

## **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on Monday, December 2nd, 2024, via Zoom.**

The meeting was called to order by Henry Caldwell at 10:00am. Notice of the meeting was properly announced. Members present were Henry Caldwell, Bob Thomas, Kent Kiehl and Jim Woodard.

The agenda for today's Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting was approved. (Motion: Jim Woodard, Second: Kent Kiehl, Unanimous.). The minutes for the November 4th, 2024, Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting were also approved. (Motion: Jim Woodard, Second Bob Thomas, Unanimous)

### **Public Safety Committee:**

#### **Hiker Parking Redesign**

Joan Woodard asked for comments on the Hiker Parking Redesign concept presented last month. There was discussion of better defining the boundary between Deer Land and the Hiking Parking Lot and restricting RV Parking and Camping in Hiker Parking. The overall feeling of the proposed redesign was positive.

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

Robert Wooldridge stated that the project had not advanced since last month as there is a no digging restriction after November 1 in the Ski Valley.

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

Rick Bellis stated that in his view there were too many contractors involved in the water meter project. He is looking at consolidating the work to a single accountable contractor.

### **Recycling/Partnership with TSVI**

Rick Bellis has been involved with recycling in both the town and county of Taos. It is a difficult area to work. The value of the recycled materials is low. It requires monitoring, since contamination causes problems, and is therefore expensive. Further the participation rates are as low as 16% in the County. Rick stated that the only way it would make any sense is in partnership with TSVI in the B-Corporation role. Rick said he would explore that with TSVI when he had a few minutes.

### **Kachina Park Road**

Gabe Vasquez was off. Kachina Park is closed to vehicular traffic and locked from below. The upper gate is still broken and open and the road compactor is still at the base of the hill. The committee expressed a strong interest keeping the area cleaned up and available for use as a Public Park, even in the winter.

### **No Passing Signs for Hwy 150 in Amizette.**

Chief Vigil stated that he has requested two more no passing signs for the Amizette. Getting signs installed is a somewhat complicated process involving the NM DOT.

### **Trash Compactor Electrical Issue**

Gabe Vasquez was off, so this issue was deferred to next month

### **Miscellaneous Items**

Virgil Vigil and Matt Rogers described a challenging Mountain rescue of a hiker coming down from Wheeler Peak. The partnership between the Police Department, the Fire Department and TSVI worked well to bring a stranded hiker down safely. Matt stated that there have been several

such rescues this summer. It was suggested that it would be nice if the Taos newspaper would give this kind of good news some space.

## **Firewise Board**

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

Matt said that most of the NFL Grant activity has been wrapped up for the season. One contractor may still do some clearing and burning until the snow level gets too high.

### **Natural Gas Line Extension of Upper Twining**

Bob Thomas reported the results of his investigation of the process of extending the natural gas line to the homes on Upper Twining. The process is complicated. The homeowners must underwrite costs of not only their own line and equipment conversion but must also collectively pay for extending the main line. Bob is thinking that it might make more sense to widen the letter to the community so that people near the end of current gas lines would be the first to engage.

### **Real Exercise Planning**

Chief Vigil stated that the exercise on a Questa Propane Tank explosion was cancelled due to snow. It is now rescheduled for July.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

The next meeting will be at 10am on January 6, 2025, via Zoom.

*James B Woodard*

