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3 **JOINT MEETING**
4 **Town of Taos Council & Taos County Board of Commissioner's**
5 **Rio Grande Hall- Room A**
6 **121 Civic Plaza Dr., Taos, New Mexico**
7 **Monday March 24, 2008**
8 **9:00 a.m.**

9
10 **MINUTES**

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12
13 **1. CALL TO ORDER:** The Special Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to
14 order by the **Honorable Mayor Bobby F. Duran and Chairman Charlie I.**
15 **Gonzales at 9:14 a.m.**

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17 **2. Roll Call:** Ms. Renee Lucero, Town Clerk, called roll and a quorum was present.

18
19 Those present were Mayor Bobby F. Duran, Councilmembers Rudy Abeyta,
20 Eugene Sanchez and Amy J. Quintana. Also present were Interim Town
21 Manager Abigail Adame, Town Attorney Renee Barela Gutierrez and Town
22 Clerk Renee Lucero. Absent was Councilmember Darren Cordova due to
23 attendance at the New Mexico Municipal League District Meeting in Los
24 Alamos.

25
26 **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Linda Calhoun, Mayor Red River led the
27 audience in the pledge of allegiance.

28
29 **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Councilmember Abeyta made a motion to approve
30 the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The
31 motion carried unanimously.

32
33 **5. Presentation:** North Central Regional Transportation District- Josette Lucero
34 Ms. Josette Lucero explained that the North Central Regional Transportation District
35 (NCRTD) provides public transportation throughout North Central New Mexico.
36 NCRTD is proposing a 3/16 % GRT that would generate \$11,932,910 for the district.
37 In Taos County the GRT would generate \$1,110,629. The proposed GRT will be
38 used to expand the program by purchasing capital equipment such as buses and vans
39 and for operation for the entire district.
40

1 Mr. Jack Valencia explained the process for getting the item on a ballot for the
2 election in November. If the GRT passes, tax collections would occur in July of
3 2009. Mr. Valencia went over the handouts which includes the Regional Transit
4 Statute and a sample ordinance.

5
6 Ms. Linda Trujillo explained the plans for the expansion and described how the routes
7 will be expanded between Penasco and Taos; Questa and Taos; and Espanola and
8 Taos. Each route will be expanded from 2-3 round trips per day to 15 roundtrips per
9 day.

10
11 Councilmember Sanchez asked if all other costs have been figured out yet.

12
13 Ms. Trujillo stated that an example of the fees that are set are \$2 from Taos to
14 Espanola and \$2 from Espanola to Santa Fe.

15
16 There was a discussion on how the tax would pass. Jack Valencia explained if a
17 majority of the voters in the district voting on the question approves the ordinance
18 imposing the tax, the ordinance shall become affective.

19
20 Commissioner Gonzales asked how this would affect the Chili Line.

21
22 Ms. Lucero explained that a prior Council passed the resolution to become part of the
23 Regional Transit District. She stated that the NCRTD would coordinate with the
24 Chili Line or it could be merged with the Chili Line. It is the Council's decision.

25
26 Mark Basham, Attorney for NCRTD, stated that the County has 75 days to adopt the
27 ordinance.

28
29 Commissioner Barrone asked if the County could withdraw now.

30
31 Mr. Valencia stated that the board of the NCRTD would have to approve the
32 withdrawal. 2/3 of the board members would need to approve the withdrawal.

33
34 Commissioner Gonzales stated that a decision needs to be made soon. This is a long-
35 term decision. We're determining the future of transportation for Taos County.

36
37 Taos County Attorney Sammy Pacheco stated that the voting strength will be divided
38 throughout the County. He asked if the GRT passes how will the NCRTD justify
39 supplanting the Chili Line's services.

40
41 Ms. Lucero stated that every entity will need to decide how we collaborate. The plan
42 is not to supplant anybody else's services.

43
44 The Commissioners and Councilmembers decided to review the materials that were
45 presented and discuss them at a later date.

46

1 **6. Joint Matter for Discussion and Possible Action:**

2
3 **A. Alternative Transportation Advisory Committee- Matthew Foster, Long Range**
4 **Planner**

5
6 Matthew Foster discussed the creation of the Alternative Transportation Advisory
7 Committee. He asked the County for support by passing a resolution.

8
9 **B. Update on Public Restrooms at Old County Courthouse – Abigail Adame, Asst.**
10 **Town Manager**

11
12 Mauro Rosales, Town of Taos Buildings Director, stated the Town is in the
13 process of contracting with Lee Gamelsky and is waiting for signatures. The
14 contract includes architectural services and design drawings.

15
16 Commissioner Gonzales asked what the timeline is.

17
18 Mr. Rosales stated that the construction documents will go out to bid in July when
19 funding is available.

20
21 Commissioner Gonzales asked if restrooms will be available by the Fiestas.

22
23 Mayor Duran stated that they will not be ready, but there will be porta-potties
24 available by the Alley Cantina.

25
26 Mr. Rosales stated that construction will be ready once the new fiscal year begins.
27 Existing tenants will not be affected.

28
29 Councilmember Abeyta asked Interim Town Manager Adame and Mr. Rosales to
30 check to see if there is any funding in the current budget so that construction can
31 begin sooner rather than in July.

32
33 Commissioner Barrone asked to be invited to the site visits and also wants to be
34 involved in the process.

35
36 **C. Discussion on Road's:**

37 Francisco "French" Espinoza, Town of Taos Public Works Director, gave the
38 following briefing on road projects:

39
40 **1. Ranchitos Rd.**

41 Upper Ranchitos Road has some funding to proceed at the stretch from SR240
42 and Highway 64. He submitted a grant application for improvements to the
43 bridge at the Rio Pueblo. The Town applied for legislative funding but was
44 not awarded.

45
46 **2. Chamisa Rd**

1 Currently the road is paved up to the Agricultural Center. The staff is
2 continuing with cleaning and grubbing the road to where the town limits end.
3 They will be done within 30 days.
4

5 **3. Este Es Rd**

6 No new information on this road although the Town does have a Coop project
7 with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for \$300,000 for roadway
8 and infrastructure. He will give an estimate to the Council and Commission as
9 to how far the funding will go. He also has funding to build Morgan Road.
10

11 **4. Los Pandos Rd.**

12 This road has been obliterated and base course has been placed by County
13 crews.
14

15 Mike Trujillo, Taos County Public Works Director, stated that the road has not
16 been obliterated. It has been base coursed.
17

18 Commissioner Barrone commended Mr. Espinoza for taking care of the roads and
19 working with the County. Ranchitos Road needs repairs to the potholes.
20

21 Commissioner Gonzales stated that he saw plans that showed that Salazar Road
22 will be extending to Chamisa Road. He asked Mr. Espinoza if this was going to
23 happen.
24

25 Mr. Espinoza stated that that the Council accepted the dedication at the last
26 Council meeting and that road will be connected to the Agricultural Center.
27

28 **7. Spay/Neuter Project Update:** Beverly Armijo, Taos County PIO and Paul Martinez,
29 Town Animal Control Officer

30 Julia Valerio, Taos County Manager, stated that the next spay/neuter event is
31 happening April 25 – 27, 2008. The Town and the County are working
32 collaboratively to find a location. The event will be advertised once the details are
33 worked out.
34

35 **8. Citizens Forum:**

36 **A. Wholly Rags- Melissa Larson & group (15 min Total)**

37 Sandra Richards stated that \$30,000 was received for plastic recycling for the
38 County for a bailer. There is a huge support base in Taos for recycling. More
39 money is needed. They would like to get a compost yard to save waste from
40 going to the landfill. She requested that the Town charge \$50/ton at landfill and
41 have \$5 go toward recycling programs. She also wants to see a building
42 dedicated to housing the bailer. She requested that a representative from the
43 Town and the County attend recycling meetings. She stated that she is in support
44 of banning plastic bags.
45

1 Melissa Larson stated that they do not want to appear confrontational. They
2 appreciate the Commissioners and Councilmembers allowing them to speak. She
3 feels if the town charges more at the landfill then more people will recycle. She
4 feels that customers should be charged by weight instead of using punch-cards.

5
6 Councilmember Sanchez stated that an editorial in the journal north pointed out
7 that Santa Fe's landfill has gone down by 25% because of recycling. This is
8 important because it extends the life of the cells. They are always filled with
9 construction material. He'd like to see a joint meeting scheduled to address this
10 issue. He is behind recycling 100%.

11
12 The Council and Commission directed County Manager Valerio and Interim
13 Town Manager Adame to schedule a meeting in the future to discuss this issue.

14
15 **9. Proposed Date of Next Meeting:** April 30, 2008 a.m. Town of Taos Council
16 Chambers

17
18 **10. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Commissioner Charlie Gonzales and**
19 **seconded by Councilmember Quintana** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried
20 unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **12:15 p.m.**

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24 **APPROVED:**

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26 _____
27 **Bobby F. Duran Mayor**

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29
30 **ATTEST:**

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32 _____
33 **Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**