

Town of Rico Memorandum

Date: October 9th, 2017

TO: Town of Rice Board of Trustees
FROM: Kari Distefano, Rico Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report

Update on the Rico / San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation

On Thursday November 9th, the San Miguel County Authority for Regional Transit ratified the purchase of a van for what they are calling the Southern Route. It is a roomy ten-passenger van that will leave Rico in time to get to Telluride at 8:00 AM and leave Telluride around 5:15 to 5:30 PM depending on demand. It is now up to the citizens of Rico to make use of it. The details are still being worked out, but it will likely operate like the San Miguel County van that serves Ridgway. Volunteers with clean driving records drive the Ridgway van. I have had some interest, but I am still looking for drivers. I have been asked if the drivers of the Rico van could get paid. This is a little more complicated but it could be worked out. There will be a small charge to commuters for use of the van. The Ridgway van costs \$2.00 a trip, a trip being one way. In an effort to encourage ridership, I would like to offer monthly passes that would be cheaper than the daily fee. Something to consider; the average passenger car gets 23.6 miles per gallon. The average cost of a gallon of gas in Colorado is \$2.56. Using those numbers, the cost of a round trip to in a private automobile Telluride is on average \$6.51. This number does not include any maintenance costs. If you use the IRS cost per mile estimate of 53.5 cents per mile, a round trip to Telluride costs \$32.10. Even if there is a charge of \$2.50 per van ride (\$5.00 round trip), van users will save money.

Lanning Minor Subdivision

Carol Viner, our town attorney has drafted a revocable license agreement. A copy of this agreement is included in this packet. With a signature from the Rico Board of Trustees on this license agreement, I am recommending that we approve the Lanning request for a minor subdivision and the associated variances.

First Reading for the Adoption of the Year 2018 Budget

A copy of the budget resolution is included in this packet for your approval.

Sewer and water system planning grant applications

While Marjo Curgus is still working on the summary from the community meeting that took place on November 2nd, it was abundantly clear that Rico residents are concerned about infrastructure. I am working on two grant applications. One is with the Department of Local Affairs. If successful, this grant would help us fund a preliminary engineering report on a central sewer system for the commercial core. This grant application is due at the end of the month. It requires a formal endorsement from the board. I believe that the adoption of the budget with funding allocations for this project fulfills that requirement but I would like a statement at this meeting since the grant application is due on the first of December.

I am also working on an application for an engineering system analysis for our water system through the Dolores County Water Conservancy District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This proposal is included in the Board Packet for your review.

Rico School

This year the Rico Elementary School attendance has dropped to seven students, four of whom are pre-school children. This drop has sparked the renewal of the conversation between the Dolores County School District and the Telluride R-1 School District regarding the future Rico Elementary. I attended a meeting with the superintendents of both schools at the end of last month to discuss possible outcomes. I have invited them to our November meeting. They have said that they will try to attend. I believe that if the two districts make the decision to close the school, we should advocate for some community use of the building that maintains the option of reopening it as a school sometime in the future should our population increase to the point that we could again support an elementary school.

I took a look at the Dolores County School District budget for 2016 - 2017 and 2017 - 2018 and what had been budgeted for Rico Elementary. In the 2016 - 2017 budget, the Dolores School District budgeted \$97,800 for teachers and other administrative costs, \$1500 for principal administrative costs and \$45,000 for Building Maintenance for a total of \$144,300. In the 2017 - 2018 budget, it was less - \$76,500. I think the 2017 - 2018 summary accessible on the web site may have left some things out.

According to the 2016 Abstract of Assessments and Levies in Dolores County, the mill levy for the Dolores County School District is 18.559. A 18.559 mill levy means that there are \$18.559 dollars allocated to the School District for every \$1000 of property valuation. The assessed valuation for Rico for this year is \$5,481,674. That means to calculate the number of tax dollars from Rico that go to the school district, you multiply \$5,481,674 times .018559 or divide \$5,481,674 by \$1000 and then multiply the answer by \$18.559. Either way you get \$101,734.39. This is how much the Rico taxpayers put into the School budget. We should consider this in our discussion.

Tim Regan Plat Amendment

Tim Regan is still trying to sell his property in the Hancock Subdivision. An outstanding issue continues to be a note on the recorded plat that references “institutional controls”. Specifically it states “The property owner(s) shall comply with the requirements of institutional controls once adopted.” Mr. Regan would like to record a plat amendment that would eliminate this note. His rational is that it is an encumbrance on his land. I want to discuss this because I am unfamiliar with the history behind the note and I don’t want to tell him to go to the expense of producing a plat amendment if it is not going to pass a review by the Board of Trustees. A copy of the plat is included in this packet.

Mine Shaft Building Rico Land Use Code Violation

In the process of revising the Rico Land Use Code, it has come to my attention that the owners of the Mine Shaft Building are currently in violation of a provision of the Commercial Historic District. Specifically the following: 246. HC – Historic Commercial District Design Regulations; “The design regulations for the HC Zone

District require a street level, pedestrian oriented commercial space on the front of the structure, referred to as ‘Street Front.’ The question is; do we want to enforce this and if so how?

2018 Work Plan

I think that it would be a good idea to spend some time in the next month or so to develop a work plan for 2018. This will help me prioritize my activities as well as keep them in alignment with our community mandate. We will be hosting a follow up community meeting sometime in January and a work plan that reflects the outcome of the first community meeting would be a good way to illustrate to the residents that we have heard their concerns and are endeavoring to move forward.