



VILLAGE COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP  
DRAFT MINUTES  
SNAKEDANCE CONDOMINIUMS  
RESTAURANT  
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO

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**MAYOR:**  
Neal King

**COUNCIL:**  
Kathleen V. Bennett  
J. Christopher Stagg  
Barbara L. Wiard  
Thomas P. Wittman

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Mark G. Fratrack

**FINANCE DIRECTOR:**  
Nancy Grabowski

**VILLAGE CLERK:**  
Ann M. Wooldridge

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING**

The budget workshop meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor King at 9:00 a.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Ann Wooldridge, Village Clerk, called the roll and a quorum was present.

**Governing body present:**

Mayor Neal King  
Councilor Kathy Bennett  
Councilor Chris Stagg  
Councilor/Mayor Pro Tem Barb Wiard  
Councilor Tom Wittman

**Village Staff present:**

Administrator Mark Fratrack  
Finance Director Nancy Grabowski  
Clerk Ann Wooldridge  
Public Works Director Ray Keen  
Public Safety Director Dave Wallace  
Planner Matthew Foster

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as submitted**

**Motion:** Councilor Wittman      **Second:** Councilor Stagg      **Passed:** 4-0

**4. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Administrator Fratrack presented the FY 2016 Budget Summary. The budget was reviewed and discussed by line item.

Fratrack highlighted several items in the proposed budget:

- Staff is making a conservative estimate projecting the incremental GRT amounts at 10% above the baseline amount.
- Reserve accounts are getting built up in order to cover the slow period of each year (July to December), and to be used for larger capital expenditures, or as debt service/ matching funds for grant opportunities
- There is a downward trend in the amount of water being used. For next fiscal year, calendar year 2014 actual usage is being used as a basis for estimating revenue. Based on a conservative forecasted usage and the downward trend, staff is recommending a 3% increase on fixed and variable rates.

- Trash collection fees will be raised by 2% as the hauling of sludge costs have been more than expected. This amount will marginally help to preserve reserves to move towards the goal of building a covered trash/recycling area.
- This past year has been very busy for all VTSV departments, from the TIDD process to heavy snows, and Fratrack feels that staff has performed very well and worked extremely hard. He recommends a 4% across the board pay increase, which after discussion, will be considered a merit increase.
- Fratrack would like to have a salary analysis done by an outside firm during FY2016, which would include updating job descriptions
- Budgeted amounts for legal fees will be stepped back as the only remaining lawsuit has been settled.
- In Public Works, future water and sewer revenue will need to be increased and set aside for debt service for a new treatment plan.
- Road expenses cover \$7,500 for dust control in summer 2015, with an additional \$150,000 for a bionic soil solution treatment on Twining Road to harden the dirt and gravel into something very similar to concrete. Additionally, an amount has been set aside to purchase a snow blower attachment for the front end loader.
- Capital Improvement Projects:
  - a. Wastewater Treatment Plant: A new plant tops the list of Capital Improvement projects. A legislative request was made, however no capital outlay requests were approved in this year’s legislative session. Staff has submitted a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan application for \$550,000 to be used for all engineering, studies, design, surveying, and other required items to bring the project to a shovel-ready state.
  - b. Water System Leak Project: Staff plans to submit a loan application to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund for a \$250,000 grant to perform an in-depth leak assessment of the Village’s water system.
  - c. USFS Townsite Act: There may be additional costs involved for studies and surveys involving the conveyance of treatment plant land. Some funds have been budgeted for this.
  - d. Core Area Loop/Bypass:\$100,000 for upgrade to the water system in the Core area.
  - e. Kachina Water Tank: Staff has applied to the Water Trust Board for a \$2.17 million grant for this project.
- Staff feels that this is a fiscally conservative budget that will assure that the Village can maintain its present level of operations and service, while setting aside reserve funds for emergency, unforeseen expenses and provides the funding building blocks for future planning.

Discussion included the following

- Baseline GRT for TIDD: Fratrack said that the Village plans to build reserves in order to fund projects identified in the TIDD finance plan. Chaz Rockey, with TSV Inc., said that loans for these amounts have been accounted for in the TIDD plan for Village financing. Constructions costs are looking higher than previously estimated, which he said would generate more GRT overall. Several spreadsheets were presented comparing various averages of GRT base annual collections. The Council directed Fratrack and Rockey to ask NM Tax and Revenue whether the

TIDD GRT baseline was able to be adjusted, and to work together on a compromise number between the average of the last three years' GRT, and the TSV Inc. adjusted GRT number, which subtracts out the GRT from TSV's 2014 construction activities.

- Fratrack asked Chief Wallace to present to the Council Wallace's request for an additional Public Safety officer. Wallace explained that having 24-hour Public Safety coverage would be a tourism-friendly move to assist with keeping crime lower, would protect materials being stored for construction, help with higher influx of skiers, create faster response times to all calls, and would especially help with EMS calls when volunteers are needed for assistance, often late at night. Chief Wallace has been on-call every night for eleven years. Fratrack expressed concern about adding additional staff at this time. Mayor King will work with Fratrack and Chief Wallace to find a suitable solution.
- Small Cities Assistance: Nancy Grabowski to check on whether there will be any changes in the near future.
- Chile Line bus: the arrangement has stayed the same, with the Village paying \$30,000 from the Lodger's tax fund to the Town of Taos.
- The Council made suggestions on looking at creating a wage policy with criteria for raises, and also at creating a policy limiting accumulated leave time for salaried employees, as well as hourly employees.
- The Lodger's Tax grant procedures may be re-assessed in the future.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion:** Councilor Wittman                      **Second:** Councilor Wiard                      **Passed:** 4-0.

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Neal King, Mayor

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Ann Wooldridge, Village Clerk