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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER - TOWN OF RICO - 2004

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**Courthouse Restoration, Phase II:** The Town Board selected William Granda of Durango for the Phase II restoration of the Courthouse. Phase II restoration includes restoration of all windows, re-pointing exterior masonry, restoring the front entryway, and waterproofing the foundation. The total budget for Phase II is \$344,450.00. The State Historic Fund has awarded a \$257,963.00 grant and the Department of Local Affairs has awarded a \$60,987.00 grant for the project. The Town's cash match is \$25,000.00.

Phase I is near completion. The front hand railings are the only remaining item.



**Sewer Site Studies:** The Town is preparing amendments to state and federal preliminary engineering and environmental assessment documents for the new proposed sewer site

just north of the cemetery and between Highway 145 and the Dolores River. Public hearings will likely be scheduled for January.

It is possible that construction of the sewer system will begin this summer. When construction begins, existing water users will be required to purchase a sewer tap. The timing and policies for tap connections are not yet finalized; however, the following policies have been discussed.

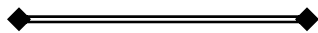
The purchase of a sewer tap, and opportunity to pre-purchase a sewer tap, would not become due until the summer that a sewer collection service line is installed to serve properties. The first summer of construction is only anticipated to install sewer lines for the main street area south of Silver Creek and adjacent blocks. The estimated sewer tap fee is \$3,200.00 per

residence (not including the cost of connection to the sewer line). A higher sewer tap fee may be established for commercial uses based on projected demands. A discount for water users abandoning existing systems is planned. The discount would be 20 years minus the age of the septic system times 5%. (example: a property with a 5 year old septic system would only be required to pay 25% of the sewer tap fee). The monthly user fee is estimated to be \$28 per month plus additional charges for additional water use (similar to water billing).

Vacant land owners will have the opportunity to pre-purchase a sewer tap. A pre-purchased sewer tap would be charged \$10/month as an availability fee. For those who cannot afford the tap fee, the Town will offer a 10 year assessment (approximately \$35 to \$40 per month for 10 years).

The sewer tap fee rate, monthly user rate, and connection policies are not yet finalized and will be adopted by ordinance. The ordinance will be subject to a public hearing and will likely be combined with public hearings on the new proposed sewer site.

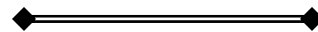
**Town Manager Vacancy:** The Town Board received 11 applications for the Public Works Director/Town Administrator position. The Town Board selected 4 applicants for interviews, which will be conducted in December. The Town hopes to have a person hired and starting by the first of the year.



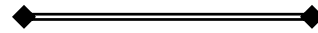
**Rico Soils VCUP:** Atlantic Richfield Corporation (ARCO) has completed its soil sampling throughout Town. The soil sampling program was very comprehensive and included over 80% of properties in Rico. ARCO plans to mail out sampling results to individual property owners in the next two weeks, and plans to make the sampling results available to the public by the end of

the year. A community meeting will be scheduled in January to begin the risk assessment discussions and process to determine the appropriate level of clean-up.

A total of 9 residential properties were identified with more than 3,000 p/p/m lead content in soils. ARCO conducted 3 "emergency clean-ups" of these properties this fall. Due to weather and property owner preferences, the remainder of the properties will be remediated next summer.



**Town Budget:** A draft of the 2005 Town Budget is available for review at the Rico Town Hall as well as on the Town's website – [www.ricocolorado.org](http://www.ricocolorado.org). Public hearings are scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.



**DWCD Petitions:** The District Court approved Rico's petition to join the Dolores Water Conservancy District. Town now has the legal right to divert water from Silver Creek for municipal purposes. The next steps planned for 2005 are to begin the legal and engineering studies to initiate changing the point of diversion to the Dolores River. Well testing north of Town (just north of the s-turns) indicated that a high quality source of water exists there.

**Meetings Schedule Through 2004:** All meetings are at the Rico Town Hall unless otherwise stated.

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Trustees - Regular meeting

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Rico Planning Commission

- Regular Meeting

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Trustees

- Regular Meeting