



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

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2013 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.

Those present were:

Mayor, Neal King
Councilor, Kathy Bennett
Councilor, Chris Stagg
Councilor, Barbara Wiard
Councilor, Tom Wittman

Also present were:

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Stagg

Passed: 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2013 BUDGET WORKSHOP AND APRIL 15, 2013 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the April 15, 2012 Budget Workshop and Village Council Meetings.

Motion: Councilor Wiard

Second: Councilor Stagg

Passed: 4-0.

5. CITIZENS FORUM

No one spoke at the Citizen's Forum.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chisholm reported that GRT is \$50,000 below last year's YTD, and Lodgers' Tax is about as good as last year. Chisholm submitted the Municipal Financial Quarterly Report and the Lodgers' Tax Quarterly Report to the Council. The financial reports were accepted into the meeting minutes.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Planning and Zoning Commission**

Councilor Wittman stated the Commission did not meet yesterday (prior to the Council Meeting, as is usually scheduled). There is no meeting scheduled as yet for May or June.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilor Bennett reported the Public Safety Committee did not meet in April. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is TBA.

Having been appointed to the Holy Cross Hospital (HCH) Nominating Committee by the Village Council, Bennett gave an update on the open positions for the Board of Directors for HCH. The Nominating Committee reviewed 9 applicants' resumes; two positions are open. Two candidates are recommended for reelection for their particular positions.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

No report.

D. Arts and Entertainment Committee

Mayor King said he would like to meet with the Village Administrator and members of the Arts and Entertainment Committee to discuss what they would like to do since John Halley and Diane McKenzie have resigned from this Committee.

E. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

No report.

8. REGIONAL AND STATE REPORTS

Councilor Wiard reported on the Water Trust Board Meeting she attended with Mark Fratrick and Don Schieber on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, in Santa Fe. The Board had all the documents they requested from the Village. Again, they explained to the Water Trust Board that the Village has a very short building season.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King reported on his meeting with the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Area Coalition. They met with the BLM to discuss the proposed power line to be erected by Tristate Electric (the Company that supplies power to Kit Carson) over the newly designated National Monument. He also spoke about organizing an EQR committee as a result of the Budget Workshop rates discussion.

10. STAFF REPORTS

Fratrick reported that staff has been working on the Budget over the last two weeks since the Budget Workshop. Fratrick spoke about the Water Trust Board meeting held on April 24, 2013; the Town of Taos shuttle service; and the possible pursuit of a marketing title for the Village as being the highest elevation Village/Municipality in the country.

Fratrick discussed the formation of the EQR Rates Committee (the "Tiger Team") consisting of 7 members. The first meeting is Monday, May 6, 2013. Their goal is to have a fair and equitable rate system recommended to the Council by August or September.

Dave Wallace anticipates an active bear season this year. Safety talks will be given to the schools that come to the Village each summer. The National Weather Service is predicting a high-risk high elevation fire danger for the summer months.

Schieber updated the Council on scheduled projects. Schieber and Wallace met with the State Fire Marshall's office regarding the inspections in the Village. Councilor Wiard asked who had the higher jurisdiction. Schieber stated that the Village has the higher authority but the State can do what they want.

Keen reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant had an unscheduled EPA inspection, which went well. Keen announced that the Village of Taos Ski Valley received the award for the Best Medium-sized Water System in the State.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Consideration to Approve Resolution #2013-245, San Juan Chama Water Rights Contract.**

The original San Juan Chama Project contract dates back to January 5, 1978 when Twining Water and Sanitation District entered into a contract for 15 acre-feet of water. At present, the Village has San Juan Chama Project water available in Heron Reservoir in excess of its current needs which can be made available. The Village agrees to lease to Reclamation the use of up to 8 acre-feet of its 2013 San Juan Chama Project water to be stored in Heron Reservoir. This water allocation will be used for the purpose of irrigation within the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Reclamation will pay the Village of Taos Ski Valley \$47.00 per acre-foot for a maximum of 8 acre-feet of water released from Heron Reservoir pursuant to this Contract.

Discussion followed, with Dennis Romero inquiring as to how these figures are set. It was assumed that the US Department of the Interior set these figures. Nothing further on this was discussed.

Motion: To approve of Resolution #2013-245 regarding the 2013 San Juan Chama Project Water Repayment contract between the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the Village of Taos Ski Valley.

Motion: Councilor Stagg

Second: Councilor Wittman

Passed: 4-0

B. **Public Hearing: Consideration to Approve FY2014 Budget and consideration to Approve Resolution 2013-246: A Resolution to Adopt FY2014 Budget.**

Mayor King opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke either FOR or AGAINST the Budget. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. Mayor King then began addressing the budget by saying he felt the water/sewer rates should remain the same as the FY2013 budget until the EQR Rates Committee could determine the fairest rates and how they should be calculated.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2013-246, a resolution to adopt the FY2014 Budget.

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Wiard

Lengthy discussions were held regarding trash rates. Councilor Bennett requested that these rates also stay the same as in FY2013, until the Committee can determine fair EQR rates. Discussions were held on road stabilization. Keen said he is estimating that this line item will be increased by another \$12,000, over and above the \$15,000 original estimate. Council talked about \$15,000 for the snow blower for next year.

Discussion continued regarding Lodgers' Tax and the Town of Taos shuttle costs. It was determined that the original line item for \$30,000 for the winter bus service should remain the same, as it didn't appear that the Town of Taos was contributing any money to this service. It was also determined that the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board did not approve the \$10,000 increase in the first place.

The Town of Taos is requesting an additional \$20,000 from the Village of Taos Ski Valley for summer service consisting of two buses per day. This line item is not in the Budget and is not approved. Another open ended item was the 15 passenger van the Village acquired from the Town of Taos. The line item specifies \$2,000.00 for new tires and a windshield. Councilor Bennett was opposed to paying anything for the free van as TSV, Inc., wants to use the van. Other uses for the van were discussed.

It was determined that the water, sewer and trash rates would remain the same as FY2013 until the EQR Rates Committee makes recommendations to the Village Council. (This does not affect the dollar amounts in the budget).

There was a Motion on the floor, and it was amended to read as follows:

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2013-246, a resolution to adopt the FY2014 Budget.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Wiard **Passed:** 4-0

13. MISCELLANEOUS: Dennis Romero, Village Attorney, talked about the State Fire Marshall's Office and said we may have some legal issues regarding State Inspector issues.

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

The next meeting of the Village Council will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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