

on measures to be taken this summer for mitigating fire hazard and for increasing forest health. Thinning will occur on 276 acres and Northside will be closed. TSVI's John Kelly also reported on thinning measures to be taken this summer on TSVI's public and private lands. CIAC Chair Ben Cook reported on the Committee's continued work. Director Nicholson discussed the possibility of granting administrative approval for a new deck at the Alpine Village Suites. Next P&Z meeting will take place on June 7, 2021.

B. Public Safety Committee – Chairman Neal King reported on Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board activity, such as discussion of a firewise resolution, discussion of Hiker Parking, and discussion of the possibility of hiring two paid part-time EMS/Fire personnel. The suggestion is to pay for 18 hours a week, and to make part of the compensation housing at the Village Complex.

C. Firewise Community Board of Directors -see above

D. Parks & Recreation Committee – Committee Chair Kett reported that a spring clean-up will take place on May 27, 2021, to include a picnic at Twining Campground.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board –Co-Chair Stagg reported that the Board met on May 24, 2021 to discuss the lodgers tax budget, estimate of projected collections, and projects to be funded for FY22. The Chamber budget was approved. Discussion took place on other items including funding of bus transportation, funding for paid EMS staff, and funding for Taos Air. The Board was in favor of all of these items, but couldn't fund them all, he said. A middle ground of funding Taos Air at \$120,000 in the budget for now was agreed upon. The Board requested lodgers tax expenditure proposal applications for all proposed items, except for the Chamber funding. Other items may be considered later.
The next meeting date has not been set.

F. Capital Infrastructure Advisory Committee – Director Nicholson reported that he CIAC had completed its first stage of work and had approved a draft development impact fee schedule and accessory report.

7. REGIONAL REPORTS

A. Discussion of a Resolution for the Landfill Board

Mayor Brownell discussed this proposed resolution for the Landfill Board addressing the recycle program. He said that the Village would like to participate, though not all entities are interested. The recycling center is taking only cardboard at this time.

B. Discussion of an Enchanted Circle Council of Governments Resolution for the Film Office

Discussion took place at the ECCoG about adopting a resolution creating a Taos Regional/Enchanted Circle Film Office, which could be a positive step for Northern New Mexico.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Brownell said that he is in favor of paid EMS staff and recommended three part-time personnel along with the Chief. The Landfill Board discussed Earth Day and reported that ten tons of trash had been collected. At the IGC meeting, Luis Reyes reported on additional charging stations for electric vehicles being installed in Taos. The recent Cannabis Act was discussed and the need for each municipality to adopt its own ordinances. GRT would be collected on cannabis sales, unlike on medical marijuana sales. The hope is to have regulations in place by September. At the ECCoG meeting, economic indicators were discussed as the hope is for tourism to increase in the region. A resolution in support of Taos Air was adopted.

In the Village, Mayor Brownell reported that the effort to get homes connected to the underground electric service was proving to be difficult. Trenching in Amizette needs to be completed, especially on the south side of the highway.

Mayor Brownell congratulated Village staff on doing a great job in coordinating and implementing Covid-safe requirements for homeowners, businesses, and the public. The July 4th event is being planned and everyone should get their ideas to the Chamber of Commerce, he said.

9. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were included in the Council packet and were posted to the Village web site.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Village of Taos Ski Valley Health Order

Mayor Brownell said that the Village of Taos Ski Valley, along with other municipalities and organizations, are allowed to maintain more precautions than those required by the NMDOH Health Order. However, it will prove more difficult to maintain those standards as precautions decrease. Also, the efficacy of those precautions may be minimal with increasing visitors and decreasing safety practices.

At this time, it seems practical to follow the NMDOH guidelines without additional precautions until the NM Pandemic Emergency is declared over. As advancement in vaccination is matched by the rapidly decreasing social protections and practices, the advice of Council is requested for COVID protection policy.

Both Dr. Peterson and David Norden urged the community to get together on a unified approach, although each business can make its own rules. They said that it would be useful to have a summer plan in place.

Updates will take place at the next council meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve Resolution 2021-471 Concerning Open Meeting Requirements of Governing Body Official Boards, Commissions, and Committees of the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Village Administrator Avila said that the Village has a number of Boards, Commissions and Committees that are required to comply with the Open Meetings Act. This resolution describes the requirements of statute all should follow when adopting an OMA resolution for their group.

Discussion took place on whether these committees actually made policy and on whether they really needed to follow the open meetings act requirements, or whether following these requirements would just get in the way of conducting business and getting things accomplished.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution 2021-471 Concerning Open Meeting Requirements of Governing Body Official Boards, Commissions, and Committees of the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Motion: Councilor Wittman Second: Councilor King Failed: 0-4

B. Consideration to Approve Resolution 2021-472 Approving Disposal of Assets Concerning the Police Trailer

MOTION: To table this item

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

C. Consideration to Approve Resolution 2021-473 A Resolution approving Water, Sewer, and Trash Rates for Fiscal Year 2022

Administrator Avila explained the Village provides water, sewer, and trash service through self-supporting enterprise operations that require user fees. The rates for these services have been addressed from time to time in order to pay for capital and operational expenditures. The Village has been advised to establish rates for enterprise funds through ordinance adoption. Once established the rates can be adjusted periodically through a rate structure resolution. The Village of Taos Ski Valley Council approved the current water, sewer, and trash rates in FY2019 by Ordinance No. 2019-68. At the Council budget workshop on April 27, 2021, direction was given to staff to implement an increase to the water/sewer fixed rate of 10%, he said. Based on that direction, the fixed water/sewer rate would go from \$59.09/EQR to \$65.00/EQR, an increase of \$5.91/EQR. The per gallon charge for water and sewer would remain at \$0.0472/gallon. The trash would also remain the same at \$5.01 per EQR.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution 2021-473 A Resolution approving Water, Sewer, and Trash Rates for Fiscal Year 2022

Motion: Councilor Wittman Second: Councilor King

Discussion took place, with Council asking whether this was really the right time to implement a rate increase or whether it was best to wait to see what happens as usage increases and business recovers.

The vote was called. Failed: 0-4

D. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2021-474 requesting Approval of Contract No. 2021-18 between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and CXT, Inc for the Parks & Recreation grant project to install a toilet at Williams Lake Trail Head Hiker Parking

Director Grabowski explained that the Parks and Recreation Committee applied for and was awarded a grant totaling \$18,300 from the New Mexico Economic Development Department to install a toilet at the William's Lake trail head hiker parking. A BAR was done by Resolution No. 2021-455 to accept the grant in November 2020. At that time the grant revenue, corresponding expenses, and minimum match from Park impact fees were added to the FY2021 budget. Bids were collected from several vendors and a committee was selected to review the responses. In addition to cost, the best solution for the toilet set up was considered in the final decision. The committee determined that CXT, Inc. from Hillsboro, TX had the best solution to the toilet installation in the parking area. In addition, CXT has the New Mexico

state contract for concrete buildings. The contract total is \$38,522.50. The quote, which has a photo of the Rocky Mountain unit, was presented. Installation of the toilet is planned for the fall of 2021, she said. Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Katherine Kett said that this toilet would equal the same as four port-a-potties in volume. Bob's Yard would pump it once a month. Parks and Recreation impact fees will be used for the Village's share, which she said is an effort to provide amenities for the community and to add necessary things needed for long-term growth. Councilor Stagg asked whether this was the right thing to do at this time given the Kachina Master Plan work in progress.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2021-474 requesting Approval of Contract No. 2021-18 between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and CXT, Inc for the Parks & Recreation grant project to install a toilet at Williams Lake Trail Head Hiker Parking

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor King

Passed: 4-0

E. Consideration to Approve Resolution 2021-475 A Resolution of Support to the US Forest Service for the Taos Ski Valley Inc. Master Development Plan within the USFS lands

The Village of Taos Ski Valley conducted a Council Workshop on April 13, 2021 where TSVI shared the presentation of its USFS Master Development Plan. The questions and comments were recorded and provided to TSVI for inclusion in its submission to the USFS. Direction to provide a Resolution of Support to the USFS for the following TSVI projects in their MDP was recommended.

- Improving access between the Main Base Area and Kachina Basin via a gondola.
- Updating aging lift infrastructure and improving the terrain network.
- Expanding guest amenities via on-mountain facilities and improving the guest arrival experience.
- Continuing to expand year-round and summer activities.
- Introducing an on-mountain water tank to support snowmaking operations and which may serve as a significant fire-mitigation facility for the entire Village.
- Expanding sustainability initiatives including the use of alternative energy and forest health work.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution 2021-475 A Resolution of Support to the US Forest Service for the Taos Ski Valley Inc. Master Development Plan within the USFS lands

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor King

Passed: 4-0

F. Consideration to Approve Resolution 2021-476, a Resolution Approving Application for an NMFA loan of \$ 454,115.50 for Fire Equipment to be paid by State Fire Grant Funds

Administrator Avila said that the Village Fire/EMS has need of a pumper truck and equipment that are estimated at a cost \$ 454,115.50. In order to maintain a healthy balance in the Fire Grant fund for ongoing expenses and unforeseen cost, pursuing a loan for the purchase of the pumper truck is advisable. The planned recurring expense would be covered by the yearly award of the State Fire Grant:

- The application resolution directs and allows for an application to be submitted to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the consideration of a Fire Funds Loan
- Village Council has previously been provided and has reviewed the need for fire fund equipment and the State Fire Marshall's office has reviewed the requested purchases and financing through an NMFA loan and approved of moving forward
- In order to meet NMFA timelines a resolution needs to be approved by Village Council prior to the NMFA board meeting on May 27, 2021
- Should the NMFA approve the loan request at the upcoming board meeting, Village Council will be provided final interest rates, loan terms, and agreements for consideration and approval at the June meeting.

The Loan is anticipated to total \$454,115.50 with \$398,771.00 for a fire pumper truck and \$55,344.50 for fire equipment, have a final maturity of June 1, 2030, and have an interest rate of 0.75%.

MOTION: To Approve Resolution 2021-476, a Resolution Approving Application for an NMFA loan of \$ 454,115.50 for Fire Equipment to be paid by State Fire Grant Funds

Motion: Councilor Kern

Second: Councilor King

Passed: 4-0

G. Review and Acknowledgement of the Village Interim budget for Upcoming FY2022

Director Grabowski explained that on April 27, 2021, the Village met in a special Council budget workshop to view the FY2022 budget. The following are the items which have been updated since that meeting, she said:

Water (01) & Sewer (02) Revenues:

Direction to 10% Increase fixed rate.

Revised USDA reserve transfer

General (03):

Changes 6220:
Stifel: Finance study/Fire loan \$45K
Correction for Software expense
Adjustments for new hire
Updated salaries

Law Enforcement (04):
EMS (09)

Director Grabowski requested direction for other adjustments to the FY2022 budget before the final budget submission. The final budget, including the ending 4th Quarter balances, will be approved by Resolution at the regular July Council meeting and submitted to the DFA no later than July 31, 2021.

Discussion took place on the possibility of hiring paid staff members for the Fire and EMS Departments. No water/sewer rate increase is contemplated in this proposed budget.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Fire Chief Molina explained that the Village could not place restrictions on the Highway 150 campgrounds. The US Forest Service has not moved to Stage 1 fire restrictions.

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

The next meeting of the Village Council will be the Council Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor King

Passed: 4-0

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Christof Brownell, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk