

## **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on Monday, May 6th, 2024, via Zoom.**

The meeting was called to order by Henry Caldwell at 10:01am. Notice of the meeting was properly announced. Members present were Henry Caldwell, Kent Kiehl, and Jim Woodard. Ben Pitz had a work emergency.

The minutes for the April 1st Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting (motion: Jim, second: Henry, unanimous) and Agenda for the May 6th Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting (motion: Henry, second: Jim, unanimous) were approved.

### **Public Safety Committee:**

#### **Underground Power Project Status**

Henry presented a report for Robert Woolridge on the status of the underground power project (attached at the end of these minutes). Price quotes from two contractors are being collected and compared. Requirements from transformers and meter bases are being developed. KCEC is being contacted with the expectation that much of the undergrounding can be accomplished this summer.

#### **Water Meter Pilot Project Status**

Henry related that the Village Council has approved the Zenner Contract for smart water meters. Approximately 24 smart meters will be installed with some in the upper, middle and lower part of the residential area of the Village. The preference will be to using the smart meters to replace meters in the village that are not working correctly. Meetings are being held with Zenner representatives this week.

## **Bear Safety**

Henry reminded the committee that bears will be coming out of hibernation as the snow melts. Chief Vigil stated that there was a bear breaking in to both homes and vehicles last fall that would be coming back. It is important not to leave garbage or food outside or in vehicles. Jim agreed to find or develop a write up for use with homeowners, renters and TSVI seasonal employees who may not be aware of this threat.

## **Trash Drop-off Area Signs**

Gabe stated that Public Works has plans for two new signs in the trash drop-off area: one to replace the 6ftx6ft sign stating what can and cannot be dropped off and one giving instructions for how to operate the compactor.

## **Speed and Speed Limits**

Chief Vigil stated that they are giving a few tickets, but so far traffic has been light, and they are not having much trouble with speeders. He said he would check on the speed limits signs on Twining Rd.

## **Kachina Park Road Emergency Bypass**

Gabe said he thought it was a good idea to have Kachina Park Road as an emergency bypass option and Public Works will clean up the road as soon as the snow melts.

## **Statement of Purpose Status**

The Public Safety Committee Scope, Roles and Relations document was presented to the Village Council at the last Council meeting, and it should be submitted for approval at the next Council meeting.

## **Emergency Services Status**

A document summarizing the emergency services status in the Village was created and provided to the Mayor and Public Safety Chairman and is presented below.

## **Ambulance Status**

Matt stated that after the Village Council approved the ambulance purchase, the Ambulance has been ordered and is in the queue. Unfortunately, it is not expected until the end of next summer.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

### **House Numbers**

Matt Rogers stated that he expects the Village Council to adopt IFC 2021 Fire Code soon. The IFC 2021 requires 4" house numbers instead of the 3" house numbers the previous code required. The Village Office has ordered new numbers and the dozen or so homeowners who requested assistance are waiting for the new numbers. There was some discussion about the old numbers on existing houses which are smaller and fading.

### **Recycling**

There was a discussion on recycling. Chris Stagg suggested that Gabe speak with A/J at TSVI. TSVI has done quite a bit of research on how to recycle now that the Taos County is no longer recycling. Chris believes that TSVI recycles cardboard, plastic, paper and food waste.

### **Wildland Fire Coordinator**

Matt introduced Garret Hanson as the new Wildland Fire Coordinator.

## **Firewise Board**

### **Update on the NFL Grant**

Jalmar stated that he had most of the signatures needed to thin the Bull of the Woods area (approximately 9 homes). The King house has been sold and he was trying to contact the new owners. The Kachina area is next and Jalmar is contacting those homeowners. Garret Hanson will coordinate with Jalmar and see how he can be of assistance. Jalmar has not coordinated with the other homeowners who have made application but would be willing to talk with them if they call him.

### **Real Exercise Planning**

Chief Vigil stated that the Taos County Real Exercise was scheduled for June and is planned to take place in Questa. The focus will probably be wildland fire related.

### **Review of CWPP Status**

Matt said the response on the \$200,000 grant request to write a new CWPP has not yet been received.

### **Miscellaneous**

### **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1056am.

The next meeting will be at 10am on June 3, 2024, via Zoom.

# Emergency Services Status for the Village of Taos Ski Valley

## **Police Coverage**

Multiple Police Officers are on duty during the day. A police officer is in Taos Ski Valley and on call off-hours 7 days per week.

## **EMT Coverage**

### During the Ski Season and June thru September

EMT and Ambulance coverage is available from 8am to 5pm 7 days per week.

Off-hours EMT and ambulance coverage is provided by volunteers.

Taos County is a backup.

### Other Months

EMT and Ambulance coverage is provided by volunteers.

Taos County is a backup.

## **Public Safety KCEC Underground Electrical Presentation**

- The goal of this project is to eliminate overhead electrical power in the Village of Taos Ski Valley. Overhead electrical power presents a very real fire hazard to our municipality. When electrical power lines and transformers are hit with high winds or inclement weather they pose the risk of falling and igniting flammable materials. In order to mitigate this risk the Village has created an ordinance requiring residence in the Village to connect to underground electrical power if present near their residences.
- Currently in the Village there are approximately 41 houses that can connect to underground electrical power. These houses lie primarily on Zaps Road, Upper Twining Road, Chipmunk Lane and in the Amizette area.
- 31 of these houses require the installation of meter boxes
- At least 10 transformers are required to route underground line to these 41 residents.
- The Village is planning to install transformers and meter boxes that residents can hook up to. The Village will be responsible for running conduit from the meter boxes through any right of ways to the edge of residents property.  
From this point residents are responsible for running underground line from the edge of their property to their residences.
- The Village is currently assessing bids from multiple contractors in order to find the most economically viable, and applicable option.
- Once this contractor is selected residents will have the opportunity to contact the contractors and assess the possibility of them continuing work from the edge of their property to their buildings.
- As this project moves forward residents will be informed of when, and where the contractors will be installing underground line and give the opportunity to discuss the project with contractors and project management.