



Village of Taos Ski Valley
PO Box 100, 7 Firehouse Road, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525
(575) 776-8220 (575) 776-1145 Fax
E-mail: vtsv@vtsv.org Website: www.vtsv.org

VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021 2:00 P.M

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

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Governing Body Present

Mayor Christof Brownell
Councilor Jeff Kern
Councilor Neal King
Councilor Chris Stagg
Councilor Tom Wittman, Mayor Pro Tem

Village Staff Present

Village Administrator John Avila
Village Clerk Ann Wooldridge
Finance Director Nancy Grabowski
Building Official Jalmar Bowden
Police Chief Sam Trujillo

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: To approve the agenda

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

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Consideration to Approve Purchase of a 2021 Dodge 5500 Wildmax Mini-Pumper from HME Inc.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire/EMS Department has been researching types of engines that can best serve visitors, residents, and businesses of the Village. As new development occurs, the need for a new engine to protect the community is increasing.

The price of the 2021 Dodge 5500 is \$298,234.00. The Fire Department will be using a loan through New Mexico Department of Finance Authority that was approved by the Village Council on June 22, 2021. This loan will be paid using fire funds that Taos Ski Valley Fire Rescue receives from the State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Fire Marshal's Office.

The proposed pumper truck is 4 inches shorter than the previous proposed truck and can service structure fires as well as wildland fires. It is four-wheel drive and is ideal for the Village, Chief Molina said.

MOTION: To Approve the purchase of a 2021 Dodge 5500 Wildmax Mini-Pumper from HME Inc.

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

B. Council Direction for Funding Benefits for Part-time Fire/EMS Personnel

Administrator Avila explained that Fire/EMS staff members are currently budgeted without accommodation for medical insurance or retirement benefits which are offered to other permanent employee classifications of the Village. Under the Federal Affordable Care Act, only employers with 50 or more employees are required to offer insurance to employees working a minimum of 30 hours, which doesn't pertain to the Village, with 18 employees. To fund benefits for part-time staff, another estimated \$50,000-\$100,000 in the EMS budget, which is supported by a transfer from the General Fund budget, is required.

Administrator Avila said that the new Fire/EMS positions should be considered for funding at the 20-30-hour range, as the requirements to have an additional certified Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator will require more hours for duties. Duties will include primarily EMT/Fire tasks and training but must also include training and certification as either a Fire Inspector or Fire Investigator. Without providing staffing for Fire Inspector or Fire Investigator duties, the Village will lose the approximately \$80,000 of funding each year. Adding at least another \$50,000 to the 09-EMS budget is recommended, he said.

Several Councilors expressed support to fund benefits.

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

The next meeting of the Village Council will be the Council Regular Meeting on July 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Teleconference.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Mayor Christof Brownell

ATTEST: _____
Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk