of Mesilla Audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017, Moved by**
38 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

39
40 Trustee Flores stated she is very pleased, we have come a long way from when she started on the
41 board. There were many findings and she was very upset at the time.

42
43 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated four years ago she was very disturbed that there were findings.
44 As the years progressed she understood some were the software and some were inherited. Last
45 year when we only had one finding she was so pleased and so proud of Ms. Maya and Ms.
46 Stoechner-Hernandez. They reminded me that it was a team effort and that everyone one works
47 together. This year when she saw there were no audit findings; she is so proud of everyone.
48 Thank you for all you have done and all you do for the town. Great job!

1 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Robinson has done a phenomenal job working with the ladies and
2 directing them on what to do to rectify problems. Thanked him so much for his patience and
3 willingness to work with staff. A clean audit is very rare in the State of New Mexico. Out of the
4 106 municipalities very few have a clean audit. She is happy to say that the Town of Mesilla has
5 can join the rank of have a clean audit.

6
7 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

8 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

9 **Trustee Caro Yes**

10 **Trustee Flores Yes**

11 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

12
13 **b. Presentation/Discussion: regarding cost of living increases for staff. – Cynthia**
14 **Stoehner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**

15 Mayor Barraza stated the wording is not correct. Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal wanted to see what
16 the financial status is to see if a Cost of Living increase would be an item of discussion.

17
18 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez reviewed the financial budget. She does not see an increase is feasible
19 at this time; we can look at giving a COLA next fiscal year.

20
21 Mayor Barraza stated the presentation explain exactly where we are in our Gross Receipts. We
22 are anticipating for December an increase. We are hoping to meet our goal of 2%. She is
23 concerned with the Fines and Forfeit Fund. The projection has always been left at \$105,000 and
24 to date we have only received \$27,000. We should see an increase in Charges for Services since
25 all the rooms are rented at the Community Center and when the weather is gets warmer there is
26 an increase in Community Center Auditorium and Plaza rentals. The Enterprise Fund is healthy.
27 The employees funded through the Enterprise did receive a raise this year. At the beginning of
28 this year or the end June there was an increase in Ms. Parra's salary of \$1,500. So there has been
29 an increase in those two positions that she is aware of.

30
31 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked why that increase wouldn't come to the board for approval.

32
33 Mayor Barraza responded it did come to the board when the budget was approved.

34
35 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal responded okay.

36
37 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked we were implementing a COLA before the end of the budget year.

38
39 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez responded when the Public Works employees increase to the board
40 some of the trustees had recommended looking at an increase for staff funded through the
41 General Fund.

42
43 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated these figures are not positive right now. She would feel more
44 comfortable going into the next budget year with the allocations for COLA and placing it on the
45 Department Heads to make this happen. They would need to adjust their budgets to
46 accommodate a COLA based on the figures we are working on.

1 Mayor Barraza stated she asked Department Heads to look at their budget to give a raise or
2 COLA for next fiscal year. Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal requested we look at the budget to see if a
3 COLA would be feasible.

4
5 Trustee Caro stated he agrees with Trustee Johnson-Burick at looking at an increase for next
6 fiscal year.

7
8 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated it should not be an option for the 2018-2019 budget. We have to
9 do something as a Finance Board to give an increase. When you look at the salary vs hourly
10 employees they are very different. We have a good budget lately but the Department Heads need
11 to be part of this process. This is not an option we are going to do a COLA. Will we be giving
12 Public Work employees and increase if we just gave them one? We cannot be picking and
13 choosing.

14
15 Trustee Flores stated we would love to give a raise. The most important thing to here is not
16 cutting an employee's pay or hours. She does not want to put the next board in that position.

17
18 Mayor Barraza responded the financial status is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. We
19 need to look at an alternate way to increase our revenue. If we do not bring additional revenue
20 into our community we will not be able to compensate our employees for what they are worth.
21 Even though we project 2%-3% increases it is just enough to keep up with utility, fuel, etc.
22 increases. We may want to look at increasing property tax or GRT. Our infrastructure is
23 breaking down. There needs to be a way to sustain our community and continue to provide
24 service to the residents as well as a way to compensate our employees for what they are worth.
25 The police officers' union is up for renegotiation. There are a lot of factors that need to be
26 looked into. With regards to the Court Fines, what happens is some are set up on a payment plan
27 but they do not pay. We do not have any jurisdiction over the judicial part of branch. Currently
28 we did increase the court fines through ordinance/resolution. There are a lot of things we
29 definitely need to look into. It is her goal to give an increase to the employees.

30
31 Trustee Caro stated Trump is taking away federal funding for highways; they use to give 80%
32 now they will be giving 10%. States will need to come up with funding to take care of the rest.
33 This is an indication of things to come. We need to start watching our pennies.

34
35 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated just because the officers are union they do not have to get a pay
36 raise. Whoever is doing the bargaining for the town there needs to be a medium. He hopes the
37 mayor and trustees are part of the negotiations. Nothing wrong to be union but sometimes we
38 cannot give an increase

39
40 Mayor Barraza responded if the budget shows there is not money; there is no increase. The
41 legislators are working on imposing a gas tax for the Road Fund to repair roads throughout the
42 state. She believes the session is over this week; all bills will need to go to the governor for her
43 signature or veto.

- 44
45 c. **Resolution 2018-01:** A resolution authorizing and approving submission of a
46 completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New
47 Mexico Finance Authority. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.**

48 Ms. Lujan stated this was discussed at a prior meeting. The vehicles range from 1996 to 2005.

1 These past five years we have spent \$31,000 in repairs. Currently we have spent \$6,000 repairs.
2 Mr. Younker has been focusing on getting the vehicles ready. With all the money we spent the
3 last five years we could have purchased a vehicle. If we only replace three vehicles we would
4 still continue to do repairs on the other two so she is asking to replace five vehicles. There will
5 not be a budget increase. The money will be coming from our Enterprise Fund. We will be
6 using the money that we have for Water Meter Replacement which is a \$267,000 Grant. We are
7 currently using it to replace water hydrants. She will still have the money in the budget to
8 purchase these vehicles. The Asphalt Zipper was purchased a long time ago but the money has
9 been carried forward to purchase equipment or vehicles.

10
11 Mayor Barraza clarified Ms. Lujan is not asking for a budget increase; it is money already
12 budgeted and available in her budget.

13
14 Ms. Lujan stated the mileage on the 1996 reads 186,000 (odometer is broken so it is probably
15 higher) and the 2005 reads 138,586.

16
17 Mr. Younker stated these vehicles are fairly old with repair cost increasing daily. Minor repairs
18 range from \$500 - \$1,000 on these vehicles. He has been doing a lot of work himself. The
19 vehicles help the Public Works Department do their job correctly.

20
21 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated Ms. Lujan is proposing four Ram 1500 Quad Cab and one 3500
22 Regular Cab with a utility body. She asked if the prices are based on having to purchase five
23 vehicles.

24
25 Ms. Lujan responded no this is State Purchasing pricing.

26
27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she saw the funds for the revenue are coming from the Enterprise
28 Fund. She stated for clarification, these are not the funds that were set aside when water rates
29 were raised. It was mentioned that grant money allocated for the meters would be used. She
30 asked if this grant allows us to take the funds not used for the meters to purchase vehicles; is it
31 open-ended.

32
33 Ms. Lujan responded this grant has nothing to do with that line item. We started putting a fund
34 for meter replacements; this is a line item. We have installed over 200 meters with this line item
35 which was part of the grant match.

36
37 Mayor Barraza responded we had money set aside in the line item for water meter replacement
38 based on the Water Audit. The town was losing revenue due to the faulty meters. During the
39 first round 200 water meters were purchased. A line item was set up and during the budget cycle
40 money was set aside for water meter replacement. Ms. Lujan received a grant through the Water
41 Trust Board to replace 400 water meters so we will not be using the money set aside for water
42 meter replacements since the cost will be covered. The budget line item was used for the grants
43 match so all the meters in the Town of Mesilla will be replaced. The first time we had the
44 money and we purchased them; second time Ms. Lujan was awarded a grant from the Water
45 Trust Board and Environmental Department for the remainder of the money needed to replace all
46 the meters, \$265,000.

47
48 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated so the money that will be used to purchase vehicles is the money
49 that has been set aside so we will not be getting ourselves into a situation.

1
2 Ms. Lujan responded we are not increasing her budget.

3
4 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if the \$151,000 will be coming from that fund.

5
6 Mayor Barraza responded it will come out of the line item from that fund and the line item that
7 was used to purchase the Asphalt Zipper which had a payment of \$27,000. That money has
8 always been kept in the budget available to purchase equipment for Public Works without having
9 to do budget increases.

10
11 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked are we going to put ourselves in a situation that by purchasing 5
12 vehicles instead of 3 that if something happens we will not have funds to purchase equipment.

13
14 Mayor Barraza responded they thought of that. The money currently being used for vehicle
15 repairs will be freed up. It will be able to accumulate itself. Mr. Younker mentioned it is on a
16 daily bases that vehicles need repair.

17
18 Mr. Younker stated one of the vehicle's gear shifts broke. He has been trying to do some of the
19 repairs himself in order to save the town money.

20
21 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated it sounds like a safety issue.

22
23 Trustee Flores asked if they really need 5 vehicles as she often sees 2 employees in one vehicle.
24 We have the Asset Manager Plan and recommends spacing the purchase of vehicles so they are
25 not aging all at the same rate.

26
27 Ms. Lujan responded we do spread the employees out. If we get 3 vehicles then we will continue
28 to pay for repairs on the older vehicles.

29
30 Trustee Flores stated she is also concerned with interest rates going up.

31
32 Mayor Barraza responded to Trustees Flores concern that if we purchase 5 vehicles now will we
33 be replacing them all at the same time once they are paid off; will look at replacing on a rotation
34 basis. There are currently 5 Public Works employees and have 2 openings. We can get more
35 work from the employees when they do not have to be in teams.

36
37 Ms. Lujan stated the custodial employee is using a car to get around.

38
39 Mr. Younkers responded a safety issues is that one of the vehicles has a manual transmission
40 which some of our employees do not know how to drive.

41
42 Ms. Lujan stated she uses her own vehicle so that the staff can use the truck; her own fuel and
43 mileage.

44
45 Trustee Caro stated it is nice to see that we have funds but he is uncomfortable spending
46 \$152,000 for 5 vehicles at one time. He is willing to purchase 2 vehicles at this time; to go and
47 spend this much money could put us in jeopardy. It is nice to have money to cover emergencies.
48 Next year will be better; we can approve another couple of vehicles next year.

1 Mayor Barraza responded we have a reserve fund to address those types of emergencies so we do
2 not have to tap into the Water Fund.

3
4 Ms. Lujan stated we will not spend \$151,000 in 1 year; this is a 5 year loan.

5
6 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is thinking of the Asset Management Plan and the safety of
7 the employees who may also need vehicles.

8
9 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded these vehicles will be funded out of the Enterprise Fund; her
10 vehicles will be funded out of the General Fund. If we go for a loan it will need to be on a
11 separate application. This next budget cycle she will look at how much a car will cost for
12 administration.

13
14 Mayor Barraza stated the current administration vehicles are in good enough shape to get around
15 town if the budget does not allow for new vehicles.

16
17 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he will make a motion to approve as he is concerned with the
18 interest rate going up. He asked if this passes what are we doing with the old vehicles and has
19 anyone thought of the increase in insurance.

20
21 Ms. Lujan responded we have considered those things.

22
23 Mayor Barraza responded there will not be a budget increase.

24
25 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2018-01: A resolution authorizing and approving**
26 **submission of completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the**
27 **New Mexico Finance Authority, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**
28 **Flores.**

29
30 Trustee Johnson-Burick appreciates everything Mr. Younker is doing for the town.

31
32 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4; Nay=1).**

33 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

34 **Trustee Caro Nay**

35 **Trustee Flores Yes**

36 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

37
38 Mayor Barraza thanked the board for their support; staff will be very appreciative. This was
39 long overdue.

40
41 **d. Resolution 2018-02: A resolution authorizing the Finance Department to write off**
42 **bad debt/accounts receivables. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**
43 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated Ms. Mariscal has done a great job of staying on top of insuring
44 accounts are paid on a timely manner. If they are not then Ms. Maya sends them to collections.
45 Staff has attempted to collect but do no avail. These accounts will be written off but will remain
46 in our system in the event the applicant comes back to open service. The bad debt will need to
47 be paid before services can be connected.

1 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2018-02: A resolution authorizing the Finance Department**
2 **to write off bad debt/accounts receivables, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by**
3 **Trustee Flores.**

4
5 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked Ms. Mariscal and staff for doing such a great job.

6
7 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

8 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

9 **Trustee Caro Yes**

10 **Trustee Flores Yes**

11 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

12
13 **8. *STAFF REPORTS:**

14 Community Development

15 Community Programs

16 Finance Department

17 Fire Department

18 Marshal's Department

19 Public Works Department

20
21 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/ STAFF COMMENTS**

22 Trustee Flores stated there is a MPO survey regarding traffic flow. She is no longer the MPO
23 chair. The new chair will be enforcing the rules of the bylaws. If a member misses 5% of the
24 meetings they will be requesting that we send a new person. We will be discussing changes in
25 the bylaws at the next meeting. She recommended that a member should be able to send a staff
26 member when we cannot attend. There was a recommendation to change the ratio by increasing
27 City of Las Cruces and decreasing the Town of Mesilla. She informed that is in in the parameters
28 of what the federal government allows in the rules of MPOs; that is a strong argument. She is
29 sorry she cannot support a raise which she wanted to do before she leaves the board. We have to
30 be financial responsible.

31
32 Trustee Caro congratulated staff on the audit. He welcomed Mr. Younker and for the work he is
33 doing.

34
35 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he was here when the town was not in good position. He hopes
36 that we look at a COLA for employees in 2018-2019 budget and what was discussed today is
37 true with regards to the vehicles.

38
39 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked Ms. Krueger for bringing up the grant money, \$30,000 that was
40 awarded. She will be happy to be a part of the planning committee. Thanked Ms. Krueger for
41 the library. She gave kudos to Mr. Matthew Rivera and his positive display of service to the
42 community. Ms. Parra does a great job but she was approached by 3 businesses who wished
43 they would get advanced notice regarding events. She knows Ms. Parra does a tremendous job
44 in reaching out to the businesses. She asked if Bowman belongs to Mesilla and are there any
45 plans for that. She stated great job on the audit. She has a call into the NMSU Department of
46 Business in maybe doing occupation study for the staff; will work with the mayor.

47
48 Ms. Lujan responded the legislators are supporting the \$283,000 to repair Bowman. We are
49 hoping the governor does not veto it.

1
2 Mayor Barraza stated offices will be closed Monday, February 19 in honor of President's Day.
3 She will be attending a Military Pavilion Luncheon tomorrow. Early voting begins on
4 Wednesday, February 14th. She would like to add committee reports to the agenda as each
5 trustee is involved in a committee or committees. Sometimes our business owners do not check
6 their emails or spam as Ms. Parra does a great job in reaching out to the business owners. Good
7 job to the Finance Department for a job well done. She thanked Mr. Younkers for adding to our
8 concerns regarding the vehicles.

9
10 Ms. Lujan stated we have a new playground at Commemorative Park.

11
12 Fire Chief Hoban stated the Fire Station host events over the years and we are more than happy
13 to assist again. There has been communication among Ms. Krueger, Mr. Townsend and himself;
14 we enjoy being a part of that.

15
16 Marshal Alberg stated we want to partnership with everyone and have written a letter of support.
17 We want to make TNR a part of Mesilla; looking at getting public support to get these programs
18 off the ground. Mr. Brice will be volunteering. A worksession will help to get public input.

19
20 Mayor Barraza stated she had the opportunity to visit with someone that is a pet lover. She is
21 active in fund raising and offered her help in whatever we need to do raise money to enhance the
22 dog parks. We need to have a community meeting to educate, which is very important, our
23 residents regarding feral cats.

24
25 Marshal Alberg stated with these programs the colonies will collapse but it will take a while.

26
27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is willing to help in any way.

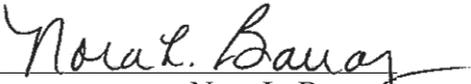
28
29 Ms. Parra congratulated Public Works for securing raises and new vehicles this fiscal year which
30 were needed. The concern right now is being physically responsible. When she sees the town
31 spending over \$30,000 on new events and promotions which we hope to see the benefits of, plus
32 the money we have spent on rehiring and retaining staff that are no longer with us; she wonders
33 how physically responsible that is. When you have employees that are dedicated, loyal, work
34 hard and go out of the way to do their job, you should invest in those employees. She hopes that
35 there are ways within the budget to accommodate for those raises. Last year around June when
36 she was given a partial raise she was told to look within her budget to find dollars without
37 increasing it penny she could get the raise. She found those dollars but she did not receive the
38 full raise she had requested. She will never forget her first trustee meeting; the board was voting
39 to cut her position salary. It was not a reflection of her work as she had just started but to pay for
40 other things. She took that as an opportunity to demonstrate the work she was capable of doing
41 and exceeding that. The people that she works with do that every day as well. Hopes the board
42 will consider going back through the current budget to accommodate a raise for the employees.
43 It was a windy day for The Love Art event; traffic was slower than usual. There were 23
44 vendors signed up; only 15 showed up.

45
46 Fire Chief Hoban stated the lights on the west and south side of the Community Center are very
47 nice.

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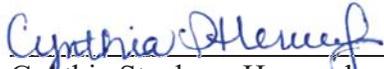
10. ADJOURNMENT
The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT
APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

