

Mr. J.R. Logan, Coordinator of the Taos County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) CORE Team said that the Highway 150 Corridor Decision Memo was signed in February 2018, which opened the door for work to be done in the National Forest on Highway 150. The Highway 150 Corridor Project Boundary consists of 873 acres. The action map indicates areas for planned conifer removal/aspen regeneration, free thinning, regeneration patch cuts, and areas for riparian restoration. Mr. Logan's PowerPoint presentation contained diagrams showing areas of greater and lesser probability of crown fire. He said that the Village's CWPP matches closely to the Highway 150 Corridor Project Plan for planned thinning in and around the Village.

Mr. Logan described the actions taken by him and others in obtaining funds for thinning in the San Cristobal area. He said that the U.S. Forest Service is underfunded, and that he had been able to secure \$250,000 for forest thinning, which was able to be used on federal land. Mr. Logan said that there is an opportunity for collaboration with State, County, and local efforts for thinning on USFS and BLM lands, and to also coordinate private-side efforts for thinning by TSVI on its Special Use Permitted land. There are funds available for the Village to apply for from NM State Forestry through the Forest and Watershed Restoration Act, and from NM State Forestry through the Non-Federal Lands Grant. Additionally, funds are available from the USFS through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. Recommended funding sources for private property owners for thinning are the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District Fire Prevention Cost Share Program, and the EQIP Program through the Natural Resources Conservation District. Each of these programs has different application deadlines and funding amounts annually. Mr. Logan explained how the funds had snowballed in the case of the San Cristobal thinning effort; in 2018 and 2019 five different grants were obtained through the Forest Watershed Restoration Act, the Non-Federal Lands Grant, and the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program for various acreage amounts each. Funding for a total of 975 acres was obtained in that time period. Applications and grants are still underway for additional acreage of thinning in this area.

Ray Corral explained that various zones around the Village were slated for fuel treatments in the Highway 150 Project Plan. The Bull of the Woods section has been funded, and thinning is expected to begin in the spring. For thinning in the Wild West area and in the Minnesota's, the USFS' Special Use Permit holder would create the plan. Mr. Corral explained that standing dead trees act more like a fuel break in the event of a wildfire because they don't have a crown to burn. Once the dead trees fall to the ground, they are more dangerous, he said.

Mr. Corral said that a Northside at Taos Ski Valley project for thinning on 50 acres of private land and 50 acres of USFS land had been applied for by the Pattisons. An award of \$200,000 was approved in November 2019 by the Forest and Watershed Restoration Act Committee (FAWRA).

7. CITIZENS' FORUM – Limit to 5 minutes per person (please sign in)

A. Homeowner Mike Fitzpatrick thanked Chief Trujillo for following up with NMDOT to eliminate the passing zones in Amizette.

B. Susie Schwartz presented a Town of Taos resolution regarding health, safety, and regional contamination issues at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She asked to meet with the Mayor to discuss a possible similar resolution by the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Director Grabowski reported that GRT remitted to the Village in November for September filings was \$88,409 compared to \$141,644 for last year. Year-to-date is \$41,000 versus \$474,429 for last year. The low number is a result of a lack of distribution in October, along with a withdrawal of GRT by NM Tax & Revenue for repayment of funds which it determined should have gone to the TIDD.

The TIDD received GRT in November of \$193,395. Hold Harmless GRT for the month was \$22,260.

Lodger's tax collections in November for October were \$15,121 versus \$11,905 for last year. Fiscal year-to-date total is \$84,870 versus \$70,303 for last year.

Several pieces of obsolete Village equipment were sold from the Public Surplus site from which the Village received \$26,591 in November.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Commission –Commission Chair Wittman reported that the Commission did not meet in December, as it met on November 18, 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2020. The continuance of the Public Hearing from November 4, 2019 is currently scheduled for the February 3, 2020 Commission meeting. The developer is working on finalizing their plans.

B. Public Safety Committee –Committee Chair Pattison reported that the Committee and the Firewise Board did not meet in December. The Committee is continuing work on the Firewise draft ordinance. The next meeting will take place on January 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Inn at Taos Valley.

C. Firewise Community Board of Directors – Discussion was covered under the Public Safety Committee report. The next meeting will take place on January 6, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Inn at Taos Valley.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee – The information relayed from Chair Katherine Kett was that the Committee was continuing work with Planning Director Nicholson and the GIS technician on a trails plan. The next meeting time will be announced at a later date.

E. Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board – No report

10. REGIONAL REPORTS

Planning Director Nicholson said that the Source Water Protection Committee had met the previous week and had had a very productive discussion on prioritizing protective measures to safeguard the Village’s water supply. He said that the final draft Source Water Protection plan is now complete, while the Committee is finalizing comments, revisions, and recommendations. The Committee will meet again on January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge Club Room.

11. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Brownell said that the new snow had been welcome, and Councilor Stagg said that the snow level was well in advance of the same time last year. The Landfill Board Recycling Committee is still trying to work out a plan, he said. Mayor Brownell suggested that the Village try to work with merchants to encourage reduction of single-use plastics. The project in Questa to get older homes renovated and up for sale or for use was discussed at the IGC meeting.

12. STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Avila reported on ongoing projects:

- **WWTP** – Project management for the Waste Water Treatment Plant includes scheduling for month-end the regular progress meetings with USDA to coincide with the Village’s pay application process. A list of guided items are discussed at monthly construction meetings, the last week of the month, and addressed in the owner’s monitoring report to Rural Development. The final disbursement of \$53,415 in the Capital Outlay grant has been received. Administrator Avila reported on work in progress: last pump set this morning, gas line to be finished in building this week and test heaters, clean water testing this week, test date to start seeding next week, CID permits and electrical completed. Have backup heating as needed for seed testing the new plant. Skinned building with doors installed by next week and the weather is predicted good for the schedule. The electrical will be pulled out of existing conduit at treatment plant prior to running fiber. Director Martinez said that colder temperatures this year have made it difficult to get the nitrogen cycle working. He said that the new plant should be online by Christmas.
- **Kachina Water Tank** – The tank construction portion is complete with tank tests and beam coating in November. Even though the tank is constructed there remains additional work to make it operational. RMCI has suspended work until after the ski season in 2020. The pumps are onsite and electrical plans are ready for assignment to RMCI or another entity for installation of mechanical piping. An agreement for assignment and removal of extra material from the site by TSVI upon completion of construction still needs to be drafted however TSVI has provided a letter to that effect. This will generate an RMCI credit back for the project. Dry utilities at the tank including electrical, fiber, and mechanical piping in the vault, are in place but still need to be coordinated with providers’ infrastructure. The Public Works Department has committed to extending the dry utilities from the existing end locations on Blue Jay Ridge Road to the location where they connect with RMCI work. Closing project funding documentation has been completed with the Water Trust Board but they will continue to monitor the project until completion.
- **Village Hall Complex** – The apartment portion of the project is being treated as an enterprise fund because of planned expenses and revenues. Work to repair the two-unit building started last week and then work will follow on

the other apartment units. This will allow for on-call EMS staffing housing during the season. Paving has been completed. Work at the Village Complex in December is planned to include installing and testing the fiber.

- **Other Items:**

- The Village of Taos Ski Valley has submitted its Excavation RFP to ECCOG for input and will post the request in January. The coordination was in response to the ECCOG Administrator's request.
- The Village has also shared a draft document for coordinating Building Official/Inspector Services and expects to hear back after the Town of Taos Council meeting this evening.
- One of the Legislative Efforts that was learned about at the NMML Winter Conference is that Legislative representatives are planning to increase funding for Fire Department and Police Department capital projects during the upcoming 2020 session. This is possible due to a healthier State General fund that will allow less transfer from Police and Fire funds in the State. The capital expenditures will be through Capital Outlay and/or formulaic funding to each local department through their Fire and Police fund disbursements. The Departments are advised to use their capital planning lists for project applications.
- TIDD project meeting with TSVI is scheduled for next week to review and help support the construction plans for Thunderbird/ Ernie Blake Roads scheduled for 2020.
- Staff intends to have the latest TIDD Dedications on the January Council Meeting. Staff has worked on answering questions over the last few weeks and thinks that review is nearing completion.

Department Briefs

- Chief Trujillo presented the November Public Safety report: Arrests (0), Residential Alarms (3), Business Alarms (5), Vehicle Alarm (1), Suspicious Persons/Vehicles (3), Citizen Assists (101), Embezzlement (0), Traffic Enforcement Hours (82), Traffic Stops (6), Traffic Hazard (5), Theft (0), Vehicle Theft (0), Larceny (0), Property Damage (0), Verbal Warnings (13), Written Warnings (7), Parking Citations (5), Written Citations (3), Assists to other Agencies (6), Foot Patrol Hours (40), Welfare Check (3), Animal calls (2), MVCs (1), B&E (0), Trespass Warnings (0), Found/Lost Property (0), Disorderly (0), Reckless Driver (1), Private Property Crash (2), 911 Hang Up (1), Trespassing (0), Battery or Assault (1), Domestic Calls (1), Narcotics Adult (0), Civil Stand-by (0), Shots Fired (0), Abandoned Vehicle (2), Fire Calls (4), Fire Alarms (2), EMS Calls (2), SAR Calls (0).
- Planning Director Nicholson reported that planning department staff and contractors continue to review and address items of concern about the proposal for the Resort at Taos Ski Valley. The preservation of open space and year-round access remain primary concerns. The preliminary plat approval and rezoning request are scheduled to be heard at the February 3, 2020 P&Z Commission meeting. Recent meetings with TSVI management indicate that the Thunderbird Road reconstruction project is on track for work to commence in the spring, after ski season
- Administrator Avila read Building Official Bowden's report, as Building Official Bowden was at the Village Office to allow for the Kit Carson fiber optic installers to complete their work. Building Official Bowden conducted two residential inspections and five multi-family or commercial inspections. A temporary certificate of occupancy was issued for the Columbine Inn, pending State Fire Marshal inspection in January. The contractor certified completion of upgrades to the alarm system according to the scope of work. One permit has been issued, for a spring start, and two permit inquiries for residential applications have been received. He has been concentrating on drafting the updated Village Building Code Ordinance in conjunction with Administrator Avila and Attorney Baker.
- Public Works Director Martinez reported that staff time had been spent plowing roads because of the 22 inches of snowfall in the recent two storms. New Staff members are still learning the routines. Mechanic Vasquez is keeping up with equipment maintenance. An agreement has been arranged for snow removal with the St. Moritz because the road encroaches on their property. The treatment plant construction is causing extra work in order to remain in compliance but the Staff is working through the various issues as the plant gets tested and online.
- Clerk Wooldridge reported that candidate filing day for the March 3, 2020 Municipal Officer Election is January 7, 2019 from 9 to 5 at the Village Office, 7 Firehouse Road. January 14, 2020 is the write-in candidate filing day. Details will be distributed.
- Attorney Baker reported that the P&Z Commission had recommended that the Firewise Board meet with the P&Z Commission for a working session on the draft Firewise Ordinance, which will occur at the January 6, 2020 P&Z meeting. She said that it appears TSVI and the Village have agreed on an arrangement for the Parcel D and Parcel C fees. Details of the Resort at Taos Ski Valley development agreement continue to be worked out. Plans for an exchange of property/deeds for the Firehouse Road property are being worked on with Mickey Blake.

13. OLD BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2020-417 a Resolution to Approve of the Disposal of the Department of Public Safety Eagle Radar Units

The purpose of the disposal/donation of these two radar units is that they are no longer operable for daily use and are obsolete.

The cost to repair and recalibrate these units would not be practical, and the Department has updated to newer and more effective radar units.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 2020-417 a Resolution to Approve of the Disposal of the Department of Public Safety Eagle Radar Units

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Stagg

Passed: 4-0

B. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2020-418 Approving the Village of Taos Ski Valley 2020 Legislative Priority Requests

The Village Staff is planning to seek legislative funding during the 2020 Legislative Session. For support of Staff's request for funding it is prudent that the Village Council pass a Resolution supporting the request for priority funding of capital improvement projects.

This action does not preclude the Legislature funding other Village projects but directs Staff's efforts for the application process. The Mayor and Council should discuss and decide which projects from the ICIP list should be prioritized for legislative funding requests, said Administrator Avila. Councilor Stagg suggested that it would be best to pick one or two projects that are shovel-ready which could be completed and could create jobs.

Discussion followed. The Kachina Booster Station was suggested as a good example, because just the last 10% of the project is needed for completion. Water line upgrades and installation was also suggested as a good project as there are many areas needing upgrades, and additional fire hydrants are needed. Planning Director Nicholson supported the upgrade of infrastructure in Twining Road before improvements are made to the road. Director Martinez said that it is best to upgrade main lines first so that when lines in side streets are upgraded, the lines are connected to new lines. Councilor Stagg said that requests for fire, life safety, and health items are always appealing. Additional fire and Police funds will be available this year, through either capital outlay requests, or through the formulaic funding each department receives in annual disbursements. The Village Administrative Complex needs to be funded, and there was a suggestion to fund the undergrounding of electric lines, especially in Amizette. In the past, however, it was the Kit Carson franchise fees that paid for the Village's portion of the work to be done. Kit Carson funds its portion of the work. These funds are not able to be used on private property. Development of Gunsite Springs is also on the Village's ICIP project list, though Director Nicholson said that it made sense to seek funds next year, after the \$315,000 in legislative funding from this year had been expended.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 2020-418 Approving the Village of Taos Ski Valley 2020 Legislative Priority Requests, with the top three priority projects being the Kachina Water Booster Station, Water Line Upgrades and Expansion, and Wastewater Line Upgrades and Expansion

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Kern

Passed: 4-0

Councilor Stagg urged the staff to get the appropriate forms filled out for each project, signed by Bobby Gonzales, and submitted.

C. Consideration to Approve Renewal of the Medical Director's Service Contract for the EMS System in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has maintained a contract with Dr. Quigley Peterson as the medical director for the EMS system in the Village for many years. The most recent contract has expired and needs to be renewed. As stated in his contract, he shall maintain a valid license to practice medicine in New Mexico, oversee continuing education and quality assurance for service members licensed by the New Mexico EMS Bureau, develop and approve guidelines and protocols with the Village's Director, act as a liaison with the local health care providers including the Taos Ski Valley Ski Patrol and the EMS Bureau in Santa Fe, and agree to allow his clinic to be used as a staging area in the event of a medical emergency within the Village. Director Grabowski said that the cost to the Village is \$3,600 a year, the cost of one half of the Director's liability insurance for this service. The other portion is paid by TSVI.

MOTION: To approve Renewal of the Medical Director's Service Contract for the EMS System in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Motion: Councilor Pattison

Second: Councilor Wittman

Passed: 4-0

D. Consideration to Approve an Increase in Shift Stipends to Emergency Medical Services Peak On-Call Volunteers for the 2019-2020 Ski Season

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has been providing on-call shift stipends for volunteer EMS staff during peak weekends and holidays for the past two ski seasons. Volunteer on-call EMS services are scheduled to begin this season on December 20, 2019. Unfortunately it has been a struggle to get volunteers despite the stipend now offered. A suggestion while meeting with Dr. Peterson and Leland Thompson from TSVI ski patrol, was to increase the paid stipend from \$75.00 per overnight shift to \$100.00 per overnight shift to encourage more participation. With the increased support from the Village Lodger's Tax Board there should be sufficient funds to cover this request. It is the hope to provide coverage at holiday periods and on busy weekends, at the least.

MOTION: To approve an Increase in Shift Stipends to Emergency Medical Services Peak On-Call Volunteers for the 2019-2020 Ski Season

Motion: Councilor Pattison Second: Councilor Wittman Passed: 4-0

E. Consideration to Approve Renewal of the GIS Services Contract and Authorization for the Village Administrator to Negotiate the Terms of the Contract

Today a Geographic Information System (GIS) is an essential municipal service, providing program support across all Village Departments. The GIS services contractor would build upon and expand the past year's efforts with work continuing on system design, data compilation, base layer creation and development, spatial analysis and mapping. Examples of the types of spatial analysis and GIS mapping products provided as deliverables under the contract would include: municipal zoning and land use, Village utilities and infrastructure, land ownership, land development scenarios, E-911 addressing, public safety response time areas, and the like. It is anticipated that upon completion of an expanded Village Hall facility, that a permanent part-time position would be created, allowing this service to be brought in-house.

MOTION: To approve Renewal of the GIS Services Contract and Authorization for the Village Administrator to Negotiate the Terms of the Contract

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

Director Nicholson said that the contract amount will be \$18,000 less than last year's. The contract does not oblige the Village to hire someone part-time in the future.

15. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Attorney Baker said that all Committees and Commissions will be required to adopt an open meetings act resolution in January.

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

The next Regular Village Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge Club Room.

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Wittman Second: Councilor Kern Passed: 4-0

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Christof Brownell, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk