



**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor Chris Stanek at 1:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

Marlene Salazar, Village Deputy Clerk called the role and quorum was present

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Chris Stanek

Councilor Caldwell

Councilor Turner

Councilor Stagg

Councilor Wittman

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda Amended: Recommendation by Rick Bellis Village Administrator to update the Closed Session item 14D. to include discussion on 10-15-1. H (8): Discussion or the purchase of the acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2024 REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 15, 2024 regular Village Council meeting

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 4-0

5. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTERS

Village, Deputy Clerk, Marlene Salazar performed the Oath of Office for New Police Officer Dustin LeNeve, Fire Fighters Scott Freeman, and Christopher Hansen

6. A. CITIZEN'S FORUM –for non-agenda items only. Limited to 5 minutes per person (please email awooldridge@vtsv.org to sign up)

Resident Michael Fitzpatrick spoke in regard to a presentation he created “The Village of Taos Ski Valley Crisis Management” The presentation requested the Village of Taos Ski Valley address financial situations, with (3) main points of focus. (1.) The projection of a \$1,000,000.00 Village operating deficit loans. (2.) The Continued Failure to comply with enterprise regulations of the State of NM, and NM State court rulings and the requirements outlined in the USDA loan covenant to the Village Water and Sewer Enterprise. (3.) The continued failure to fund the CIP with approximately \$3,000,000.00 per year for Village Infrastructure and needs. **Resident Michael Fitzpatrick recommended (5) solutions, (1.)** Terminate the \$50,000 contribution for snow removal on the plaza due to lack of available funds. (2.) Pause the contributions to the TIDD from the GRT income of the Village, i.e. (the 75% increment above

the static baseline) and add valorum increment sharing of 75%. (3.) Fix and establish water and sewer rates so the general fund transfers are no longer necessary. (4.) Pertail the practice of granting impact fee discounts without corresponding private contributions to CIP listed Village needs. (5.) Raise the water and sewer rates to proper levels as dictated by State and Federal authorities.

Resident Christof Brownell recommended having **both** Village Council meetings in person along with the zoom hybrid meetings option for people who cannot attend meetings.

B. CITIZEN'S FORUM - Public comment on agenda items. Limit of 5 minutes per person. This is an opportunity for the public to comment on items appearing on the meeting agenda, except for Public Hearing items. Subsequent public comment by persons not directly affected will generally be permitted only at the discretion of the presiding officer during discussion of agenda items by and among the Council members and persons and entities who are directly affected.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Commission: Commissioner Wittman reported no meeting was held in the month of December. The next meeting scheduled for the P&Z Board will be held on January 6, 2024.

B. Public Safety Committee: Board Chair Caldwell reported a meeting was held December 2, 2024. Discussion included positive feedback on the new re-design of Hiker Parking. No reports on underground power. The water meter project is currently being consolidated into one project, so the meters on the houses are being constructed by one contractor. A recycling program is in process with help from Village Administrator Rick Bellis. Kachina Vista Park Road is closed. The committee is also trying to purchase additional **NO PASSING** signs in Amizette. A challenging rescue by Village EMS was performed on Wheeler Peak (Good Job) and the next meeting of the Public Safety/Firewise Committee will be held on January 6, 2025.

C. Firewise Community Board: Board Chair Caldwell reported that most of the work is wrapped up for the year. Mark Schultz (Watershed Dynamics) will conduct work as weather permits. Discussion is being held with NM Gas Company in order to get lines extended throughout the Village. The next real-time public safety exercise (simulated propane tank explosion) according to Chief Vigil will be held in July of 2025.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee: Board Chair Woodard reported the committee met for a special meeting held on December 15, 2024 to consider a proposal grant application that is being developed along with the Enchanted Trails Association. Also see item 12.D

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board: Councilor Stagg reported no meeting was held, no reports this month

8. REGIONAL REPORTS: Village Administrator Rick Bellis reported the Town of Taos has approved access for the VTSV to haul sludge to the Town Landfill. The Council Governments did not meet. NCRD shuttle is up and running at no cost to the Village at this time. The NRPTPO did not meet this round. Village Administrator Rick Bellis met with the North Central NM Economic Development District, who approved the Village's request to provide us with grant assistance. A

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grant writer will be assigned to the Village on a consulting basis and help with possible searches for Federal and State monies for the ICIP and other legislative requests.

9. MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Stanek reported a letter was provided to the USFS representing the Villages position on supporting the draft decision regarding the Gondola Project. The letter included discussion of reducing traffic on Twining Rd and expressed concerns about restrictions on when and how the Gondola can be used. Follow up discussion with USFS will be conducted in January 2025.

10. STAFF REPORT: (See individual staff reports in the Council Packet for the 12/20/2024 Meeting) Village Administrator Rick Bellis reported on the two grants for the Booster Pump Station. The grants have been updated and submitted to legislature for time extension approval. The extra funds left over from the grants under a proposal approved by DFA, can now be used for emergency water repairs. A new project will get underway in July with Kit Carson Electric and VTSV. The project involves the installation of a battery backup put on a microgrid within the Village as a backup energy source. The underground power conversion shall be finished this upcoming year, and all required materials are available. TSVI has agreed to cooperate with VTSV to haul material for recycling. Taos County has also agreed to accept the material at no cost. There has also been discussion at the Town of Taos Landfill Board meetings regarding donating the recycling equipment the Town of Taos owns that is not being used to a member of the Landfill Board, which the Village is a member of and eligible for.

11. OLD BUSINESS: No Reports

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2025-593** Requesting a Budget Adjustment (BAR) to the FY2025 Budget, Increasing Revenues and Expenses in the Fire Enterprise Fund

MOTION: To Approve **Resolution No. 2025-593** Requesting a Budget Adjustment (BAR) to the FY2025 Budget, Increasing Revenues and Expenses in the Fire Enterprise Fund

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Caldwell **PASSED:** 4-0

B. Consideration to Approve the Dedication, Bill of Sale, and Agreement for Ernie Blake Road and Thunderbird Road and their respective River Crossings by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. to the Village of Taos Ski Valley

MOTION: To Approve the Dedication, Bill of Sale, and Agreement for Ernie Blake Road and Thunderbird Road and their respective River Crossings by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. to the Village of Taos Ski Valley

1st MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Wittman (**No Vote**)

DISCUSSION: Councilor Caldwell called for a review of the dedication by a hired professional from a financial standpoint, and stated he would like to see this item tabled.

2nd MOTION: Councilor Caldwell **SECOND:** No second

DISCUSSION: Attorney John Appel reported on this agenda item, the financial aspects are a responsibility of the TIDD Board. The TIDD Board is responsible for making sure the work is completed by applicable standards and that the funds are properly spent. The motion the Council is

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voting on is not to redo any of the finances or any of the work. The question at this point is, Is the Village willing to accept Ernie Blake Rd and Thunderbird Rd and their river crossings for Village ownership and Village maintenance responsibility?

MOTION: To Approve the Dedication, Bill of Sale, and Agreement for Ernie Blake Road and Thunderbird Road and their respective River Crossings by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. to the Village of Taos Ski Valley

MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Wittman **PASSED:** 2-1 (1) **ABSTAIN**

ABSTAIN: Councilor Stagg, **VOTING NAY:** Councilor Caldwell

C. Consideration to Accept Donation of Condo Unit 103 of the Neal King Firehouse structure for use as a U.S Postal Service facility for placement of the Village Post Office boxes housed in the TSVI Sprung Structure Tent

MOTION: To Accept Donation of Condo Unit 103 of the Neal King Firehouse structure for use as a U.S Postal Service facility for placement of the Village Post Office boxes housed in the TSVI Sprung Structure Tent

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 2-1 (1) **ABSTAIN**

ABSTAIN: Councilor Stagg **VOTING NAY:** Councilor Caldwell

DISCUSSION: Village Attorney John Appel stated this item is a draft agreement between TSVI and VTSV. The draft states the Post Office is a gift to the Village, with intent that it is to be used as a Post Office. This means the Village will become the owner of the Post Office. With approval of this agreement the Post Office will become the responsibility of The Village. The Village will be responsible to operate and maintain the unit. All details of parking, opening, etc. will be discussed further if this is approved.

D. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2025-594** Approving Submittal of an Application for a Trails Plus Grant in the amount of \$94,600 with a Match amount not to exceed \$32,750

MOTION: To Approve **Resolution No. 2025-594** Approving Submittal of an Application for a Trails Plus Grant in the amount of \$94,600 with a Match amount not to exceed \$32,750

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 4-0

DISCUSSION: Committee Chair Woodard reported on this item. The Grant includes (6) elements with two parts planning related. The grant also includes (1) Community Based Comprehensive plan of Trails and Green Space, (2) developing a sign strategy for Green Space, Open Space, Trails etc., (3) Completion/Construction of a Trail segment on Kachina Vista Park down to Porcupine, (4) Maintenance of the ski lift benches on the Ramming Memorial Trail. This grant will require a 50% match.

13. MISCELLANEOUS: No reports

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14. CLOSED SESSION

This matter will be discussed in closed session under the NM Open Public Meetings Act under exemption 10-15-1. H (7): meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant

Subject of Discussion: The items discussed in this closed session will include reversionary language which may be obsolete in the ownership of the Old Firehouse Village Offices and the litigation between the Village of TSV and the TIDD, filed by Mike Fitzpatrick.

MOTION: To enter into a closed session

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 4-0

15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

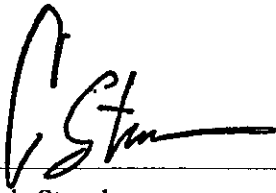
The next meeting of the Village Council will be the regular meeting on Friday January 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. via zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Stanek announced, with the hire of a new Village Administrator (Rick Bellis) the continuance of scheduling Community Meetings will be moving forward.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn the meeting

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 4-0



Mayor Chris Stanek

Attest: 

Acting Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar

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