



Village of Taos Ski Valley
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**VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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
Planning Director Nicholson

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented

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

4. WORKSHOP

A. Introduction of Agency Officials

Mayor Brownell introduced Mr. Ross Pfaff, District Manager of Customer Relations for the United States Postal Service (USPS) District which includes New Mexico.

B. Status Review of U.S. Postal Service services in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Mr. Pfaff explained that because of a possible transfer of ownership, the USPS decided to give up on the idea of a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in the Village of Taos Ski Valley. A Village Post Office (VPO) does not provide Post Office boxes or regular postal services. He suggested that an existing business apply to become either a VPO, a CPU, or a Contract Post Office (CPO). These could become an added amenity to the existing business.

Mr. Pfaff explained that what was needed to try and have another CPU approved was a proposal that would allow for the USPS's mandate for universal service for U.S citizens. The USPS does not want to lease a space or hire employees, he said, but the location must be safe, secure, and with good access. Staff must be reliable and trustworthy. Insurance is required as well as a bond.

A proposal should explain the suitable location, who would be responsible for stamps and be honorable and have integrity, as well as confidentiality for the sensitivity of handling the mail. A meter would need to be purchased but otherwise supplies would be provided. A potential contractor could work with local postmaster Antonia Layba on training and straightening out details. All postal regulations would have to be followed but changes in service or prices would all be communicated from the USPS, he said.

C. Discussion: Options to Retain a U.S. Postal Service Contract Postal Unit in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Councilor Stagg explained that TSVI was willing to partner with the Village and the Chamber to figure out a solution. A proposal will be drawn up and submitted by the end of the week.

Ms. DiPalma with Representative Fernandez Leger's office and Mr. Chavez with Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office were in attendance and said that they were interested resolving this issue for the Village.

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 October 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Teleconference.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Christof Brownell

ATTEST: _____
Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk