



**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
EDELWEISS LODGE AND SPA CLUB ROOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014, 2:00 P.M.

7 Firehouse Road
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MAYOR:
Neal King

COUNCIL:
Kathleen V. Bennett
J. Christopher Stagg
Barbara L. Wiard
Thomas P. Wittman

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:
Mark G. Fratrack

CLERK/TREASURER:
Vanessa N. Chisholm

1. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor King at 2:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

Vanessa Chisholm, Village Clerk/Treasurer, called roll and a quorum was present.

Governing body present were:

Mayor Neal King
Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Wiard (via telephone at 2:02 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
Councilor Kathy Bennett
Councilor Chris Stagg
Councilor Tom Wittman

Staff present were:

Village Administrator Mark Fratrack
Village Clerk/Treasurer Vanessa Chisholm
Public Works Director Raymond Keen
Community Development Director Don Schieber
Public Safety Director David Wallace
Village Attorney Dennis Romero

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilor Wittman requested that the two presentations scheduled under New Business: A. Discussion by Heidi Topp Brooks... and B. Discussion by Mary Emery... be moved to after Item 8.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Bennett **Passed:** 3-0
(Wiard was not in attendance for this vote, but was available at 2:02 p.m.)

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2014, THE JANUARY 17, 2014, AND JANUARY 23, 2014 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the January 7, 2014, January 17, 2014 and January 23, 2014 Village Council Meetings as submitted.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Bennett **Passed:** 4-0.

5. CITIZENS FORUM

Mike Fitzpatrick, Village resident, is forming a neighborhood group in the Amizette area of the Village. He requested budget information, contracts, and other Village information. Clerk Chisholm replied that all of the information he is requesting is public knowledge and

available. This information, and much more, is available on the Village website and/or he is welcome to stop by anytime and she would assist him with the website. She further invited him, and everyone, to attend the budget workshop on April 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge & Spa Club Room.

Mr. Fitzpatrick also expressed concerns about the future of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and the amount of chemicals that go into the river. Director Keen explained that the amount of chemicals used has been reduced over the years. Polyaluminate chloride is added to the wastewater treatment process for phosphorous removal and soda ash is added for alkalinity. Aluminum sulfate and sodium hydroxide are no longer used in the process. The WWTP engineers will be addressing the nationwide concern about pharmaceuticals in wastewater. As a reminder, pharmaceuticals should be disposed with solid waste and not flushed down the toilet or sink. Also, ask a local pharmacy and/or police department about safe medication disposal. Mr. Fitzpatrick was invited to tour the WWTP anytime to see how it operates.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer Chisholm presented to the Council the Municipal Financial report and Lodgers' Tax report, required quarterly by the NM Department of Finance and Administration. The Municipal Financial Quarterly indicated that the Village has an available cash balance of \$1,463,821. The majority of this cash balance is in the Fire Capital Reserve, required reserve funds for the Clean Water State Revolving fund loan, capital projects and the General Reserve. Chisholm also presented a Profit and Loss yearly comparison report. There were no questions from the Council. Chisholm reported that the FY2015 budget preparation would start at the end of February, with a budget workshop scheduled for April 15, 2014.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Commission

Councilor Wittman reported the P&Z Commission did not meet in February. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilor Bennett reported the committee met on January 28, 2014 to consider the formation of a Firewise Community. Discussion included a Firewise Board of Directors, a proposed siren system, a mass mailing letter to be included with the March billing, and the scheduling of a Firewise Community education day in the spring. A first draft of a possible addition to the Village Fire Ordinance regarding connections to the underground power system was distributed. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2014 to continue progress on the Firewise Community open issues.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

Administrator Fratrack reported that the committee has been meeting and Katherine Kett (committee chair) has been updating him on the details.

D. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

No report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Snakedance Condos.

8. REGIONAL AND STATE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Wiard was not able to attend in person because she is representing the Village at the Legislative session in Santa Fe. Copies of her report were distributed. The Taos Regional Landfill Board and the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Enchanted Circle both met on January 16, 2014. After approving the Open Meetings Act, both postponed the election of officers until after the municipal elections in March. Plans for the Enchanted Circle Day at the Legislature (January 22, 2014) were finalized. Other meetings attended included the NCNMEDD, Enchanted Circle day at the Legislature, and the Town of Taos State of the Town. February meetings include the NMML Legislative Reception, Municipal Day at the Legislature, and the NMML Board Meeting. March events/meetings include VTSV Municipal Elections (March 4) at the Edelweiss, the NMML District 2 meeting (March 17) in Los Alamos, and the NCNMEDD Meeting (March 21) in Santa Fe.

12. NEW BUSINESS**A. Discussion by Heidi Topp Brooks and Consideration to Approve Resolution #2014-XXX, a Resolution to Strongly Urge the U.S. Congress to Pass Legislation that Levies an Annually Increasing Revenue-Neutral Fee on the Carbon in Fossil Fuels at the Point of Production and Importation.**

Ms. Brooks had previously distributed materials to the Village staff and Council members. She gave a short summary presentation and answered questions. There is evidence that the climate is changing and concerned citizens have formed a coalition to influence local governmental entities to take action. This resolution offers information and requests that the elected federal government officials take action in the form of a resolution asking our congress and senate to act.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution.

Motion: Councilor Wiard **Second:** Councilor Wittman

Lengthy discussion and questions and answers from the Council and the audience followed.

MOTION: To table

Motion: Councilor Bennett **Second:** Councilor Stagg **Passed:** 3-1
(Mayor Pro Tem Wiard was the dissenting vote to table.)

This item will be continued on the March Village Council agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Barb Wiard was excused from the meeting at this time.

B. Discussion by Mary Emery, Representing Renewable Taos, and Consideration to Approve Resolution #2014-258, a Joint Resolution to Show our Federal Representatives that the People of North Central New Mexico Support the Transition to Renewables.

Mary Emery presented information about Renewable Taos, a group that advocates for a 100% transition to clean, renewable energy. Renewable Taos' mission statement reads "Dedicated to promoting and facilitating a full transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency in Taos County and our surrounding region". Renewable Taos and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) are

working together to provide clean renewable energy to Kit Carson customers. Several large solar arrays are located in the KCEC service area. Notable among these is the first Community Solar installation in New Mexico, the 98kw array at the Taos Charter School.

Sol Luna Solar constructed the Taos Charter School Community Solar Array with the Clean Energy Collective of Colorado and in partnership with Kit Carson. This array allows Kit Carson members who cannot locate solar panels at their homes or businesses to purchase panels in a centrally located array. The efficiency and cost savings achieved by community solar promise it a bright place in the future of renewable energy.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: To approve resolution #2014-258, a joint resolution to show our federal representatives that the people of North Central New Mexico support the transition to renewables.

Motion: Councilor Stagg **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 3-0

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King received the annual letter from Holy Cross Hospital requesting a Council representative be a member of the Board of Directors Nominating Committee. The first meeting of the Nominating Committee will be in March. Councilor Bennett has represented the Village in this position in the past and agreed to continue this year. It was the consensus of the Council that Councilor Bennett retains this position.

The Parks and Recreation Committee asked Mayor King to appoint Susie Fiore to the Parks and Recreation Committee. He will ask the Council to approve his appointment at the next Council meeting.

10. STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Fratrack gave updates on several topics:

- There has been no movement on the Townsite Act.
- The Village has been working with Ilse Mayer regarding the issue posed by the private bridge that crosses her property.
- There are some legal issues in the plan with the Community Navigation Tiger Team (CNTT). Fratrack will rework the agreement.
- There is "Didymo (Didymosphenia Germinate) reportedly found in the Rio Hondo in 2012 at two locations. This invasive alga is commonly called Snot Rock. It produces nuisance growths in freshwater rivers and streams with low nutrients and is seen in streams with consistently cold water temperatures. While it is not considered a significant human health risk, it can affect stream habitats and sources of food for fish and make recreational activities unpleasant. The microscopic alga can be spread in a single drop of water. Fishermen's boots apparently carry this alga from one river to another. At this time, there is no known way to eliminate it. Signage is the only precaution available. The Village wastewater treatment plant has nothing to do with the cause of this alga.
- The Phoenix Spring seems to be producing lower than normal amounts of water. It will continue to be monitored, particularly during spring break in March.

- Fratrack attended another meeting on the County's proposal for an E911 Command Center. There is still no resolution to this matter.
- Chief Dave Wallace has been reappointed as a member of the NM State Public Safety Committee by Governor Suzanna Martinez.

Director Wallace reported concerns about the Public Safety department's equipment. Wallace described a roll-over accident which occurred a few weeks ago. The Village's rescue truck, holding the extraction equipment, would not start and could not be used. The Town of Taos was called and immediately responded to the accident scene. It was determined that the rescue truck's engine is not powerful enough nor is there enough torque. Mechanics informed Wallace that the vehicle needs a different engine. He will request a budget adjustment resolution at the next Village Council meeting to pay for the repairs needed.

Director Schieber reported that the next few months will be busy with the corporation developers. He is also working with Rich Wilson and Dave Wallace on the Village's fire code enforcement.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

C. Consideration to Approve a Firewise Community Board of Directors.

The Public Safety Committee has been researching the best avenues and strategies to make the Village a Firewise Community, which requires a Board of Directors. This provides access to additional information and possible funding. The Village will be the fiscal agent. The Board will be able to pursue various funds to help with hazardous fuel reduction projects, wildland fire education, and prevention and outreach activities, and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) updates. If the Council approves to establish the Board, community members will be needed to serve. The appointment of various positions/officers will take place at the first meeting.

MOTION: To approve the formation of a Firewise Community Board of Directors.

Motion: Councilor Stagg **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 3-0

D. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration to Approve Liquor License Application #A-898423, Rio Hondo H&R, Inc. dba Phoenix Restaurant, for a Restaurant Beer and Wine License with On Premise Consumption Only.

Mayor King opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke either for or against the approval of the liquor license application. Mayor King closed the public hearing.

MOTION: To approve the liquor license application for Rio Hondo H & R, Inc. dba Phoenix Restaurant for a restaurant beer and wine license with on premise consumption only.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Bennett **Passed:** 3-0

(Please note that Councilor Stagg recused himself from the vote stating a conflict of interest. Votes for the approval were from Bennett, Wittman and King)

13. MISCELLANEOUS:

Councilor Stagg reported that CenturyLink has been analyzing the possibility of an underground connection from Red River to Taos Ski Valley since the distance is shorter than Valdez to Taos Ski Valley, (i.e. over the mountain versus up the Ski Valley Road).

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

The next regular meeting of the Village Council will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room. Chisholm reminded everyone that the Municipal Election is Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club room.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Councilor Stagg

Second: Councilor Wittman

Passed: 3-0.

Neal King, Mayor

Vanessa Chisholm, Village Clerk