

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS
THE HUBBARD ROOM, CITY HALL
123 DOWNS DRIVE
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 15, 2014
10:00 A.M.

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in a Work Session on January 15, 2014. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Village Councilor Gloria Sayers to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Williams asked Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer to take roll call. The following were present:

Councilor Holman
Councilor Miller

Councilor Hood
Councilor Perry

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer informed Mayor Williams there was a quorum.

Other Guests in attendance:

H. John Underwood, Attorney-City of Ruidoso Downs
Dale Graham, Project Manager-City of Ruidoso Downs
Marcie Eppler, NMDOT/Transit Division
Lucie Lopez, NMDOT
Dan Waggoner, NMDOT
Dave Harris, NMDOT Director
Nita Taylor, Manager-Lincoln County
Raymond Alborn, Mayor-Village of Ruidoso
Debi Lee, Village Manager-Village of Ruidoso
Gloria Sayers, Councilor-Village of Ruidoso
Joe Eby, Councilor-Village of Ruidoso
Joseph Hardin, Zia Trans
Peggy Lu Jane
Bob Gustafson
Tom Armstrong
Pam Williams
Rosie Hood
Freda Webb

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was – Discussion of what action to take regarding future operation of Lincoln County Transit.

Mayor Williams asked if everyone would go around the room and introduce themselves.

Mayor Williams asked how they should proceed?

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said obviously what we've done here is a service and the problem we have is how to pay for it. Unfortunately the County of Lincoln is not here today but we do have the Village of Ruidoso which is great and us. As far as I know these are the two primary communities that have been supporting Lincoln County Transportation for at least the last twelve months. What I am hopeful of, and I'm not a numbers guy, but I'm hopeful that if we could get greater contributions from the Village of Ruidoso and from the City of Ruidoso Downs in some sort of more equal distribution it would make for a better deal for Lincoln County Transportation. It always comes down to money and we all would like to have the service. It's going to be important that we have money to pay for the project. He asked Mary Castaneda, Finance Director what the contribution from Ruidoso Downs has been over the last twelve months?

Mary Castaneda, Finance Director said the Village pledged \$28,000 and we haven't received it.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney asked if that was for the last fiscal year?

Mary Castaneda, Finance Director said that is for this fiscal year. For this current fiscal year we have transferred about \$55,000. That was \$55,000 for this year. It was \$25,000 from Lodgers' Tax and \$30,000 for just this year. The Village of course is a lot bigger than the Downs so the more riders the more revenue and everything goes up and that's part of the problem.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney asked if from the Village there was any desire or any way to make the amount of support with the two communities more proportionate.

Mayor Williams said anyone could speak.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said if the Village's contribution for this year of \$28,000 hasn't been made yet I'm sure it will be made. And the City has supported it up to \$55,000 this year and obviously Ruidoso is the larger community and Ruidoso Downs is the smaller community he asked if there was any way that the Village could put this on a higher priority for funding than what it is now?

Debi Lee, Village Manager said that actually is a decision of the Council and they have an allocation of money for things like this.

Mayor Williams asked her to speak into the microphone so she could be recorded.

Debi Lee, Village Manager said thank you for inviting us. I think it's a really important issue and I think you will recognize two additional Councilors in the audience, Joe Eby and Gloria Sayers. I believe they are both supporters of transit and I think the issue is money. I have served and probably some of you have served on the RPO, the Rural Planning Organization where we hear the applications and where they request their funds. What I am looking for is to run an efficient, and I know Carol and I have had a lot of conversations about it, well this is an opportunity to look again at how the programs run and make sure it is running as efficient as it can. Trans Zia and Zia Trans run a great program and I think instead of putting more money into it we need to look at what they're doing. Hobbs Express and Clovis are other ones and all of these have waiting lists and are taking advantage of additional monies that are available. So, the question that you ask mayor is could we make this a higher priority I say yes. I could certainly present it to the Council. They have an allocation of money they set aside for projects like this that they definitely could put more money into if they wanted to. I think from the Finance Committee that we have internally are looking to have a return on that investment and make sure the program is running efficiently. My understanding is that this is an opportunity to look at it and if it is being run efficiently rather than a taxi service. I know that Lynn Crawford has talked to me a couple of times. He has ridden it four or five times now and he has suggestions and concerns about it. This is a time to do an overhaul rather than just throw our money at it.

Mayor Ray Alborn said he talked to Mr. Hardin the other day and one of the things we suggested to Patty was to have fixed routes and instead we were running it like a taxi service. That's not financially solid. Another thing that I'm concerned about is that van is going to a lot of businesses. They are making money and I don't think they are subsidizing. One of those is Wal-Mart, two being the Inn and the Travel Center. I had asked Patty, I said look, we buy a lot of food from Wal-Mart for the Food Bank. When you get ready to go see him call me and I'll be glad to go out there with you and talk to Raymond. She calls and says I'm here and waiting to see Raymond right now. It wasn't where I could get out there but I think it's people like them and the tribe should chip in some. Transit is taking people out there.

Councilor Miller said people are going out there to work, not just gamble. It's our economy and helping these people in need. She said she gets a newspaper from a small town where she grew up that just started a transit system and they run it off of donations. They do call a day ahead of time. There is no reason we can't make this work.

Mayor Ray Alborn said he talked to Mr. Hardin the other day and said he wasn't speaking for him right now but for himself and said first of all they need to change the name from Lincoln County Transit. The County wasn't giving any money and they aren't participating so why would you call it that?

Mayor Williams said there was a representative from the County here, Nita Taylor, County Manager. He said another guest was our Project Manager, Dale Graham.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said thank you for the comments. Based upon years of working in the area of funding issues and various services that any of us should hold our breath waiting for the tribe to contribute to the operation of that system so my thought is that if we really want this thing to work and it's been operating as a taxi service then we need to figure out how to get help from DOT and Zia how to fix that. If we make it better it will be on a route basis. If Debi said the only reason we haven't gotten their \$28,000 was because we failed to invoice then that seems like a fairly simple thing to work toward. My fear here, like so many other issues in this portion of Lincoln County, is still calling it a transit. This is the first workshop we've had or in a long time. What we've got is a facility and a service that's dying on the vine and all of us who are elected to serve the people and the people are served by this thing and somehow it's important enough for us to find a way to make it work and fund it. If it's not important enough to us then we need to say it's not important enough to us and let them figure out another way to get to work or to the doctor or whatever. Meanwhile we need to figure out if it's a fixed route or a taxi service and fix it and fund it. He said he would certainly appreciate it if the County would jump in and asked Nita Taylor if she had any authority to speak to them today about that.

Nita Taylor, County Manager thanked them for inviting her and said she was late and had never been to these offices before. She said the last time the County discussed the Lincoln County Transit service was during its Budget Meetings. We start preparing the Budget Meetings in March and they approve the final budget in July. The last time they discussed this they determined that they did not think Lincoln County Transit service was the way that they should be spending public funds and they voted not to support it. She said I am here today so that I can hear the discussion and take it back to them. The feedback I did get yesterday, and our commission meeting was yesterday, was that they too did not think it should be called Lincoln County Transit. It implies that Lincoln County is a participant, a funder and we aren't. So, what I would say is that the new budget will be starting and if you want the County to participate I would recommend that you write a letter as you have in the past asking us to consider that in our budget process.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney asked if there was a desire to do it?

Nita Taylor, County Manager said I don't believe there is but the commission hasn't had a formal discussion about it. And, of course we have the same commissioners that we had before. But, I am going to take the information that I get here today back to them and if you want to request funding you should make the request in writing. We have groups that come back year after year but still if you don't meet the requirements you won't get funded but if you don't ask you won't get.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney asked Nita Taylor if anyone from outside of the area like Mescalero or Carrizozo or Nogal or any of the unincorporated areas of Lincoln County contacted your office to the best of your knowledge or any of your elected representatives and discussed the need to have some sort of transportation?

Nita Taylor, County Manager said no one has contacted my office and no one has done a public session during a commission meeting and asked the County to be involved. I can poll the commission but I can see if any of them has been talked to individually about becoming involved but certainly not in a meeting.

Councilor Miller asked if there was a reason they denied having the transit? Were they not getting the service?

Nita Taylor, County Manager said to their knowledge they were not sure how much it was being used in the County. It was something they didn't think they wanted to spend public funds on.

Councilor Miller said they ran a lot to Alto and down toward the valley but I don't know how much to Corona or Carrizozo or any of those places. And, isn't Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs not in the County? They need to help the residents here as we help the County. That's just common sense.

Nita Taylor, County Manager said I'll take those comments back.

Councilor Miller said thank you.

H. John Underwood, said to Mayor Alborn that he had interrupted him to make his statement and then put Nita on but he still had the floor in responding to his comments.

Mayor Alborn said they were having a gathering at Farley's one day for an employee and a young man working there came up to the table and asked him to do everything he could to keep the transit. The young man said he had a car but it didn't work and transit was his only means to get to work and if he didn't have that he wouldn't have a job. That's just one isolated incident but I have a lady that calls me on a regular basis who has children that go to the daycare otherwise she has to leave her job and take the children and then her employer is not happy. To me it just seems paramount more than necessary. Going to treatment, going to the doctor, I have a car but some of these people don't and the elderly people, I just think it's a service we can't live without. That's just my opinion. I get a little disturbed about the discussion about the tribe. They are our neighbors whether we like them or trust them or not. When I got elected I started meeting with Mark Chino and discussing water. I had several meetings with the Tribal Council but we didn't do a deal and didn't put it together. Mark got beat and then Freddie came in. Freddie was adamant about being helpful to the Village because we were neighbors. He said it in front of everybody, our attorneys, the State Engineer, and then I don't know what happened. Dan Berhinger the new President now, he and I have had several discussions and he invited us to the reservation but we haven't done a deal yet. People say I'm crazy to even try that but he said until they do something to me or to us he was going to keep pursuing it while he's

in office. To go out there and ask for some subsidy he may say we're not going to do it but at least we made the effort.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said he had not experienced any success in the past but that doesn't mean there won't be in the future. The fact that we should go to them and ask for help is a good idea but we shouldn't make the running of Lincoln County Transit dependent upon funding from Mescalero.

Mayor Alborn said he wouldn't mind going personally to the Tribal Council and any money that we got would be great.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said and that would be great if our City Mayor would go with you.

Mayor Alborn said he didn't think they should just turn their back on those people. I'd be willing to do anything I can. He said the Tribal Council has four new members.

Councilor Miller said all they had was Patty's word that she went out there to talk to them and she may not have talked to the right people. Just like her leaving and then she was gone the next day. I don't think she was completing what we asked her to do like stop at hotels and she never did. She left because she wasn't doing what she was supposed to.

Mayor Alborn said she asked him to go out there with her.

Councilor Miller said if they put Lodgers' Tax money into this they are supposed to take them to events and sites and Mescalero and the Inn is one of our attractions then we should be going out there and we should be going to Billy the Kid and the Convention Center. She said from all of these hotels we should be taking people where they want to go like to our museum in order to use that Lodgers' Tax. She said we need to send the right person out there to talk to them.

Debi Lee, Village Manager said we've had several meetings and a lot of discussions and have had a lot of ideas and what Carol and I would like to suggest is to let us work with Joe and see what they are doing right. Let's see what we can do to expand his territory and/or to join with him in some fashion if that's possible. He has a boundary he has to serve and then he has to apply each year for funding and that's over a year out but he's running a good program and he's been very willing to help us. I think this would be the time to look at how much we have to work with and Councilor Eby is on our Finance Committee and myself and the Mayor and Councilor Sayers and if they request we could certainly see if Council is going to contribute more money but first let's see what it's costing us. I agree with Carol in that like your personal budget you are going to have to live within your means. You don't get a chance to live outside of your means without consequences. I think what we have to do is go back and reconcile where you are financially and what we need to do to keep it going. Then we can go through the cycle of submitting new applications for

funding and at the same time I don't know if Joe wants to teach us his success. At the same time Joe is one of the highest scored transportation services in our district so he's doing something right so I think there is opportunity since there is a lot of interest in serving this community and we just have to live within our means.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said you bring up a lot of good points. What I do want to say is that in the circle of the RPO I'm not sure when the last budget request was submitted for 2014-2015 and I think we adjusted the local match. I think it was 2014 so we have this year until October. There wasn't a new one for 2015 submitted. She said her question would be if we would have to submit one for the transit?

Marcie Eppler, NMDOT/Transit Division said you already have submitted for 2015.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said I guess I'll need to know the dollar amount. But, agreeing with Debi, we have met more than several times previously. Councilor Miller is right that the previous Director did not follow through with all of the directives that were given and suggestions and ideas from previous meetings. There were big groups and Joe was one of them, Billy the Kid, Mescalero, and there were several. I think even with the deficit of \$10,000 when Marcie and Mary get together and do the October, November, and December reimbursement, and the only reason it's going to help is because we currently do not have a manager on board in that full-time salary. Because we have cut back due to the financial hardship, and I'm going to use the word hardship, is we have a 32-hour driver and two on-call part-time drivers and that is all we have. It is a skeleton crew but I haven't received any calls and I don't know if anyone else has that they have been unhappy with that. I'm guessing that the riders are getting to where they are going in the timeframe that they have. So, yes with Debi, I think we need to hear Joe's ideas and get his input on how far the boundaries can extend if possible and if that happens what's going to be the funding to Zia Trans. Keep that in mind and if that happens and we still continue a portion of public transit. That's what we'll call it is public transit since it involves Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs, where and what percentage will be cut from that federal fund if it pans out with Zia Trans, what percentage is going to go to them? You can't ask for something and not give back.

Debi Lee, Village Manager said my understanding is that the applications are due now and Joe can answer this better than I, I've never seen in all my years that you can adjust them, you may be able to adjust them, but I agree that in order for him to expand his boundaries it's going to cost him more. I don't know if it's possible that he can take all of us and then we contribute to him so that he can service all of us. I don't know if that's something he wants to talk about in a public meeting but I think there are some opportunities to look at how you can run this and do it efficiently and serve the needs and people like Joe and others that have waiting lists and have routes and all of the additional abilities that deal with public transportation. They can advise us and Joe has been an adviser. I think that's our first step and then to get you guys paid and what your deficit is and see how we can

keep the program open until we can get the new allocation in line. We need to look at the application that was submitted and see how the present situation is going to be.

Councilor Miller said I was brainstorming this morning and didn't know if this was possible but I thought about our Planning & Zoning taking this over and us not getting a new Director because they work with DOT and they know the area and the residents. I thought that would help and I thought I would talk this over with Carol but that we could use an existing department to help us.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said currently our Finance Department and the City Clerk have been point blank. We have taken the responsibility of the transit currently. We're doing what we can with what we know. Without Marcie's help we would not have gotten August and September's reimbursement in. We are very fortunate and thank you. We did receive the warrant back on that \$18,000. I'm not sure if giving the responsibilities and duties to another department is going to help. I think we need to start from ground zero and need to sit down and discuss the issues with Joe from Zia Trans to see if it's possible for the extension of service to this area and what his suggestions and ideas are. Currently we have a skeleton crew and they are doing a great job. I haven't received any complaints.

Debi Lee, Village Manager said what I would suggest or offer is that we have a change in our Senior Center which is now our Community Center and they have a good Director out there and maybe let us step up and help you and take on some of those responsibilities.

Mayor Alborn said what Debi and I were talking about was possibly to help.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said thank you.

Mayor Williams asked the Councilors to come up and speak.

Gloria Sayers, Councilor from Village of Ruidoso said I have been to one of those meetings except in our Council Chambers for Lincoln County Transit. I like the idea of a people's bus but I'm just sitting here listening and I'd like to bring up a couple of ideas. I'm thinking outside of the box where we've been thinking inside the box. I think with our transportation people we have ENMU, we have a new program called Creative Aging, and these people want this transit to work. Maybe we could ask these people to get involved with where would the stops be, what's the best kind of plan for these people to make it work? I think if we approach the tribe it would be a good idea, Mr. Battin is running for Mayor, I'm running for Mayor, so one of us is going to be Mayor and I think it's a good idea for both of us to accompany our current Mayor and anyone else and approach this as a team effort. We want this to be a community effort. I don't know what Mr. Battin's position on this is but I know what my position is. That would be a good plan to get everybody who has a concern about it. I thought about the Senior Citizens group and Community Center because they use the transit and I like Judy's idea about Planning &

Zoning. A different department possibly helping or maybe not having a full-time manager. We definitely need somebody in the community that wants a job if we're not going to go that route. We need to put the word out and what the parameters will be but until that happens I think the Senior Citizens group like Creative Aging might be the perfect calling card for them.

Councilor Eby said when I first moved back to this community about fifteen or twenty years ago I started volunteering for this program. I do know there is a need out there and through no fault of the people's own they are in that position. As a Councilor I do know that two years ago when I was running one of the questions was do you support Lincoln County Transit? That came from the residents and how are you spending my money? In that regard I'm looking at people who use the service as to how it will be allocated and spending the money and if that qualifies as a positive and that their money is being well spent. With that being said the Councilors concern is whether it is being run efficiently? Listening to some of the comments made say in having a route or charge people more if running a taxi service or have them show a hardship to where you would actually go out and pick them up. You certainly wouldn't want to leave anyone out of the service that is necessary. You mentioned Councilor Miller that your home town ran this service purely on donations. I know that speaking about Walmart and my wife is a teacher and if we would like to get prizes for them that Walmart is more than gracious in giving. Could we not ask for assistance to sponsor and be sponsors of the transit system? We could offer them to put their 'proud sponsor of the transit system' after you all name it on the vehicles. I'm sure a lot of businesses would sponsor and not subsidize. They could sponsor \$1,000 here and a \$1,000 there. It all adds up and could amount to \$10,000 or more. I believe that as a community as a Council here that as a majority it is a necessary service. I believe in the end we want to see that efficiency and in that we want to see how the percentage is of serving this and serving that and how far they go out into the County. Has anyone approached Capitan? I believe you really have the support of the Village Council and myself and Councilor Sayers. We do want to see the bottom line as far as efficiency. Efficiency is how we approach our citizens and businesses and will go a long way with the public.

Mayor Williams asked Mr. Harris to speak.

Dave Harris introduced himself via telephone as being from the New Mexico DOT's Transit and Rail Division. It's difficult for me to hear but I catch the general tenor of the meeting but we at New Mexico DOT appreciate the support and good ideas that are coming through this workshop and Council meetings. Our staff is on hand and Marcie and Lucie are there to always provide technical assistance and technical support to always answer questions at any time. Moving forward, anything that's needed by Lincoln County, the Village, Ruidoso, and your partners there to keep this moving forward, any assistance needed by us, we are willing to help regardless if it's a sensitive issue or a positive issue. With the limited information I've been able to gather over the phone we are just here to support and answer questions and provide technical assistance. We appreciate the mere fact that you

have gotten together today to discuss the issues for your community to move forward so thank you.

Mayor Williams said thank you to Mr. Harris. He said we have already heard from the Village and said thank you for your input and I am sure it will help us move forward. He asked if anyone else would like to speak?

Wayne Williams said I would like to speak as a resident of Lincoln County.

Mayor Williams said I'd rather not have that now because we don't have Public Input Session.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said the fellow that is here from Zia Trans. There is no reason for me to be in this but I was not aware of the fact that there was a possibility that Zia Trans may be interested in taking this area over. Is there any interest?

Joe Hardin of Zia Trans said I am here to offer you help in any way I can. I can address your Council and offer some specifics but I am not prepared to say Zia Trans will do this. I am only prepared to tell you things that I know.

Joe Hardin introduced himself as Director of Zia Trans. He said I've been on this a few years now and at the meetings you have up here and sit in and try to help move this system along. I don't have all the answers you need but I have ideas. We started back in 2001 as public transportation and I wasn't even there yet. I took over as Director in 2004. We've gone from two vehicles, two routes, to now twenty vehicles, five fixed routes, one para-transit, and we have a route to Las Cruces that we started last year. Funding is always going to be an issue. When I started in 2004 I was told I would never get Mescalero. Same thing, I'm crazy, but we did. One thing you have to look at is you have to provide transportation to the reservation. If you don't you cannot get their money. The money you get is federal through FTA that cannot be matched with federal money except when it comes to an Indian tribe if you provide transportation on federal property. I discovered in 2004 that the Federal Highway Act says the Indian Roads and Reservation money can be used to support transportation if you provide transportation on their land and that's what we do. You have to approach them that you will provide transportation to the reservation. I would say not just to the Inn but to the reservation as well. Their people need to get up for jobs and shopping and the same thing we offer down there. ENMU should be a considered source. When we went to Las Cruces this year part of our local match money is NMSU because we take a lot of college students. There is student money that can be used for that transportation. Again, you've got the Lodgers' Tax. I don't know what all you have up here and things I haven't seen or dealt with. I don't know the application that Ruidoso has submitted every year. We submit ours and I don't see theirs so I don't know the exact cost of running the system is. I know what I feel personally should be done is do away with demand response. You are running the system as a taxi. People expect you to be a taxi and come to their house and pick them up. Fixed routes are more economical and

efficient. It's hard to design one up here I realize that but it can be done. You go to your population center, your work centers, your education centers, and your shopping centers. You will not serve everybody, there is no way. We've grown our system from 1,000 riders a month to 9,000 to 10,000 riders a month. Over the last year we've had over 100,000 riders. It will grow but it takes time. I don't know your operating costs but we figure cost per trip, cost per hour and so on. I would like to help with whatever knowledge we have.

Councilor Miller said I know we pick up the handicapped at home. Do you pick up the handicapped?

Joe Hardin said when you offer a fixed route system you have to offer a para-transit service but your fixed route system should be ADA compliant. That brings up another question when you talk about another section within you City like Zoning. You really need a transportation Director who is going to be good at ADA, Title VI as far as Civil Rights, and what the drivers need and dispatchers, and what the rules are regarding transit. That's hard when you have a part-time Director or a part-time person doing that. You're going to need someone who can focus on the transit system and make sure you're covering all of your bases especially when it comes to training and being ADA compliant. Some people say let's not do fares. If you've done fares I say don't pull it. Keep offering fares but one thing is operating costs. The fare revenue you bring is which is generally 6%, that fare revenue divide that in half and part of that goes back into your operating so it reduces your operating cost. Don't set your fare so high that you can't serve. We started the Las Cruces route at 2.00 with student discount and now it's 3.00. Our Alamogordo riders pay 1.00 and that is probably the high end for most bus systems. We had the same question from our commission as to why can't you raise the rates but then you will lose riders.

Councilor Miller thanked him for coming.

Joe Hardin said I want to see this transit continue but you have to grow it but it's going to take some time. And, don't change your name because Lincoln County isn't in it. When you run a fixed route you put up signs and notices so people know. If you run into the County maybe do one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Mayor Williams asked if his fixed runs on time?

Joe Hardin said they're on time is about 97% but there is a change when you are dealing with wheel chairs because they will slow you down. The other thing is advertising. I don't think this system does any advertising. We advertise on our buses. You have to advertise your schedule and your service. We're in the Great Southwest and we don't want to give up our cars. Our ridership to Las Cruces has doubled in one year. Keep in mind when going to Walmart and others that it has to be recurring funding because when you submit your application they will want to know that about your match.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said I do want everyone to know that Walmart has donated several times and ENMU has also advertised on Bus 4. That happened the second the ball dropped. We've tried to implement the route system and apparently not for a long period of time. There is no proven point that it didn't work. We will be calling you Joe for further ideas and I will follow up with Debi Lee with the Council's report to continue the discussion and get the ideas and maybe approach the Ruidoso Village Councilors for more funding and Mayor Alborn, Councilor Sayers, Councilor Eby, and our Mayor to approach the Inn of the Mountain Gods or the tribe for some funding. Patty has presented to the Tribal Council and I believe that she has been turned down several times is what was reported to us. It may be because we don't service into the reservation itself.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney asked Joe Hardin if he knew transportation to or from the reservation or to or from the Inn of the Mountain Gods if that were part of a regular route and that would seem to be transportation on the reservation to me.

Joe Hardin said the Inn of the Mountain Gods sits on the reservation so that is part of their land. That would qualify.

Mayor Alborn asked if transit has talked to the track at any time in the past? I've had a lot of people tell me they ride out there and back and Mr. Hubbard might be able to give support there.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said it was reported to the Council previously that there was a meeting with the appropriate personnel at Billy the Kid.

Mayor Williams said a lot of it is our fault for not covering the control mechanism at the time on that particular individual and we thought we could depend on that word. It's unfortunate that you had to come up but we were anxious to hear your ideas. Rest assured that we will take the steps needed as the financial control of the transit.

Councilor Sayers said we are an aging community and I see us and the Downs as the heartbeat of the County. We are a part of the County and we should support one another. This would be a great opportunity for the County to come on board and help all of the citizens of the County and the huge population center that supports the County.

Nita Taylor, County Manager said I think it would be really helpful for the County to know something about the ridership, about the cost, about the numbers. That would be hugely helpful to the County.

Mayor Williams said in that respect we probably wouldn't give you enough numbers because from our end here we had cut service off to the County several months ago. Prior to that though we were servicing probably a five-mile area outside of City and Village limits at the time. Whatever numbers we could provide would not be current numbers and something the Commission could base a decision on. If a survey was presented to riders in

the County then we could approach the Commission to provide this service outside of the limits of the Village and the City. Would the Commission possibly use that?

Nita Taylor, County Manager said any information like that would help the Commission.

Joe Hardin of Zia Trans said he would like to sit down and talk to the County, the Village, the City and figure out what will work and what it will cost. We can do that on the numbers you have already.

Councilor Miller said I know they were following the school route because they were taking kids home after practices to Alto and down to the valley so I know for a fact that they were going into the County.

Councilor Hood said we have our work cut out for us and I appreciate everyone's input and I look forward to working with all of you.

Councilor Holman said I would also like to thank all of the people that attended and I think we all got some valuable information. I think with the County, Village, and DOT here we will get more information than just background. I was the only dissenting vote on the transit because I feared we would someday come to this. These things generally cost more than you think. I can remember saying okay, the Council has decided to do this and we need all support and so therefore if your word is no good you have no integrity. So, I reluctantly joined to support this project. To let the Village kind of know and the Department of Transportation I think the Village is certainly getting their money's worth but we are a family in Lincoln County and yet we are responsible for our various municipalities. The City of Ruidoso Downs has been out expenses that the Village, County, and Department may not be aware of that we spent and have not been reimbursed. We've lost money and the Lodgers' Tax I think we're doing a lot more than we should. Something I think the Village may not be aware of is that we are doing the maintenance on this equipment and the busses. We are a small village with an overall moderate to lower income and it comes down sometimes to you have to get your money's worth. We don't have that many riders to what it is costing us. We need to salvage this because we've put a lot of time and effort into it. We need to make it work with some of the ideas we've heard. Hopefully we can modify it to get out of it what we've put in. I think that's what the County looked at and you do that in your personal lives.

Councilor Miller said I appreciate everyone that came and I think the concern is out there of wanting this system to stay. We just need to figure out how to do it cost-efficient. Let's work together.

Mayor Alborn said some of these ideas we've heard in previous meetings that weren't carried through. I believe if you get a good Director and both communities keep a close watch on what's going on I think we can make it work. I'm all for it.

H. John Underwood, City Attorney said thanks to the Village and the County and the Department of Transportation for being here. I think for me as the legal counsel to the City of Ruidoso Downs part of my frustration is I work with Carol Virden almost every day. I watch the frustration that Carol Virden goes through trying to make this thing work and prior Terri and now Mary with the financial issues it's had. I don't think there is a person here that doesn't support the idea. The City's frustration has been why don't we get more help from the Village. What I would ask from the Village of Ruidoso and the City of Ruidoso Downs can look at this again and get some equalized funding during this fiscal year even though it's not in your current budget. If we can't and what we've been doing from this end it's almost like resuscitation and then we see if we can run it two days a week.

Ron Hardin said on some dates, you already have your application in for FY 15. Your Letter of Intent for that are due in June or July. The written application is due to DOT in September and then in November are the oral presentations to the Southeast RPO.

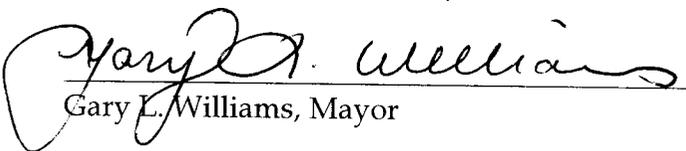
Mayor Williams said they made a presentation up there back in November. It was a great honor to see the other presentations from the other Directors and how they are providing the service to their citizens.

Joe Hardin asked if Dale Waggoner was on the phone? He said Dale was a wealth of knowledge.

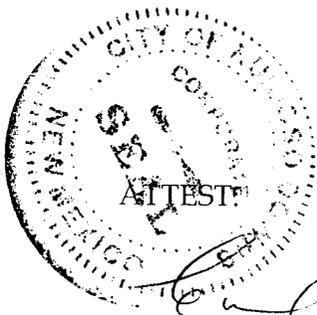
Dale Waggoner said I have heard everything.

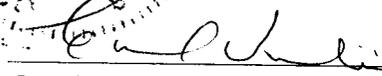
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to Councilor Miller moved to adjourn the Work Session of the City Council at 11:31 a.m. Seconded by Councilor Hood.



Gary L. Williams, Mayor





Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer