

**TOWN OF COCHITI LAKE  
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING  
JANURARY 28, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kiesling called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Assembly members in attendance were Ken Kiesling, Freda Donica, Tony Da Silva, Willy Ryan, Linda Bradshaw.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Willy Ryan moved for the approval of the agenda as presented.

**It was seconded by Linda Bradshaw and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Freda Donica moved for the approval of minutes of October 29, 2009 as presented.

**It was seconded by Willy Ryan and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.**

**II. TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Administrator Reports**

Administrator Mary Wheeler reported that 2009 was another good year for the Town. Another clean audit, with no material faults. There are still concerns with our investments and stale checks, and cited an overpayment of an invoice as “findings.” The audit is 35 pages, and a copy of the audit is available for \$3.50. The fiscal budget ending June 2009 was within the proper limits, and we did not overspend on accounts. Property tax was kept at the same level for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. There are still some residents who haven’t paid the 09-10 taxes, due on the 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec, and will be receiving a reminder. We hired a new employee for the Town Treasurer position, a woman with 20 years experience at the DFA. She is a valuable asset to the Town. We received an unexpected lump sum of over \$10,000 from an old annuity taken out sometime in the 1980s. We did have to deal with some vandalism. If anything is amiss, or suspicious, please call the Sandoval County Sheriff. If you can possibly get any descriptions or license plates, that would be very helpful. Dogs continue to be a point of contention. Please be respectful to your neighbors, in both talk and deed. DSL finally came to town. Mary also stated that she has been Town Administrator for 5 years, and thanked first the Assembly, who have supported, and given her respect , by listening to her, letting her speak her mind, and on occasion, disagreeing with them. The Assemblies, under the leadership of Freda, Tony, and now Ken, have brought unprecented fiscal carefulness, dignify, and responsibly to the Town. Mary thanks too the residents who also gave her a chance to prove herself, and to mend the relationship between the Town and themselves. You have been generous beyond words, and she is very grateful. Thanks was given to her employees, who are first rate, hard working, honest people who all work together to have an efficient, responsive and friendly Town Hall. Mary thanked everyone for their support.

## **2. Art Guild**

Marsha Mitchell, President of the Art Guild stated that they sponsored an art show and sale at the New Community Center for the benefit of the Artists who had items to sell before Christmas. 28 artists participated in the show. The Art Guild has been allocating their funds. \$200 has gone to a special program that Christy Riker handles at Cochiti Elementary School, \$300 for the Art program at Cochiti Elementary, \$300 each to Head Start Programs in Santo Domingo and Cochiti Pueblo's, \$1,000 to the Irene Sweetkind Public Library. The Art Guild decided to fund the music presentation for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The January program was with Suzanne Guy who works with the media and recently moved to the Town of Cochiti Lake. February 2<sup>nd</sup> program will host Tina Santiago who is Native American and lives in Pueblo De Cochiti who does bead work and basketry. Marsha stated that anyone can attend an Art Guild meeting that are held on Tuesdays in the Library at 7pm.

## **3. Memorial Park Committee**

No Report was given.

## **4. Cochiti Lake Redevelopment Planning Committee**

No report was given.

## **5. Community Fund Committee**

Chair of the Board, Julie Cresswell of the Community Fund stated that they have \$40,000 in funds. Friends of Cochiti Lake repaid Grants to Community Fund. Community Fund offers grants to individuals as well as to organizations of the Town of Cochiti Lake. In 2009 \$3,500 in grants were awarded to individuals in need, an organizational grant in the amount of \$1,500 and \$600 in memorial grants. Julie explained the process of filing a grant. A person or organization can pick up an application from the Library and if needed, help from Community Fund Members. All applications are strictly confidential. If there is anyone in need, please let the Community Fund help. Community Fund has no personal, social or political agenda. Julie stated that there will be an election on April 13, 2010 to fill 3 vacancies on the Board which will occur the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Community Fund will post a notice in the mailroom, with space for 6 applications. Filing deadline is March 16, 2010.

## **6. Desert Paws**

No report was given.

## **7. Election Board**

No report was given.

## **8. Fire Department**

Mary Wheeler represented the Fire Department stating that at the end of 2009 there were 403 EMS and Ambulance calls, of those 211 were cancelled, either in route or on scene. The Town itself had 39 calls, which were 21 transports and 4 intercepts with paramedics out of Bernalillo, about 10% of calls. 9% of the calls are from a combination of the Pueblo and Cochiti Elementary School. 16% from Pena Blanca,

3% from Sile, 48% from Santo Domingo or San Felipe and the remaining 13% from I25 and hwy 16. Mary reminded everyone that Pena Blanca has a Rescue Unit that is staffed with First Responders that can treat people but cannot transport, they also have a very active Fire Department. The Cochiti Lake Fire Department had 87 fire calls last year, none were structure fires. If you are worried that your furnace leaks carbon monoxide the Fire Department has a monitor to check the levels. VFD is always in need of volunteers; if anyone is interested please stop by the Fire Hall.

## **9. Hospitality**

No report was given.

## **10. Joint Commission**

Jim Hamilton stated that he and Lukas Garrett have completed their second year on the Joint Commission. In 2008 the Commission met 5 times and in 2009 they met 2 times. The Joint Commission would like to meet monthly. In November the Commission met in regards to the Loon Court Day Care Center, completion of the road repair project, request for monthly water quality reports or at least updated annually and questions about parking. Jim stated that the Joint Commission is a group whose decisions are nonbinding, they are an advisory group. With the new Governor, Jim is optimistic for the New Year. When scheduling the February meeting, an item for the Agenda was to discuss the long range plans for the sewer system for the Town, which is over forty years old. The Joint Commission retained an engineering firm to assess the water and sewer system. The engineers will present the assessment to the Directors of CCDC that took close to a year to complete. Jim presented the preliminary report from a firm called Miller Engineering. The Engineering firm has come up with a three phase plan only addressing the sewer system at this time. The firm camera studied the entire system and pinpointed areas that they felt were more critical than others and are completing the same for the hydrology report for the water system. With such a large area there is concern of water loss. Jim stated that there are 28,124 linear feet of sewer lines 8 and 10 inch lines, some PVC, mostly clay. Clay pipe is joined with an asbestos type rope. Over the years the joints have become eroded and riddled with roots. Guesstimates for the phases are at least \$500,000 to \$600,000 each phase. The first phase is important to address soon, on Tahawash and the arroyo line behind Vooscane. Phase one will include Vooscane down past curb and over to the main line at Hoochaneetsa and Cochiti Hwy known as the lift where elevation changes take place. The first phase will also include a dragging out and a hydro blast of the entire system of 28,000 feet. Going through the arroyo, across and behind Hoochaneetsa will be dug up and the line replaced due to an inadequate fall according to appropriate engineering status. Lines that are in the street will have a process done called Bursting. Some lines may either be PVC or Clay. This will be an upgrade of the system. In the bids there is a 20% contingency. Funding has not been addressed as of yet. It will take approximately 1 month to 6 weeks to complete a final report based on what CCDC wants done. Jim stated that in his opinion, phase one should be addressed first. Tony Da Silva asked about the lines from the homes to the street and whose responsibility it is. Jim stated that there was no discussion on the issue.

Andre Reynolds asked if there was a physical inspection of the lines. Jim stated that there was a physical inspection. Andre also stated that three years ago a neighbors home was destroyed due to sewer problems and then a neighbor on the other side of their home was also destroyed. A few years back the Reynolds's had a similar problem, they called a plumber and he said that the roots built up in exactly the same place as before. Andre said that it is really awful that this type of thing happens in our country where we expect a certain standard of living. There are 40,000 of these problems across the United States because of the aging infrastructure. Andre stated that Tahawash has the oldest buildings and the worst problems. He suggested that Tahawash be the first to repair the sewer problem. Jim stated that the plan in phase one is besides branding and hydro blasting the entire system, which is \$75,000 to replace or blast the lines on Tahawash. Andre stated that another concern is to make sure it doesn't happen again. Residents on Tahawash will not let this go by and there should be some type of maintenance to the lines to keep this problem from happening again. If there is repeat incidents' the EPA also steps in to find out what's going on. Julie Cresswell asked if the Assembly was staying informed on the issues at hand. Freda Donica stated that she attended a neighborhood meeting, then contacted the rest of the Assembly members and told them that they should be very active in what it is that they need to do about the sewer problems in the Town. Mayor Kiesling stated that they should have something in writing from the Assembly and or Mayor in support of quicker action. Jim Hamilton suggested thanking the directors of CCDC for including the Joint Commission in the engineering study. Jim also stated that there will not be any interruption of sewer service to any home. Jim was thanked for his efforts. Freda stated that Ken would write a letter and reassures that the Assembly and Administrator will be doing whatever they can to promote and stay on top of the matter.

## **11. Library**

Library Director Mary Badarak stated that the Library Board has new members. First after serving a full term, Phyllis Orbaugh retired and was replaced by three people. Remaining on the Board were Cindy Eakin, Claralynn Howard, Kathyne Anson, Dorothy McDonald. Dorothy and Claralynn are serving a second term. New members are Dolly Kauley, Genie Ortiz who was on the Board several years ago has returned and Suzanne Guy. Library Board has revised and refined the Bylaws and will be having quarterly meetings expecting to be longer. The Library itself has new thing in the way of technology and management of materials including a new computer server and new computers in the public area as well as administrative computers. All were purchased with the approval and encouragement of County Bond and all up and operating complete with DSL. There is a new Library Catalog and patrons have access to the catalog to see what the Library has but also what is available to the Library online. The web pages have been spiffed up and now you can go to [www.cochitilake.org](http://www.cochitilake.org), in addition to seeing several of the archives of Town documents to offer as well as the latest news about the Assembly and Town Government. Updated news on the Art Guild and Various clubs and committees in town and everything you want to know about the Library, including the new Library Board or the previous Library Board. Minutes of Library meetings are on the web

pages and posted annual reports from the Library from 2001 on. 2001 was the first year that the Library submitted an annual report to the State Library because it was first year in the State Library system. Mary stated that reviewing the past annual reports is very interesting to see how much the Library has developed and how much it has become a substantial part of the community. The Library hosted over 8,000 visitors in the last year. Library Director Mary Badarak stated that there are new library cards. You do not have to reregister or you do not have to get a new number. They are very fancy bar coded library cards. They come in two parts, one for your keychain and one for your bill fold. The cards come addressed to the library, and if lost it can be dropped in any mail box and returned to the library. When checking out books or movies from the library you will need your card so that it can be scanned into the system. The Library is filled with bestsellers and has more than 725 DVDs and they have a new collection of DVDs that are reference material and information materials. The Library in the future may also include in their collection Blue Ray DVDs. The Library is also trying to do as much as they can that's available on digital format to save space first of all but also things that can be available through the Library from you home computer.

## **12. Recycling**

Jim Hamilton stated that there were concerns last fall that the facility would be maxed out. According to Jim it has leveled off and has stayed consistent. Recycling did a survey regarding options. One response was to keep the Recycling department open. Recycling has made \$25 to \$30 a month from aluminum. Buckets and supplies will be purchased with the money. Jim was asked if there was any pressure to expand. Jim stated that at this time there is not. The Recycling program has been functioning for almost 3 years. Hours of operation are on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. Jim thanked everyone who volunteers at the Recycling Center.

## **13. Zoning**

Jim Hamilton stated that there was no report only that the Zoning Ordinance is a work in progress.

### **III. TOWN HALL REPORTS**

Tony Da Silva stated that 3 years ago a blood drive was held with great success and if anyone would be interested in having another blood drive, a sign up sheet would be posted. Tony stated that there should be more attendance for Assembly meetings. A resident stated that at Assembly meetings there was no debate. A suggestion to the resident was to attend work sessions. Assembly meetings are business meetings to enact business and vote on issues. Work sessions are where debates and disagreements take place and anyone is welcome to attend.

Linda Bradshaw stated that she experienced someone passing her on a double yellow line going into the post office. Speed limits have to be obeyed just like anywhere else. The Sheriff's Department will give speeding tickets to those who do not obey the speed limit and traffic laws in the Town of Cochiti Lake.

Willy Ryan stated that the Community Fund is the local Social Service for the Town. If there is anyone who needs assistance, please go to the Community Fund for help.

Freda Donica thanked all the people who help and volunteer on projects, give advice and suggestions. It is very important that volunteers are needed. Just five people can't do it alone and help is needed from everybody in the community and anybody who is willing to help with whatever project or whatever suggestion they have is very much appreciated. Freda mentioned that her neighbors' house was burgled. Sheriff's will be patrolling more in the Town. Be very alert at what is going on around you. If you see anything suspicious please call the Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Kiesling thanked everyone for attending the meeting, it is very much appreciated. He also commented about the Assembly and the volunteers who appreciate the support in terms of attending the meetings and for voting in the elections. He stated that some issues are complicated and cannot be discussed, legal matters and personnel issues for example. As Mayor he tries to get better answers for questions asked of the Assembly. It is important to provide information when requested.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Town meeting, April 29, 2010 - New Community Center.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Freda Donica moved to adjourn the meeting.

**It was seconded by Willy Ryan and passed with a 5 to 0 vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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Kenneth Kiesling, Mayor

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Annette Narvaiz, Town Clerk