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Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 6/30/2020 10-11AM

**Updates:**

1. It’s much busier in town.
2. San Juan County now has a mandatory mask requirement. Pagosa looking at mandatory mask requirement as well.
3. Fourth of July reminders are in the paper this week and on the Facebook. Ads include that there’s no camping at Kendall or Shrine Hill and Fire restrictions.
4. Not much to report on the train. They are working toward removing debris. The ETA is looking like early September. With the compromised concrete in the culvert/bridge, it will be a big job and time consuming to complete. Jim will know more after this week’s executive meeting.
5. Sales tax was good through April, boosted from online sales. Amazon etc.
6. Willy – Housing solutions of the SW has low interest loans for homes, rental units etc.

**Long Term:**

Kim – Wants to stress that we have a way to track progress on things like fiber lines etc.

John R – Spoke with Rusty Melcher and Michelle, about lumber/construction industry. Building is booming, and it’s a good idea to address their challenges and improve that industry in town.

Deanne – Houses are selling fast. One sold sight-unseen in the 400k range this week. With houses selling so high, we need to consider the slim availability of homes. Scott expands, we need to rethink employee and affordable housing if homes become unavailable. Lisa adds that the prospectus meeting also spoke about affordable housing, and we need to consider those parcels scattered throughout town as well as the big areas like Anvil. Vacation rentals are an issue, when 40 some homes are no longer available for families and work force housing it makes a difference, we must compensate. Kim makes the point that much of the housing currently available for rent is substandard heat/lead paint etc. which makes it an unhealthy choice to rent.

Jim H -Food bank is expecting a pallet of dry goods/food Thursday and he will be coordinating with Kim W and Durango about it. Originally it was $3500 in cost but were able to decrease the cost to $350. They tried to get a second pallet but couldn’t. Will have it delivered to the school.

Deanne – Business update, some places have limited days and hours but mostly because of staffing and lack of workers. Brown Bag, Sage Hen are permanently closed this year. Natalia’s hopes to open once they find staffing. Town’s busy and forest is packed. Hotels are booked. Jim updates they are down only about 17% when they projected about 40%. With the cancellation of July 4th events, the Sherriff’s office did not request more support for the holiday.

John - Town got another 11.5k masks on order. They’re getting blowback from people not wanting to purchase their own masks wants town to provide them. They will look for more grant money for it. Talking about doing an announcement that Sherriff’s office and Bill MacDougall are the enforcement officers.