



COMMUNITY SERVICES ELEMENT

EXISTING SERVICES

- **Department of Public Safety**

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is responsible for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and animal control. All of these services are completed with cooperation from local and state resources and agencies. They also work with other Village departments in reviewing land development proposals and roadway improvements.

From the Village Web Page.....

"The Village of Taos Ski Valley Department of Public Safety has a commitment to provide quality law enforcement, fire protection and EMS service to the Village of Taos Ski Valley's citizens and visitors. We have qualified, professionally trained full-time and volunteer personnel to meet the needs of our community. We promote the philosophy and practice of community-oriented policing through selected crime prevention programs. We focus on solving problems within our community and continue to diligently investigate and prosecute those who commit crimes against persons or property.

We are proactive in the area of fire protection, with constant training in the area of fire suppression. We conduct fire prevention programs such as commercial fire inspections, public fire education, plans review of new construction, and inspections and acceptance testing of fire protection systems.

We are constantly training in the area of EMS in order to continually improve the quality of emergency medical care provided to those in need of our services.

We will meet the challenges that changing times place on public safety, with dedication and commitment to doing the best job possible on behalf of our citizens and visitors."

– Respectfully, David B. Wallace, Public Safety Director

DPS operates from a small trailer located next door to the Village office and Fire Station #1. All services within DPS utilize the trailer, Fire Stations #1 & #2, the mobile command unit located at the Coyote parking lot, and a 6x6 utility vehicle.

- **Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement applies to all state criminal statutes and Village ordinances. Law enforcement does not enforce civil issues. Officers do not have authority to make an arrest outside of the Village limits. The Village enjoys excellent working relationships with other law enforcement jurisdictions and works in cooperation with state, tribal, federal, and other municipal public safety departments.

The Village employs two full-time officers and the Chief. The Chief also serves and the Director of the Public Safety Department. The Village owns four law enforcement vehicles with one of the four being stored in reserve for back-up. All officers are licensed by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. Officers are required to earn 40 hours of in-service training every two years. The training courses they are required to attend are mandated by the state legislature.

The law enforcement office is located in a trailer next door to the Village office on Firehouse Road. The trailer is not adequate for proper law enforcement services. Twining & Associates owns the property and allows the trailer at no cost to the Village.



The Mobile Command Unit

The Village is in the process of drafting an agreement with the United State Forest Service (USFS) the Village law enforcement officers to have authority to enforce criminal and traffic laws on the USFS property. The primary interest for the Village to have the agreement is to allow the Village's law enforcement officers to give traffic violations within the TSV, Inc. parking lots. These areas are already annexed into the Village municipal limit. Village law enforcement currently has the ability to detain a criminal and to report criminal activity to the USFS. The USFS has a Law Enforcement Officer position. Unfortunately, the position is currently vacant at the Questa Ranger District. Village law enforcement officers patrol the camping areas along NM 150 particularly in high fire season.

- **Fire Protection**

The Department of Public Safety also manages the Village Taos Ski Valley Volunteer Fire Department. The District boundary is illustrated on the **Fire Service District Map**. The Fire Department responds structure fires, vehicles crashes, and wildfires within the District boundaries.

Volunteers will assist if requested for inspections of fire suppression systems, inspections (with the assistance of the state Fire Marshal's office) of sprinkler systems. The Director (also the Police Chief) also helps the Village staff in building code review issues and designating fire lanes in roadway improvement plans.

The Village owns two engines, a rescue truck, and a brush truck as well as the Burn Boss. Recently purchase a truck for mobile communications and search and rescue. The fire engine and the medical rescue vehicle are located in the garage at Fire Station #1 on Firehouse Road. Fire Station #2 houses an engine. It is located near the Bavarian Restaurant in the Kachina area.

There are twenty volunteers with ten active members who often participate in trainings and respond to calls for service. Volunteers are trained in vehicle extrication (e.g. - a vehicle crash with entrapment) and low and high angle rescue

The state Fire Marshal provides annual funding to cover the Village's operational expenses and fire-fighting equipment. The amount of funding is based on the Village's "ISO" rating. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a private legal organization that determines the ISO rates. The ISO rate determines fire insurance premiums. The Village's current rating is "6" with 1 being the best rating and 10 being the worst rating. The rating is determined by the capacity of the dispatch system (provided by Taos County), volunteer training, water systems, equipment, response times, and personnel. The Fire Department is fully equipped per ISO standards.

Fire Station #1 & Village Offices.

Taos County dedicated the land for the Fire Station #1 to the Village in 1997 under the deed restriction that the building is "used primarily as an active fire station."



Fire Substation #2

The Village leases the property underneath the substation from TSV, Inc.



- **Emergency Medical Services**

The Village’s emergency medical service (EMS) is managed by the Village’s DPS. It is a volunteer service with the same district boundaries as the Volunteer Fire Department District. It is a “non-transporting” service; however, the Village owns a transport capable medical rescue vehicle that can transport a patient in the event a County ambulance is not available. Many EMS volunteers also volunteer for the Fire Department and participate in EMS training. Training courses include first responder, EMT Basic and others.

- **911**

Emergency 911 phone calls are dispatched to the appropriate fire or EMS district from the dispatch center located in the Taos County complex in the Town of Taos.

- **Search & Rescue**



Similar to the Fire Department and EMS, many volunteers also volunteer for Search and Rescue (SAR). The SAR service is recognized as a SAR Team by the state of New Mexico Search and Rescue Coordinator.

DPS Trailer & Vehicle



DPS Vehicles

The Village’s SAR Team searches for missing persons within the Village boundaries and within USFS lands. TSV, Inc. Ski Patrol searches for lost skiers. Volunteers can be called to a SAR mission all over the region depending on staffing and availability of the

volunteers. Volunteers are trained in SAR procedures on a limited basis. The Village Police Chief is designated as the Incident Commander during a SAR mission. State police must be notified of a SAR report because they have statutory authority over all SAR missions. They do not search for animals.

- **Animal Control**

DPS is responsible for animal control within the Village. Law enforcement officers can give a citation for a pet running at large and for bites. However, the Village does not have a facility to keep animals. Animals are sheltered by Taos County who are available to assist with animal control as needed.

- **Trash & Recycling**

Outdoor trash storage is not permitted due to bears. The Village accepts household trash at a compactor located at the wastewater treatment plant. A charge is added to the each property owner's water and/or sewer bill.

- **Slash Pile Burning**

The Village and TSV Inc. purchased a Burn Boss in 2014 to incinerate slash piling to support the community in creating defensive space to protect their property from forest fire. The Burn Boss is moved to various areas throughout the Village where property owners can deliver their slash. The slash is burned by trained operators. The USFS requires the operators be trained in Wildland Certification class (e.g. - "Red Card"). All operators of the Bun Boss must have a "red Card" in order to operate the Burn Boss on USFS land.

- **Transit**

The North Central Regional Transit District (RTD) took over bus services from the Town of Taos Chili Line in 2015. The RTD provides bus services to the Village during the regular ski season.

"The North Central Regional Transit District began service in 2007. It provides free bus transit connecting communities and pueblos throughout the counties of north central New Mexico including Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos. Further expanding its reach, the signature RTD Blue Buses provide riders with connections to New Mexico Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails, New Mexico Park and Ride, Los Alamos Atomic City Transit, Taos Chile Line and Red River Miner's Transit. All of its buses are ADA accessible and equipped with bicycle racks. The RTD provides service on 20 Fixed routes and two Demand Response routes."

- www.ncrtd.org

- **Special Events**

The Village permits special events such as music and art festivals. These events are regulated by the zoning ordinance and administered by DPS.

PREVIOUS PLANS

The Village has considered numerous alternatives to improve community services since the Village was first incorporated in 1996. Below is a summary of these plans and a brief description of the community services that have been considered.

- 2001 Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan included limited recommendations to implement impact fees and to encourage recycling.

- 2010 Master Plan

The Master Plan only refers to community services when it outlines a variety of issues that emerged as a part of public meetings during 2006. One of the planning considerations is to “enhance emergency services. ”

- Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plans

Every year the Village Council adopts an Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). The ICIP is a list of unfunded projects presented in priority order for a five year period. The following community services have been included in the ICIP since 2011:

Project	Cost Estimates
Construct Public Safety Building / Multi-Purpose Building	\$500,000 - \$1.1 million
Relocate / Construct Fire Substation	\$30,000 - \$200,000
Purchase Police Patrol Vehicle	\$36,000
Purchase Snow Blower	\$32,000 - \$175,000
Recycling Facility	\$100,000

- 2015 Threat Assessment

The Office of Homeland Security completed a threat assessment of the Village in 2015. The following is a summary of their findings.

- There are no indicators of a threat from environmental terrorism, other domestic terrorism elements, or for international terrorism,
- Taos Valley crime statistics indicate a clear dominance in drug related offenses (males 25-50 years old are consistently the highest prevalence among adults)
- Violent crime is steady (get statistics)
- Property crime fell from 2013 (get statistics)

EXISTING ORDINANCES

- Zoning & Subdivision

The zoning and subdivision ordinances include several provisions to ensure that new development provides adequate facilities for emergency access, fire suppression, appropriate trash disposal and broad authority of Village staff to require additional improvements or design considerations that prevent the development from threatening public safety.

- Impact Fees

The Village Council adopted impact fees as a part of the zoning ordinance. Impact fees are imposed on new development to pay "its fair and proportionate share of the costs to the Village of Taos Ski Valley associated with providing necessary public services and public facilities...that serve such development." (Ordinance 14-30. Section 22). Impact fees are charged for 1) roadway, pedestrian and drainage improvements, 2) parks & recreation / open space, 3) general government facilities, and 4) public safety (emergency medical service, law enforcement, and fire). The fee for general government facilities is \$.7738 per square foot of development. The fee for public safety is \$.7095 per square feet of development. The fee is determined from an estimate of the total square footage of future development divided by the total estimated costs of the public services and public facilities. Cost estimates are prepared by the Village staff and are contained in the "Public Facilities Needs Assessment Report" which was approved by the Village Council on June 10, 2014.

The report identified the need for a new administrative office building, a public safety building for law enforcement, fire, and emergency services, a fire substation in the Kachina area, tank truck, and a ladder truck.

GOAL, POLICES, AND OBJECIVES

The goal, policies, and objectives present a framework for evaluating new development proposals and for implementing community services.

GOAL

The Village is fully equipped, trained, and empowered to provide a variety of community services that meet the current and future needs of Village residents and visitors.

POLICIES

1. The Village recognizes that providing new or enhanced community services is not always feasible due to the small population and remote location. However, the Village will collaborate with regional agencies and organizations to explore new opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Purchase law enforcement vehicles.

The Village receives funding from the state public safety department for new vehicles. The Village will purchase a new law enforcement vehicle every two years.

2. Construct a new public safety & multi-purpose building.

The new building will be located adjacent to the new wastewater treatment plant. The new building is necessary due to the need for additional public safety personnel and the anticipated increases in criminal activity and traffic as a result of Village core redevelopment. A new building is also necessary due to the government funding restrictions that require indoor storage of new vehicles when purchased with government funds.

The floor plans will include office space, evidence lockers, training and meeting space, and at least four storage bays for equipment storage and for the year-round storage of public safety vehicles and ladder truck.

Fire House #1 will remain in use as an active fire house due to deed restrictions.

3. Implement a public education and notification program.

The Village will invest in internet and mobile device technology to increase public participation and facilitate real time feedback and reporting of issues that need the immediate attention of the Village administration and service providers. Programs may include services which allow residents and visitors to report a wide variety of issues to the Village. These issues may include:

- reverse 911 (flood, fire, avalanche, active shooter)
- road closures (due to construction or down trees)
- dead animals
- missing persons
- forest fire alerts and evacuation procedures
- down utility poles and/or down trees
- planned outages for electric and water utilities

4. Purchase a water tender truck.

Sometimes called a “tanker” truck, a water tender is necessary to transport water to a forest fire.

5. Adopt a noise ordinance to regulate noise levels during special events.

The existing set of ordinances do not properly apply to special events for noise.

6. Sign a Joint Powers Agreement (or other agreement) with the USFS to grant jurisdiction to the Village’s Public Safety Department for issuing citations on Forest Service lands.

A large amount of traffic takes place at the TSV, Inc. parking lots during the ski season; however, the parking lots are located on USFS lands. The Village does not currently have the authority to give citations. Having authority on USFS lands will provide greater police protection and traffic control in the parking lot for the safety and convenience of all residents, employees, and visitors.

7. Relocate fire substation #2.

Substation #2 will be relocated to the .25 acres of Village-owned property located adjacent to Kachina Road.

8. Purchase a new ladder truck.

A ladder truck is required for adequate fire protection due to the number of multiple story buildings within the Village core. Additional development of hotels and condominiums increases the need for a ladder truck.

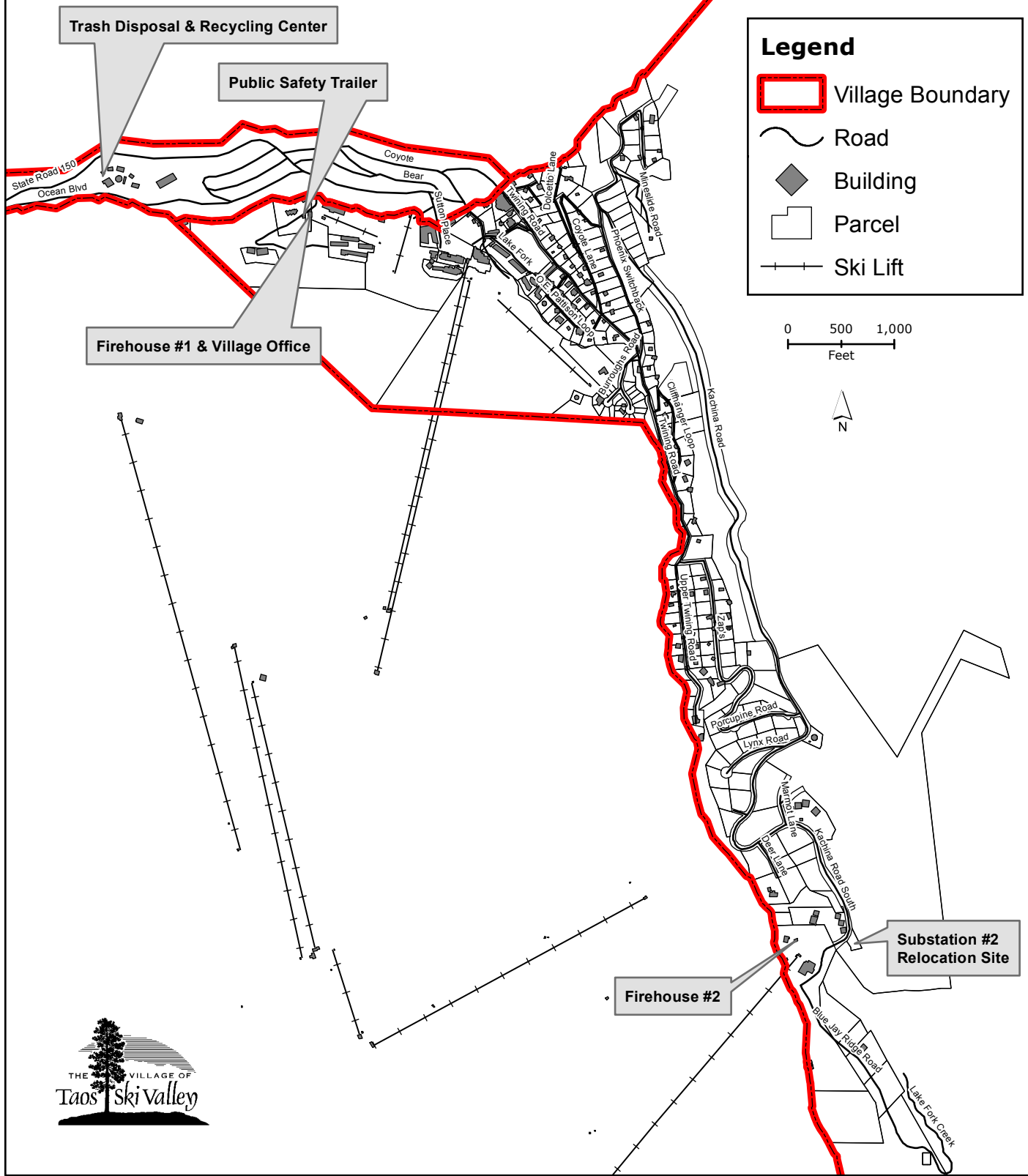
9. Expand recycling services.

The Village will expand services to accept paper. The Village will provide recycling bins at the Village offices.

CONCLUSIONS

To be concluded...

Community Services Master Plan - Existing Facilities



Fire & EMS Districts

