



VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY

ELECTION 2022

CANDIDATE'S FORUM RECAP

Held: February 8, 2022, 3:00pm – 6:00 pm

The public was invited to hear the Candidate views and their answers to questions submitted by the Community the Taos Ski Valley 2022 Municipal Election on March 1, 2022. The Forum was moderated by the Taos Ski Valley Chamber of Commerce with the intent to pose questions that fairly represent the concerns of the community without bias.

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT IN ORDER BY RANDOM SELECTION:

Council: Brent Knox, Katherine Kett, Chris Stagg, Kathy Bennett, Henry Caldwell

Mayor: Neal King, Christof Brownell

Questions *not* answered in the Candidate's Forum can be directed to any or all Candidates:

Brent Knox - brentknoxtsv@taosnet.com

Katherine Kett - katkett@hotmail.com

Chris Stagg - Chris.Stagg@skitaos.com

Kathy Bennett - kathybennetttsv@cs.com

Henry Caldwell - henrycaldw9810@gmail.com

Neal King - nealkingtsv@cs.com

Christof Brownell - CBrownell@vtsv.org

Questions Asked:

Big Issues: What is the single biggest issue facing the Village right now & what is your action plan to fix this issue?

Emergency Services: We know that emergency services budget has been allocated from the general fund, we also know funds are needed for other priorities...What is your plan for Village Emergency Services?

Finances: If elected, what would be your suggested plan to address the current financial burdens on the Village?

Responsiveness: Don't Shoot the Messenger!

This is a tough question that means no disrespect to those working in our community: We have heard the Village leadership has a reputation of being slow to act and sometimes slow to communicate, how might you change this?

Infrastructure: The Village water, wastewater, gas and underground power infrastructure need effective management to complete upgrades. If elected, what decisions would you make for cost effective completion?

Conflict of Interest: We have a number of the same individuals that have served or are on Council, Planning & Zoning, and TIDD. We also have a State Governmental Conduct Act to be followed. Can you speak to your perspective on any conflict of interest?

Kachina Master Plan: Please share your view of the Kachina Master Plan individual elements such as the gondola or basin expansion that give you concern?

Services & Areas: What are your priorities in terms of village services to the core vs. outlying areas such as Amizette & Kachina Basin?

Collaboration: What do you believe are the Village Council and/or Mayoral duties? Is policy setting your strongest role or is evaluation of the Village staff performance?

Priorities: If elected, what are your top 3 priorities to accomplish in your term?

Extra Questions - not asked due to time constraint

From Forum Zoom chat: Considering the growth of our valley, should we have more people on the Council? That is a great question perhaps adding - say 2 more Council members.

From Forum Zoom chat: Do you feel that you have fulfilled your duties as outline in NMSA 3-12-3, specifically A. 3; to manage and control the finances and all property, real and personal, belonging to the municipality?

Twining Road: As we all know, the Village is in the process of upgrading Twining road. What is your perspective on this project and what concerns do you have?

Collaboration: It has been stated that we should collaborate with partners, new developers, and other businesses in Taos Ski Valley. Give an example of a situation that could have been resolved differently or it was resolved well, how did it benefit the partner(s), developer(s), and corporation(s) plus the Village Municipality.

Use of Funds: What is your view about the use of lodger's tax(public funds) funds to support Taos Air?

Area Priority: What are your priorities in terms of village services to the core vs. outlying areas such as Amizette & Kachina Basin?

Here are the questions the above questions were based on and additional extra questions, time allowing. The Chamber grouped the asked questions to hit the major topics and in some cases, consolidated the questions relevant to one topic. The raw questions, as submitted are listed below.

Raw Questions from the community include:

From Zoom chat: Considering the growth of our valley, should we have more people on the Council? That is a great question perhaps adding - say 2 more Council members.

From Zoom chat: Do you feel that you have fulfilled your duties as outline in NMSA 3-12-3, specifically A. 3; to manage and control the finances and all property, real and personal, belonging to the municipality?

The current administration should run on its record of achievements over the past 4 years. During that time frame our recycling is now less than it was; our EMS service has not expanded beyond one participant and our volunteer fire department now has fewer volunteers than 4 years ago. What is the record of this administration and how have services with this community been expanded?

What is your position on The Village Hall or Taos Mountain Lodge projects? Considering the Village Municipality owns Taos Mountain Lodge; what uses are being considered for its use for the community and village staff?

Recently, there have been a few conversations circling around a Taos Ski Valley neighborhood association. Can you describe its geographic boundaries and are all property owners allowed to join including the developers?

Are you in favor of or opposed to the new gondola being proposed by the ski company?

We have heard the Village leadership has a reputation of being slow to act and sometimes slow to communicate, how might you change this?

What are the specific responsibilities of the Council? Do you believe the Village Council should set policies for Village or manage Village staff?

What plans are in place to keep the Village from bankruptcy and a custodianship by the State?

If elected, what are your top 3 priorities to accomplish in your term?

Several of you have already had time in the village governance. If you are elected to serve again, how will your style of governance remain the same or change?

What is your view of how to balance village services to the core vs. outlying areas of the village.

It has been a 20+ year project to get power underground in the village. How would you as an elected village official ensure this project is completed to reduce fire risk in the valley?

What is your view about adopting the new Kachina Master Plan and its individual elements as a formal village policy?

How do you propose to avoid some of the major project cost overruns we have recently experienced (for example - the sewer plant and Taos Mountain Lodge) in future projects?

What is your view about the use of public village funds to support Taos Air?

In your view, what is the single biggest issue facing the village in the next decade?

We have a number of the same individuals on Council, Planning & Zoning, and TIDD. Please state your opinion on whether you see this as a problem or not? Do you believe there are conflicts of interest?

It has been stated that we should "work together with TSVI, not against them". This sounds wonderful but from what has been observed, "together" appears to mean no opposition to the corporation doing pretty much anything they want. Give an example of a situation you felt should or could have been resolved differently or how it was resolved well, and benefited the developer or corporation AND the village municipality?

Now that the village municipality owns Taos Mountain Lodge, what opportunities do you see for its use to the community and village staff? What are your ideas for renovation?

How do you as a candidate propose to address any real or perceived conflicts of interest in village governance?

As you know, the village is in the process of upgrading Twining road. What is your perspective on this project and what concerns do you have?

Do you have any conflicts of interest to report?

Responsive communication is an issue, why are we not communicated to regularly on important Village subjects such as Taos Mountain Lodge planning or fiscal issues?

Will you recuse yourself on any votes that include your conflict of interest?

What is your position on The Village Hall or Taos Mountain Lodge project?

I'm very concerned about the potential dangers from the overhead power lines on Upper Twining. The big wind storm in Dec dropped a couple of trees onto the line and power was out for several days. The same wind storm in the summer could easily result in a large wildfire with massive property damage. Kit Carson is waiting on VTSV to authorize and fund placing the power line underground. This is a crisis that requires immediate attention. TSV is not a world class village and resort if we have to live with these dangers. What are the plans to make our neighborhood safe?

What is the plan to address the financial burdens on the village caused by the new village office expansion?

Why aren't village taxpayers kept up to date on the status of the project's disposition?

Several of you have already had time in the village governance. If you are elected to serve again, how will your style of governance remain the same or change?

What is your view of how to balance village services to the core vs. outlying areas of the village.

What is your view about adopting the new Kachina Master Plan and its individual elements as a formal village policy?

We need Village leadership that follows through with responsive communication.

How do you propose to avoid some of the major project cost overruns we have recently experienced (for example - the sewer plant and Taos Mountain Lodge) in future projects?

In your view, what is the single biggest issue facing the village in the next decade?

We have a number of the same individuals on Council, Planning & Zoning, and TIDD. Please state your opinion on whether you see this as a problem or not? Do you believe there are conflicts of interest?

It has been stated that we should "work together with TSVI, not against them". This sounds wonderful but from what has been observed, "together" appears to mean no opposition to the corporation doing pretty much anything they want. Give an example of a situation you felt should or could have been resolved differently or how it was resolved well, and benefited the developer or corporation AND the village municipality?

Now that the village municipality owns Taos Mountain Lodge, what opportunities do you see for its use to the community and village staff? What are your ideas for renovation?