

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm,  
Via Zoom**

Next Meeting: Summer

Type of Meeting: Regular

**I. Greetings.**

**Perry Ashby, TCA President**, welcomed the Community Representatives, meeting attendees, new residents, and introduced the current Board members. Perry spoke about Covid19 and limitations with TCA members meeting together physically. A couple of county representatives introduced themselves: Bob Bunting, IT Director, Doña Ana County, and his wife along with Robert Armijo, Director of Engineering and Road Department, Doña Ana County.

**Perry Ashby** – President

**Helen Foster** – Vice President

**Steve Tarro** – Treasurer

**Jerry Wertz** – Member at Large

**Robert Tyk** – Member-at-Large

**Karen Armstrong** – Secretary and Webmaster

**New Neighbors and/or new TCA Members.**

**Welcome to all!** So glad to have our new neighbors join us: Craig & Christy Buchanan, Organ Mesa Loop, Lew & Carol Klein, Lost Padre Mine Rd, (latest property).

**Community Representatives**

**Shannon Reynolds** - County Commissioner, (575) 339-5819; [sreynolds@donaanacounty.org](mailto:sreynolds@donaanacounty.org)

**Carl Clark** – Deputy Director, Las Cruces Utilities, Environmental/Technical Support, 575-528-3548, [cclark@las-cruces.org](mailto:cclark@las-cruces.org)

**Daren Bloomquist** – Ass’t Chief, Las Alturas Fire Department

**Sgt. Ricardo J. Rodriguez** - New Mexico State Police, Community Engagement Program, 575-383-2500

**Bob Bunting**, IT Director, Doña Ana County

**II. Treasurer Report.**

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

Completed the NM State Annual Report – we are good for another year.

Completed IRS 990 – we are good for another year.

Purchased 1yr, 2yr, & 3yr \$5k CDs. Rates are .25%, .30%, and .35%.

\$20,734.30	beginning bal	<b>1/1/2020</b>
10,095.00	deposits	
<u>3,447.09</u>	expenses	
\$23,911.61	ending bal	<b>12/31/2020</b>
\$15,000.00	3 CDs @	
	\$5,000 each	3/22/2021
\$5325.00	deposits	4/14/2021
\$946.50	expenses	4/14/2021
<u>\$13,290.11</u>	Check Account	4/14/2021
<b>\$28,290.11</b>	<b>Total Bal</b>	<b>4/14/2021</b>

Appreciation expressed to everyone paying annual membership dues. Perry noted that all donations are used solely in support of the Talavera Community. Biggest expense is the annual mailout promotion which guarantees a larger membership, along with post office box, website maintenance and fees.

**III. CleanUp**

**Jerry Wertz, Member at Large and Volunteer CleanUp Coordinator**, gave the days’ cleanup report. Twenty-one residents volunteered their Saturday morning. Many thanks given to those residents picking up trash along Soledad Canyon on a regular basis. Thank you to Terry Ashby for picking up coffee and donuts for the volunteers.

**IV. TCA News:**

**What is the TCA?** Anybody want to join or pay dues today? See Karen

- We are not an HOA. No hardcore rules, fines or enforcements
- We are just a Communication Conduit for all of Talavera
- Website, Email, Direct Mail, and Newsletter
- Our Goal is to preserve and improve our Quality of Life

**TCA Elections**

It is required by our By-Laws that we hold elections very year, rotate two. Candidates for President and Member-at-Large this year are (no other candidates for either):

- Vote to affirm Perry Ashby for President
- Vote to affirm Jerry Wertz for Member at Large

### **Talavera Improvement Projects**

The TCA is soliciting spending Ideas – write to [tca@talaveraca.org](mailto:tca@talaveraca.org). Need volunteers to research specific spending projects.

**Covered Benches at Bus Stops** – Not practical right now? County easement and owner permission issues.

### **Pet Waste Stations**

The TCA purchased, installed, and maintain three as a Pilot Program. Do we want more? And where?

Bill Noland suggested that along with the pet stations we need waste receptacles and weekly pickup. TCA BOD has met since the Annual Meeting and voted to add one more pet station around the Sierra Vista parking area and add waste receptacles to existing pet stations. Bob Tyk has volunteered to pick up and dispose of the waste as needed.

What does everyone think about a NEW County Park by the Fire Station? Can we get the County to fund this park? Area for children to play, covered area for seating and picnics?

### **Talavera Propane Coop**

Currently have over 300 Members  
Price is \$2.15 a Gallon plus regulatory compliance charge \$6.71 per fill.

### **Rattlesnakes and Coyotes**

It is the time of the year that rattlesnakes, coyotes and bobcats begin to get active. They can creep into garages or sheds to stay warm. They do a great job of rodent control and are mostly non-aggressive by nature. We have a list of locals on the TCA Website that will help with relocating rattlers. Coyotes are still very much around so protect your pets and children.

### **Dark Sky**

Anyone new to the neighborhood needs to know and appreciate the Dark Sky requirements. Perry gets frequent complaints about non-compliance. Do the violators just not know any better or do they just not care? That's the big question! Our night skies are important! Please limit the light pollution! We have a consumer guide to [Night Sky Friendly Lighting](#) on our website that includes the NM Law.

## **VI. Community Update**

**Sgt. Ricardo J. Rodriguez** – NM State Police, 29-year veteran. The state police department has created a Community Engagement Program (CEP) to reach out to area citizens. One of CEP's goals is to promote good relations with the community and keep lines of communication open. The CEP can help neighborhoods start a neighborhood watch program, train citizens in appropriate active shooter response, etc. Sgt Rodriguez asked that the CEP be invited to community meetings or functions, worksites, in order to assist us with any issues and/or just to get to know the residents.

Community Engagement Program – 575-383-2500 (State Police main number, ask for Community Engagement Program information)

**Chief Daren Bloomquist** – Las Alturas Volunteer Fire Department. Daren thanked Commissioner Reynolds and Officer Rodriguez for attending a recent High School graduate assistant program.

Chief Bloomquist stressed the importance of keeping dried brush cut down and away from residences due to wildwire hazards.

Call Mesilla Valley Dispatch Authority, 575-526-0795, before you and after you burn brush.

Update, 7 people for the two stations, 4 in our neighborhood, 2 new graduates from fire academy, 1 helps out in Organ.

The Fire Department gets called out on the rollovers on Baylor Canyon and Dripping Springs Road, especially in the sharper turn by Baylor Road.

Resident asked: Have Desert Mirage fire hydrants been pressure tested? Chief Bloomquist stated there is some trouble coordinating with Moongate Water, but he feels confident the hydrants are working correctly. The other issue mentioned by resident is camp files on BLM land. Chief Bloomquist said they didn't have authority to tell folks to put out campfires.

### **Natural Gas Project**

**Carl Clark** – Deputy Director, Las Cruces Utilities, Environmental/Technical Support. Mr. Clark's section takes care of water, wastewater, natural gas and solid waste. [Talavera Gas Project Update](#) is a link to view project status and schedule. Slide 1 – red line completed.

Slide 2 – phase 3A current subcontractor: Smith-Co construction, installed 4” gas line along Soledad.

Phase 3B will most likely be split (3B and 3C) as the area is too large to complete as one Phase.

Slide 3 – Date line, end May 2022. Stub outs are in areas if someone needs to connect earlier.

Slide 4 – Layout of most property’s gas service connection details. Stub out can be installed or removed per resident wishes.

Slide 5 – Break down of natural gas per lot cost sharing: \$4,620 with \$1400 discount (\$46.29 equal monthly installments, 3.78% annual interest over 10 years). Plus Customer-side costs for connecting to gas stub out and converting gas fixtures inside home.

Slide 6 – current contractor schedule.

Slide 7 – current contractor schedule.

Slide 8 – current contractor schedule.

Slide 9 – current contractor schedule.

Slide 10 - current contractor schedule.

Slide 11 - current contractor schedule.

The barrels and holes remaining after construction are for pressure testing and purging out gas lines at the end of the project.

Questions?

Helen Foster mentioned an arroyo filled on Winddancer and areas of concern on Alma Road. Carl said the utility will restore the arroyo and subcontractor will fix the road problems.

As of 4/15/2021, the road and arroyo have been addressed. Helen says the road was improved immensely. The subcontractor also made a two-lane road from one lane.

Please Email and/or phone Carl Clark for any natural gas concerns: 575-528-3548, [cclark@las-cruces.org](mailto:cclark@las-cruces.org)

### **EL Paso Electric Substation Project**

**Commissioner Shannon Reynolds** says he spoke with Rico Gonzales of EPE. All paperwork and plans have been completed, the project is shovel ready and construction is slated to start in the next month or so.

### **Broadband for our Area.**

**Bob Bunting**, IT Director for Doña Ana County. Bob is working with the department at the state level (Department of IT, also known as DoIT) to identify possible solutions for our area. Earlier he talked to DoIT about locating a landing site for wireless service. According to

Bob, the main issue for getting broadband WIFI to our area is the missing middle connection, how do we connect the area to a provider? Fiber optic cabling is the gold standard, but extremely expensive. There are other various wireless technologies available as well. Century Link is reportedly tapped out in the area and has a reputation of not using other resources. A-Mtn seems to be a viable link with the fire station as a relay point using the Verizon tower. Originally, they had planned to form a WIFI network backhaul thru the fire station, however, funding issues short-circuited that plan. Further snags have been technical issues with systems and signal coverage. They are still looking for other solutions.

Bob states for immediate types of service, [Starlink](#) thru [SpaceX](#), is set to offer service in the area by mid to late 2021 with startup costs of \$500 (\$50 shipping plus \$41.55 tax) and \$99 per month. According to Bob the advantage of Starlink is the low earth orbit satellites which reduce latency compared to other satellite providers. Bob states that others report Starlink typically provides 50–150 Mbps of bandwidth with good performance for video conferencing and similar applications. Bob says the installation does not require roof mounting of antennas and is easily accomplished without additional assistance.

Bob states [Viasat](#) is a more traditional satellite Internet Service Provider (ISP) and that they are able to offer much better services than most satellite ISPs. However, their service is expensive and, while their latency seems better than HughsNet, it is still high.”

Bob has contacted Century Link to determine their future plans for the area, but to date has no answer from them. An initial response from a local engineer was received and Bob will continue to follow up on this.

Commissioner Reynolds is using T Mobile hotspot for \$50 a month in town and is happy with that service and reports 50-70 Mbps bandwidth download and 30 Mbps bandwidth upload consistently. Hopefully a solution will be found by fall 2021.

### **County Park**

**Robert Armijo**, Doña Ann County Engineer, said Andre Segovia may have some estimates to build a county park in our area. Steps required: County Manager involved, BOCC

approval of funding, Infrastructure Capitol Improvement Process (ICIP) involvement, and funding from state. Need written estimate/plan to solicit funds for next year.

Robert said Omar Soto is leaving his position as Road Superintendent, Doña Ann County, so the County is looking for a replacement.

Robert would like to set up meeting for accident prevention of rollover areas on Dripping Springs and Baylor Canyon.

Questions?

Little stop signs on bicycle path, people stop at the path stop signs and some neighbors are worried about potential accidents. For those stopping in areas below a hill, traffic following may have obstructed view. Robert would like to meet again with the BOD to see if the County can take incremental steps to stop this. Signs (design by FHWA licensed engineer) on the multiuse path were used because they last longer than paint on pavement. Someone removed some stop signs but subsequently were replaced by the County.

Bill Noland mentioned the need for more passing lane areas on Soledad Canyon and Dripping Springs. Bill also asked about road improvements on Dripping Springs Road. Robert Armijo said there is money slated for Dripping Springs FHWA flat project, earliest, 2023, latest, 2025. The federal project will include a full survey, vertical and horizontal, that can be used to determine where, if any, passing lanes can be added.

Those that did not get to ask/raise questions or comment, please call or email the County Representatives or email the TCA at [tca@talaveraca.org](mailto:tca@talaveraca.org).

**Commissioner Shannon Reynolds** stated he will continue to work on the broadband issue until it is resolved. He mentioned the necessity of more signage added to areas where rollovers occur and the need to look into solutions for US Mail theft from mailboxes along Baylor Canyon.

Any questions or concerns please contact Commissioner Shannon Reynolds: (575) 339-5819; [sreynolds@doñaanacounty.org](mailto:sreynolds@doñaanacounty.org)

#### **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 Board Members**

**President:** *Perry Ashby*  
**Vice President:** *Helen Foster*  
**Treasurer:** *Steve Tarro*  
**Member-at-Large:** *Jerry Wertz*  
**Member-at-Large:** *Robert Tyk*  
**Secretary:** *Karen Armstrong*

**Webmaster:** *Karen Armstrong*