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**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
SNAKEDANCE CONDOS
HONDO RESTAURANT
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, 2:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor King at 2:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

Ann Wooldridge, Village Clerk, called the role 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
Community Development Director Don Schieber
Planner Matthew Foster

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilor Bennett asked to add discussion of the High Mountain Hideout Special Event that occurred over Labor Day weekend, under Miscellaneous.

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the amendment

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2015 REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 11, 2015 Regular Council Meeting as presented

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

5. CITIZEN'S FORUM

A. Presentation by The Nature Conservancy concerning a Collaborative Charter for the Rio Grande Water Fund and a Fire History Study

Mr. Ernie Atencio with The Nature Conservancy spoke about the development of a Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF) whose mission will be to restore watersheds and avoid damage to watersheds when wildfires occur. The RGWF has developed a binding charter. He requested that the Mayor and Council review the charter documents, and hopefully vote to sign on to the collaborative charter. Signatories to the charter may participate on the Board of the RGWF.

Mr. Atencio introduced Mr. Craig Allen, a forest ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, who spoke about the interest in conducting a fire history study of the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness area, as well as of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness area. The study conducted by Mr. Allen in the Pecos Wilderness Area of the Santa Fe watershed has been successful in determining the pace and scale of forest restoration efforts in the area. The Nature Conservancy is planning to conduct a fire history for the Taos area as part of the RGWF project and in cooperation with the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition. The study will help determine whether the ecological character of the Wilderness areas are intact or diminished, and could allow for some limited forest thinning treatments in certain strategic areas to help restore and maintain wilderness characteristics. They are requesting cost-share contributions from local government jurisdictions to underwrite the U.S. Geological Survey research, and are asking the Village of Taos Ski Valley to contribute \$5,000. This item will be placed on next month's Council agenda for a vote.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Director Grabowski reported that GRT collected in August was \$20,239 compared to \$20,302 for the same month last year. GRT yearly total (July and August) is down by 17%. Lodger's Tax collected in August was \$7,335 compared to \$6,805 for FY 2015. The Lodger's Tax year-to-date collections are up by 25%, largely due to some late payments for previous months. Water, sewer, and trash revenues are up slightly year-to-date, while property tax collections are up by 27% over last year. Two reserve accounts held at Centinel Bank by the Village have been closed and the funds used to purchase certificates of deposit, for increased interest. The Village and the TIDD budgets were approved in August by the DFA.

Staff is evaluating the salary survey quote to see if some areas could be completed by Village Staff, in order to cut costs. Darren Shedku has been hired as a full-time employee in the Public Works Department.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Commission

Councilor Wittman reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., September 14, 2015 at the Snakedance Condominiums.

B. Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety Committee did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at Councilor Bennett's house on Snowshoe Road.

C. Firewise Community Board of Directors

The Board did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at Councilor Bennett's house on Snowshoe Road. The Board will be working on renewing the Firewise Community designation, as they have met the requirements.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee

Chairperson Katherine Kett has undertaken some new projects, including enhancing the path through the Kachina area wetlands, with installation of a picnic table, and working on a system for connecting existing trails. The committee is planning to host a community-wide barbecue and picnic in October. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2015 at the Village Firehouse.

E. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board – No report

8. REGIONAL AND STATE REPORTS

Councilor Wiard reported on:

- Taos Regional Landfill Board meeting. The contractor has begun work on the new cell at the landfill.
- NMML Annual Conference in Albuquerque in early September. The NMML is staying on top of various changing tax situations for municipalities.
- October meetings for Councilor Wiard include the Governor's DWI Committee and the NMML Board of Directors.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King reported that he and several other Council members and staff had attended the NMML annual conference in Albuquerque in early September.

10. STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Fratrack reported on the following:

- Townsite Act – Staff is working with the Village engineers to complete the required USFS studies. Estimated cost by the Forest Service was \$15,900, however Staff is estimating close to \$20,000.
- Water Trust Board (WTB) Kachina Water Tank Application – No new update as Staff is continuing to work with FEI Engineers on the required “readiness to proceed” items due September 30, 2015. To recap, the WTB approved \$1,640,000 for the Kachina Water Tank (90% grant/10% loan). The Village match is \$330,000, and the TIDD is slated for \$200,000, for a project total of \$2,170,000.
- Utility Line Project – After discussions with Village financial consultants at G.K. Baum, Staff will delay pursuing the Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) for \$1,000,000 until better forecasting has been completed and other grant/loan opportunities have been secured, such as the Water Trust Board (WTB) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).
- Sutton Place – no update at this time
- BLM Listening Session – Fratrack spoke at a meeting in conjunction with The Mountain Pact’s efforts to increase coal lease valuations on federal lands.
- Burroughs Crossing Meeting – the Mayor and Village Staff facilitated a meeting with a Sierra del Sol HOA representative and a representative from TSVI, to walk through the plans for the Burroughs crossing that involves new culvert placement. Village Staff had staked the ground to clarify locations. Hopefully, the parties will agree on construction of the culverts.
- Thunderbird Road sidewalk – Village Staff sees a need for a completed sidewalk on the east side (Sprung structure side) of Thunderbird Road due to an increased number of pedestrians walking on that side of the road next winter. Initial discussions with landowners are underway.
- Taos County Commission Briefing – Administrator Fratrack and TSV Inc. CEO Briner were invited to present an update on Taos Ski Valley activity at the recent Taos County Commission meeting. News appeared to be well-received.

Director Wallace’s report on the August activity regarding Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire:

- Law Enforcement: (1) 911 Hang-Up, (1) Larceny, (1) Disturbance, (3) Citizen Assists, (1) Motor Vehicle Collision, (66.5) Hours of Traffic Enforcement, (6) Traffic Stops, (6) Verbal Warnings, (11) Parking Citations
- Fire/EMS: (0) Fire Responses, (0) EMS Responses
- SAR: (0) SAR Missions
- Other Activity: None

Director Wallace announced that 30 new Jaynes Corporation workers would be arriving the following day for iron work at the new hotel in Sutton Place, to be followed by work for steel installation the next week.

Director Schieber reported that construction activity in the Village has been limited outside of the building of the hotel on Parcel G.

Director Keen reported that the Public Works Department has been busy working on roads, applying magnesium chloride for dust, and making necessary repairs at the Kachina Lift Station.

Clerk Wooldridge reported that Staff is continuing to spread information about use of the new location code for businesses when submitting CRS reports, starting with reports for July. Work is being conducted to clarify and file final Village boundaries, as well as final TIDD boundaries. Firmer tactics are being used with delinquent utility and lodger’s tax accounts.

Administrator Fratrack announced that he had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2016-294**, Requesting Approval of the Disposition of Capital Assets Owned by the Village of Taos Ski Valley
As part of the review of the list of capital assets, many items were identified as being impaired, past their useful life, or obsolete. Staff is requesting that these items, which are no longer useable by the Village, be removed from the capital asset list and be disposed of accordingly. In addition, there are three vehicles that are titled to the Public Works Department which are no longer safe to operate or are inoperable; they will be listed for sale via the public surplus web site. As required by the State Auditor's Office, the Council must approve any items being removed from the current capital asset and depreciation list.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2016-294 , Requesting Approval of the Disposition of Capital Assets Owned by the Village of Taos Ski Valley

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

B. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2016-295**, Authorizing and Approving a Policy for Village Credit Card Usage
Staff has created a policy along with a procedure which requires all employees who receive a company card to read the policy and to sign an acknowledgement of their responsibilities for using a Village credit card and the consequences of misusing the privilege of having a Village credit card.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2016-295, Authorizing and Approving a Policy for Village Credit Card Usage

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

C. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2016-296**, Authorizing the Assignment of Official Representatives and Signatory Authorities for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project # 052
The Village of Taos Ski Valley has applied for and has been approved by the New Mexico Environment Department for a loan/grant through the CWSRF to begin work on the planning, upgrading and construction of a new Waste Water Treatment Plant. In order to process and submit documents pertaining to the CWSRF project, and for requesting reimbursement of funds, the New Mexico Environment Department requires a resolution by the Village Council approving these signatory authorities.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2016-296, Authorizing the Assignment of Official Representatives and Signatory Authorities for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project # 052

Motion: Councilor Bennett **Second:** Councilor Wiard **Passed:** 4-0

D. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2016-297**, Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2015-2016, NM LGRF DOT Project SP-5-15 (196)

After passage of the attached resolution, the Highway Department will be drafting a contract for Village approval for the 2016 road project. At this point, the State has committed to funding in the amount of \$45,000 with the Village contributing 25% of total project costs, or \$15,000.00, for a total project cost of \$60,000.00

MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2016-297, Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2015-2016, NM LGRF DOT Project SP-5-15 (196)

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

13. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Discussion of High Mountain Hideout music event
Councilor Bennett asked for closer scrutiny of special event permits for events at the Bavarian Lodge in the Kachina area, particularly in regards to parking. Director Wallace reported that parking attendants were supposed to have been in place, but that any future event sponsor will be required to conduct pre-planning meetings with the Public Safety Department.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The next regular meeting of the Village Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Snakedance Condominiums Hondo Restaurant.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Wiard

Passed: 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Neal King, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk