

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Held October 3, 2015, 6:05pm – 7:30 pm,  
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

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Next Meeting: Early 2016

Type of Meeting: Annual Meeting

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**I. Greetings.**

**Perry Ashby, TCA Vice President**, welcomed the meeting attendees, any new residents, and introduced the current Board members. Many thanks were included to all those who brought delicious sides to accompany the brisket and turkey. Steve Tarro was applauded for picking up the meat from Rudy's BBQ in El Paso.

Perry reported on the TCA sign repair and extra measures taken to ensure its stability and survival from future accident/vandalism.

**II. Treasurer Report.**

**Steve Tarro, TCA Treasurer**, submitted the following figures:

\$12,296.27	beginning balance
4,550.00	received this year
<u>(4,815.00)</u>	spent this year
\$12,031.27	current balance as of 9/30/2015

Major expenses include:

\$2,615.00	sign repair and enhancement
1,003.00	website domain & hosting, maintenance, licensing, support and file backup
803.00	newsletters and mailings
252.00	meeting expense (anticipate add'l \$400 after this meeting).

Appreciation expressed to everyone paying annual membership dues. Perry noted that all donations are used solely in support of the Talavera Community.

**III. CleanUp**

**Jerry Wertz, Member at Large and Volunteer CleanUp Coordinator**, gave the days' cleanup report. Fourteen residents volunteered their Saturday morning. Extra kudos to the husband and wife team, Fred & Kim Pilcher, whose assignment included a section of Dripping Springs. Many thanks given to those residents picking up trash along Soledad Canyon on a regular basis.

**IV. Bylaw Proposed Changes:**

**Brief Explanation of Bylaw Update:** Perry

explained the various updates proposed for the bylaws. In particular, voting for all members, whether attending TCA meetings or not. (No change: Voting privileges extended to all current paid members.) Future Board member elections and bylaw changes will be held during the Annual Meeting by paper ballot. In addition, the bylaw language has been simplified and statement included indicating the TCA is not an HOA.

**Residents Comments Solicited:** A resident suggested email voting in lieu of mass paper ballot mailing prior to the Annual Meeting. Residents could request paper ballot if preferred.

**Membership Vote:** Unanimous vote to approve proposed bylaws changes.

**Purpose of the TCA:** Perry read an excerpt from the bylaws <http://talaveraca.org/tca-bylaws/>.<sup>1</sup> We are not an HOA and have no role in enforcing covenants or zoning laws.

**V. Nominations and Elections.**

The TCA has future openings for President and Member at Large. We are so sorry to lose both Douglas and Jennie after many years of dedicated service to the Talavera community. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in January, 2016. Please email a brief bio to the **TCA Secretary, Karen Armstrong**, [tca@talaveraca.org](mailto:tca@talaveraca.org),<sup>2</sup> to be posted on the TCA website.

**VI. Legislative Update**

**Senator Bill Soules**, introduced himself as a Talavera resident and State Senator for the past three years. Sen. Soules has watched the community grow and respects our efforts to keep Talavera clean. Sen. Soules wanted to know what issues we were concerned with and discussed some legislation he introduced this past fiscal year.

Sen. Soules introduced a bill to put a 36% interest cap on predatory lending.

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislation.aspx?chamber=S&legtype=B&legno=72&year=15><sup>3</sup>

He also introduced a bill “providing that a local option District may hold an election to allow the sale of NM produced distilled spirits by restaurant licensees”.

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislation.aspx?chamber=S&legtype=B&legno=72&year=15> <sup>4</sup>

Sen. Soules is a retired teacher and as such believes education is very important. He has introduced quite a bit of legislation to improve various aspects of education in the state.

[http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/bill\\_display.aspx?SponsorCode=SSOUL&year=15](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/bill_display.aspx?SponsorCode=SSOUL&year=15) <sup>5</sup>

Water is dependent on snowpack from Colorado. NM is required to send a portion on to TX, however, 160% of NM water is allocated in a normal year. One reason farmers are not motivated to save water is that they will lose it the following year if not used in the current year. Sen. Soules briefly discussed some proposals by the Interstate Stream Commission.

<http://www.ose.state.nm.us/ISC/index.php> <sup>6</sup>

**County Commissioner Ben Rawson** was appointed to the Board of Commissioners District 3 seat in 2013 and elected in 2014. <https://donaanacounty.org/commissioners/district3>.<sup>7</sup> As requested by our VP, Perry Ashby, Comm. Rawson discussed the following interests of the Talavera community:

**Verizon Tower** – After months of delays Verizon has now pulled a building permit. However, they have advised Comm. Rawson that they don’t intend to begin construction until March 2016.

**Soledad Canyon** – Last month Comm. Rawson was able to get funding for the Soledad Canyon Corridor Study listed as one of the top three projects to request funding this year in Santa Fe. He asked the community to let Rep Gallegos and Sen. Soules know that we need their help with this. If this funding is granted, the Corridor Study can be completed (with public input), and the process of getting funding for the actual paving project can proceed. The earliest the paving could happen is 2018. A bike/walking path could be evaluated with this project.

**Sheriff’s Budget** – “There are a lot of concerns about the Sheriff cutting services due to his low staffing level. When the Commission passed the largest tax increase in the history

of the county earlier this year,” Comm. Rawson “forced a vote on a resolution of how the county would spend the money. One third of this tax increase, roughly \$4 million, was supposed to go to DASO. That didn’t happen. The budget that was approved in June did not include the money for the Sheriff’s Department. The situation has continued to deteriorate between Chairman Garrett and Sheriff Vigil over the DASO budget and operating costs. As a result nothing is getting resolved. There are very significant compensation differences between the Sheriff’s office and the Las Cruces Police Department that is causing many Sheriff Deputies to make lateral transfers to the City. In 2007 the County spent \$93 million. The budget that was approved this past June authorizes spending of \$149 million...and yet Public Safety is not a priority.” Comm. Rawson “did a ride-a-long with a Deputy Baker 2 months ago. The shift” he “joined him for was Friday 3pm to Saturday 1am. During that shift there were seven deputies on patrol covering Vado north to Hatch and everywhere in between. Public safety needs to become a priority for this Commission.”

**Updates** – The TCA has requested a monthly or quarterly update by Comm. Rawson to be forwarded by email to the membership.

**Cleanup Dumpster** – Comm. Rawson asked the community to take advantage of the dumpster while it is at the Fire Station.

**Mower** – This past week the County sent the mower up to Talavera. Five people have told Comm. Rawson that they appreciate it and two people have complained. Comm. Rawson is working on setting up a community meeting to discuss the mower situation. A resident has offered to host the meeting at her home, but if there is significant interest in this meeting it may be held at the Fire Station.

## VII. Residents

A resident on Cueva Mine trail discussed the problem of speeders kicking up dirt and dust affecting residents and animals. Residents can post speed limit signs on private roads. Best and safest action is to photograph license plates.

Same action is suggested for suspicious activity. Please exercise extreme caution while photographing suspects and/or vehicle tags.

**Talavera Community Association Dues**

If you haven't already, please support your Talavera Community Association by submitting your \$25 voluntary annual membership fee to:

**Talavera Community Association**  
**P. O. Box 1057**  
**Mesilla Park, NM 88047**

**TCA Officers and Board Members**

**Acting President:** *Perry Ashby*  
**Vice President:** *Perry Ashby*  
**Secretary:** *Karen Armstrong*  
**Treasurer:** *Steve Tarro*  
**Member-at-Large:** *Jerry Wertz*  
**Member-at-Large:** *Jennie Meehan*