

1 **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TAOS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD**
2 **OF EDUCATION AND THE TOWN OF TAOS COUNCIL**
3 **JOINT SESSION**
4 **Celestino Romero Board Room**
5 **213 Paseo del Canon**
6 **Taos, New Mexico 87571**
7 **Monday, February 11, 2008**
8 **5:30 P.M.**

9
10 **MINUTES**

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12
13 **1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN ARSENIO**
14 **CORDOVA AND THE HONORABLE MAYOR BOBBY F. DURAN**

15
16 **2. CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting** of the Taos Town Council was called to
17 order by the **Honorable Mayor Bobby F. Duran** at **5:35 p.m.**

18
19 **3. ROLL CALL: Mrs. Joella Gallegos, Deputy Town Clerk** called roll and a quorum
20 was present.

21
22 Those present were **Mayor Bobby F. Duran, Councilmembers Meliton Struck,**
23 **Rudy Abeyta and Darren Cordova.** Also present were **Town Manager Tomas**
24 **Benavidez, Town Attorney Renee Barela Gutierrez** and **Deputy Town Clerk**
25 **Joella Gallegos.**

26
27 **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Mayor Duran** led the audience in
28 the pledge of allegiance.

29
30 **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** President Arsenio Cordova requested to add the
31 discussion of site for city disposal of snow at the Guadalupe Parking lot under item of
32 Discussion of Use of Proposed Facilities.

33
34 **School Board Member Patrick Romero** made a motion to approve the Agenda as
35 amended. **Councilmember Cordova** seconded the motion. The motion carried
36 unanimously.

37
38 **6. PUBLIC FORUM**

39 No discussion

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41
42 **7. JOINT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

43
44 **Mayor Duran** introduced staff from the Town of Taos that were present.

45 **A. Discussion about Future Planning.**
46

1 **Town Manager Benavidez** informed the board that the Town would like to
2 work with the schools with challenges and issues that the community faces.
3 Town Manager stated that there is funding available to bring speakers into
4 the schools to address the concerns of the students. He asked President
5 Arsenio Cordova if he might have any speakers in mind. Town Manager
6 and Superintendent Dr. Delong will work on list of speakers to present to
7 Council and Board at next meeting.

8
9 **Councilmember Cordova** recommended bringing Crime Stoppers into the
10 schools. He stated that he is willing to assist with this event.

11
12 **Town Manager Benavidez** informed Council and Taos School Board that
13 on March 8 through March 12, Mayor Duran, himself and Lorraine Coca-
14 Ruiz would be attending a conference in Washington with the NLC
15 (National League of Cities). He stated that he can retrieve a list of speakers
16 from NLC.

17
18 **B. Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.**

19
20 **Mayor Duran** introduced the members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory
21 Council. Arturo Suazo, Renee Fresquez, Jenee Barela, Sonya Anaya.
22 Mayor Duran gave a brief overview of the Mayor's Youth Advisory
23 Council. He asked for approval for academic credit for their participation.

24
25 **President Arsenio Cordova** stated that to receive high school credit for
26 their participation they would have to adopt a policy. He stated that this
27 would also have to be done under the supervision of a certified teacher who
28 would require assignments from the students. The students would have to
29 show how they are going to accomplish goals.

30
31 **Councilmember Abeyta** agrees with Mayor Duran in seeking approval. He
32 stated that as part of a lesson plan, if they are required to attend meetings
33 then they should be required to write a report.

34
35 **Town Manager Benavidez** stated that there was already a model in place.
36 He stated that there is money in the budget so that the youth council can
37 partake in trainings, like attending NLC and collaborate with other students.
38 He suggested that this be a government program, not only to learn about the
39 government but also to attend and report back to people.

40
41 **Mayor Duran** suggested that the students get in involved with National
42 Leadership of Hispanic Elected Officials.

43
44 **Dr. Delong** commended the students that belong to the Mayor's Youth
45 Advisory Council. She stated that she is hoping to have a mechanism in
46 place to allow these students to earn credit starting next school year.

1
2 **Councilmember Cordova** stated that as a business owner he feels there
3 needs to be benchmarks and goals. The youth seeking internships have to
4 show more responsibility. He would like to see the students bring to council
5 more interest as well as what they want to see Taos become. He stated that
6 there needs to be dialogue.

7
8 Several of the student council members stated that there be a survey sent out
9 to schools so that students may express their concerns as well as their needs.

10
11 **Councilmember Abeyta** stated that he feels that this is still in the infancy
12 stages. He stated that there needs to be more dialogue. He also stated that
13 there needs to be more diversity.

14
15 **Town Manager Benavidez** informed the council on the accomplishments
16 of the youth council.

17
18 **Councilmember Cordova** asked the youth council to set goals to get their
19 membership up and present this to the council at the March Council
20 meeting.

21
22 **C. Discussion of Use of Proposed Facilities.**

- 23
24 **1. Town of Taos' Master Plan for a Sports Complex on the Old Gravel**
25 **Pit Property.**
26 **2. Taos Schools' use of the Salazar Property.**

27
28 **Town Manger Benavidez** informed the council and school board on a
29 grant that was received from NIKE. He stated that he would like to
30 collaborate to build a soccer field on Taos Municipal School property.
31 He asked if the school board could identify a location to do this.

32
33 **Councilmember Abeyta** stated that the Town and the Schools each
34 have their own design for a sports complex and he feels that they need to
35 join forces and combine the monies and work together to ensure services
36 are not being duplicated.

37
38 **Mayor Duran** stated that he has been approached by the Senior
39 Baseball Leagues. They want to see Taos as a sports destination. He
40 stated that the Town and the Schools have property that can be utilized
41 for these complexes.

42
43 **Councilmember Cordova** stated that an Athletic Complex Board needs
44 to be put in place so that they can define these needs with the Council
45 and the School Board so things can move forward.

1 **Mayor Duran** stated that there is funding and property available for the
2 athletic complexes. There needs to be plan so we can move forward.

3
4 **Councilmember Abeyta** stated that he would like to see the properties
5 available and wants to make sure that this property is not being used for
6 the Affordable Housing Program.

7
8 **Town Manager Benavidez** stated that there is already property marked
9 for the Affordable Housing Program.

10
11 **3. Site Disposal for Guadalupe Parking Lot.**

12
13 **President Arsenio Cordova**, stated that the Town of Taos had been
14 piling snow up in the Guadalupe Parking Lot where students are dropped
15 off. He stated that the schools had property off Salazar and the town
16 was more than welcome to dump the snow there.

17
18 **Town Manager Benavidez**, asked for permission to plant seed on the
19 Salazar property where the snow is going to be dumped.

20
21 **President Arsenio Cordova**, stated that would be fine.

22
23 **4. Utilizing the Town of Taos Youth and Family Center for School**
24 **Recreation and extended class room instruction for a wellness a**
25 **program to address the issue of obesity.**

26
27 **Miranda Quintana, Youth and Family Center Superintendent**,
28 reported that the Town of Taos has sponsored the Discovery Summer
29 Program in conjunction with the Taos schools. The Town of Taos did
30 provide some funding for this program, however they would like to
31 discuss the way the funding is being utilized. The Town is asking to be
32 allowed to handle all of the accounting which would help with the
33 administration costs for the program, therefore making more funds
34 available for the program. Taos schools will continue to oversee the
35 interview process for hiring staff. Breakfast and lunch will still be
36 provided by the school. The program will be an eight week program and
37 will serve 150 children.

38
39 **5. Summer Camp- Use of School campus. Town will allocate money**
40 **towards Camp in the amount of \$25,000. Discovery will work with**
41 **Youth and Family Center Staff.**

42
43 **Miranda Quintana, Youth and Family Center Superintendent**,
44 reported that the Town of Taos sponsors a Swim Straight Program they
45 would like to coordinate with the schools and then implement a program
46 to teach elementary age children to swim. These lessons would take

1 place once a week for one hour for five consecutive weeks at no cost to
2 the school children. Transportation will need to be provided

3
4 **President Arsenio Cordova** brought up concerns about the liability
5 with the transportation.

6
7 **Town Manager Benavidez** asked if it would be possible to transport in
8 the Town buses.

9
10 **Esther Winters Transportation Director** reported that the students
11 must be transported by a yellow school bus. She stated that this was a
12 law that had been passed through the New Mexico State Public
13 Education.

14
15 **Town Manager Benavidez** asked her to provide him with the New
16 Mexico State Public Education specifications in regards to buses.

17
18 **D. Discussion of Possible Dates to Hold an Education and Youth Summit.**

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20 **1. Organizations and Entities to Invite**

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22 **2. Formation of Planning Committee**

23
24 **Superintendent Dr. DeLong** expressed the need for an education and
25 youth summit to bring various organizations in the community together.
26 She stated that we have to come up with a plan so we can utilize these
27 resources to improve the community for our students. The summit could
28 tentatively be scheduled in April and possibly at the Town of Taos Civic
29 Center. People can showcase what they do, with a round table
30 discussion to follow.

31
32 **Town Manager Benavidez** recommended that the town and board get
33 together to form a committee, and start the planning process.

34
35 **8. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Councilmember Cordova** and
36 seconded by **Board member Lorraine Coca-Ruiz** to adjourn the meeting. The
37 motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **7:30 p.m.**

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41 **APPROVED:**

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44 **Bobby F. Duran Mayor**
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1 **ATTEST:**

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5 **Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**