



## BIG MESA WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Winter has finally arrived. The temperatures in early January have been bitterly cold for several days.

As we have mentioned, Big Mesa has been approved for an additional amount of \$1.85M from New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) for the water treatment plant. That brings the total funding for the water treatment plant to \$2.94M. 75% of that total (\$2.2M) is “forgiven” with only 25% (\$735k) to be repaid via a 0.25% interest loan with a 30-year term. The water treatment plant has been advertised for bid. There will be a pre-bid meeting in early February at the Big Mesa office. The opening and reading of bids received will be on March 7th. Once the contractor is selected, the water treatment plant should be completed by end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. We will keep you updated as this project proceeds.

We are also evaluating the installation of a solar energy system to offset the electric usage for the new water treatment plant. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) establishes federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems of 30% of the total PV system cost. We are also exploring additional funding through grants.

Big Mesa’s 2023 audit was completed and submitted to the Office of State Auditor for approval. There were minimal findings.

The fire hydrants are essential part of Big Mesa fire protection system. They require regular maintenance to ensure they are in good working condition. Big Mesa is in the process of identifying which fire hydrants will need to be repaired or replaced. Our intent is to seek funding to offset the anticipated costs that might be involved. We will keep you updated as we complete the fire hydrants assessment.

The Community Collection Center (formally known as Transfer Station) winter hours of operation is 9:00am - 1:00pm and closed on Wednesday.

Please attend our monthly meetings the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

Sincerely,

Your Big Mesa Board and Staff