



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

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 9:00 A.M.

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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

I. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor King, Councilors Bennett, Stagg, Wiard, and Wittman were present. Staff members present included Mark Fratrack, Vanessa Chisholm, Don Schieber, Dave Wallace and Ray Keen.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Wiard

Passed: 4-0.

IV. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mark Fratrack, Village Administrator, presented the FY2013 Budget Summary. He explained that staff has taken the approach in developing this budget to maintain current expenses while initiating and supporting cash reserves for the General Fund to provide funding for the Village's slow periods from July to December of each year. Staff is recommending various ways to strengthen the budget for sustainability in longer term low economic periods and to provide reserves for debt service on future projects.

Fratrack presented figures regarding the outcome of a restructured water/sewer rate system, and various ways to fix the problem. Staff recommended a 54/46 fixed/variable for 2013. Fratrack said initiating General Fund cash reserves build up is priority number one. It is imperative for the Council to understand that after the General Fund reserves, upgrading of the treatment plant should be the Village's focus. Staff recommended Council raise the Ad Valorem Tax Rate from 4% to 7.65%. The Kit Carson Franchise Fee needs to be set aside and not used for any unintended purposes. These fees will now be separated and accounted for in the General Reserve Fund.

Salaries and Benefits for FY2013 were presented and discussed by Council. Over the last year and looking to the next few years contract attorney's expenses have increased.

The Public Works budget was presented which includes budgets for water, sewer, roads, and capital projects. Emphasis was given that there is not enough revenue being generated to fund reserves. The future upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant is necessary and reserve funds are required for funding a match for loans and grants.

The Department of Public Safety budget included moving the fire substation that is in the Kachina area. A new DPS building (a pre-fab log cabin) will be built behind the existing firehouse/admin building. Expenses were kept at a minimum for fire, police and EMS while still maintaining reserves for a future fire truck.

Additional Funding Recommendations were presented and discussed at length by staff and Council.

Each account was presented and various line items were questioned by Council. Discussions were held regarding water/sewer rates, a possible decrease in salaries for elected officials, Employees' health insurance, funding for paving of parking lots, impact fees, no reserve account for an EMS ambulance, and other reserve accounts for which there is no funding available.

A public hearing will be held on May 8, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa conference room. Citizens are encouraged to review the budget on line at the Village website and also available at the Village office. Public input is encouraged at the hearing.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Councilor Stagg

Second: Councilor Wiard

Passed: 4-0.

Attest:

Neal King, Mayor

Vanessa Chisholm, Village Clerk