



**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](mailto:vtsv@vtsv.org) Website: [www.vtsv.org](http://www.vtsv.org)

**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM TELE CONFERENCE  
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO  
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022 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 Pro Tem Wittman at 2:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was properly posted.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**Governing body present:**

Mayor Neal King  
Councilor Henry Caldwell  
Councilor Brent Knox  
Councilor Chris Stagg  
Councilor Tom Wittman, Mayor Pro Tem

**Staff present:**

Village Administrator John Avila  
Village Clerk Ann Wooldridge  
Public Works Director Anthony Martinez  
Police Chief Virgil Vigil  
Fire Chief Roberto Molina  
Planning Director Patrick Nicholson  
Village Attorney Susan Baker

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as written**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2022 VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented**

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

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

**A.** TSVI's John Kelly reported on forestry work being conducted by TSVI to clean up trees that were downed in the December wind event in Kachina. TSVI was able to obtain a USFS exemption to allow chainsaw work beginning in May. 30 acres have been cleared so far, and the goal is to clear 300 acres. A combination of a Ponsse machine, a masticator, a chipper, and hand teams will be used for clearing. The goal is to remove the trees to avoid beetle infestations.

**B.** TSV Chamber Director Courtney Tucker thanked the Parks & Recreation Committee for taking care of the Kachina Vista Municipal Park. She also thanked the Chamber Board and the Lodgers Tax Board for their guidance over the 9 years that she has been with the Chamber. Ms. Tucker explained that additional funds have been used by the Chamber for special events, for destination marketing, for summer music, and for an expanded Oktoberfest. The hope is that the Chamber will run a Village post office in some fashion before too long. Ms. Tucker introduced Dan Vaughan who will be the new Chamber Director as Ms. Tucker steps down.

C. Homeowner Mike Klinkmann spoke about the variance request that is being presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission on July 11, 2022. He said that in the event that he cannot attend the meeting, he wanted it noted that he is against granting the variance. Mr. Klinkmann also asked that the Village move towards conducting public meetings as hybrid meetings, part in-person and part Zoom.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Planning and Zoning Commission** –Commission Chair Wittman reported that the Commission had not met. The next meeting will take place on July 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**B. Public Safety Committee** – Chairman Kathy Bennett reported that the Committee had met on June 7, 2022. Discussion was held on various ongoing topics such as the need for bear-proof dumpsters, the need to keep the door to the trash compactor closed, and the fact that run reviews are needed for all EMS calls. Two people are currently taking the First Responder class at UNM. The next meeting will take place on July 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

### **C. Firewise Community Board of Directors**

Chairman Kathy Bennett reported that discussion took place on various on-going topics, including the Ready, Set, Go process, the Evacuation Plan, the Non-federal lands grant, and the grant for funds to use a chipper. The next meeting will take place on July 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

**D. Parks & Recreation Committee** – Village intern Scotney Blackburn presented in Committee Chair Katherine Kett’s absence. She thanked TSVI for helping to maintain and improve the volleyball court. She said that the hanging flower baskets were being installed on June 29, 2022. There are two sets of discs for the disc golf course available for use, free of charge, at the Chamber visitor hut at the top of the parking lot. Ms. Blackburn will be working on a grant opportunity for trails funding.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.at Unit #8 at the Village Complex.

**E. Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board** – Councilor Stagg said that the Lodgers Tax Board had met on June 6, 2022 to approve a budget for next fiscal year. The budget was approved which included \$300,000 for Taos Air, since this was identified as being the best use for the funds. The Chamber budget was approved.

No future meeting has been scheduled.

## 7. REGIONAL REPORTS

Administrator Avila attended the Landfill Board meeting where the Board’s budget was discussed. The cost of a new landfill cell is about \$250,000 and the cell lasts about 6 years. If recycling does not occur, then that means more trash is going into the regular landfill cells. Efforts need to be made to use other avenues, such as recycling and green waste disposal. Director Nicholson said that the NCRPC met on June 1, 2022 but there was no item of relevance to the Village discussed.

## 8. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Wittman said that he is meeting weekly with Mayor King on various matters of ongoing Village business. They recently discussed the report from Jake Caldwell’s law firm on a Rapid Assessment of Opportunities for Strengthening Our Government. The report has only been shared with the Council so far but will be made public at a later date.

## 9. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were included in the Council packet and were posted to the Village web site. Administrator Avila highlighted parts of his report. The Village office continues to practice Covid precautionary protocol. Testing is continuing at the WWTP. The engineering report will now not be available until mid-August. Funding has been dedicated for water line repairs in the amount of \$750,000, but the programming needs to be in place for the Village to obtain the funds. Work will continue on valve installation at the Kachina water tank, at no net cost to the Village. Work on the Booster Station is needed. There are three insurance claims in process for damages at the Village Complex because of weather events. The undergrounding projects for NM Gas and KCEC are gaining momentum. An additional agreement is needed for the Village water study, which will take place at this Council meeting. A woodchipper may still be used to complement the efforts of the non-federal lands grant awards in conducting tree thinning in the Village.

An interim Finance Director has been brought in, Morris Madrid from Las Vegas NM, and outside contractors have been granted extended contracts to cover finance work at this time, which is the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of a new fiscal year.

Chief Molina reported that all fire restrictions had been lifted.

Village Intern Scotney Blackburn reported that approximately 54 applications had been made for 79 parcels for the Non-Federal Land Grant Funding. Ms. Blackburn and Director Bowden should be able to reply to homeowners in July whether they are approved for the grant or not. 80% of private evaluations will report mitigation recommendations to owners. Mitigation measures can begin in August after the owner has submitted a work plan to the Village for approval. All applicants will receive a report, whether they are approved for the grant or not.

Clerk Wooldridge announced plans for a Village birthday and Independence Day celebration on July 4, 2022 starting at 11:30 a.m. at the TSVI Plaza by the bottom of Lift #1.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

**A. PUBLIC HEARING:** Consideration to Approve **Ordinance 2022-15** Updating and Revising Ordinance 1997-15 Establishing the Planning and Zoning Commission Membership, Selection, Appointment, Terms of Office and Removal from Office; Establishing the Duties and Powers of the Commission

Director Nicholson explained that at the request and initiative of Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Tom Wittman, an update to Ordinance 1997-15 establishing the general structure, powers, and duties of the Village Planning Commission was undertaken. Primary revisions include reconstituting the Commission in 2022 to adjust and lengthen the terms of office, establishing a selection committee to recommend appointments, and updating conflict of interest provisions.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Public Hearing was opened. No one spoke in favor or against the proposed Ordinance. The Public Hearing was closed.

**MOTION: To Approve Ordinance 2022-15 Updating and Revising Ordinance 1997-15 Establishing the Planning and Zoning Commission Membership, Selection, Appointment, Terms of Office and Removal from Office; Establishing the Duties and Powers of the Commission**

**Motion: Councilor Caldwell                      Second: Councilor Stagg**

Councilor Stagg and Mayor King said that this new Ordinance would work better moving forward.

**Mayor Pro Tem Wittman called for the vote.                      Passed: 4-0**

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2022-510** Recommendations for Setting Water and Sewer System Connection Fees, Providing for regular modification of water and sewer system connection fees to cover increased operational and maintenance expenses

Director Martinez explained that with the passage of Ordinance 2022-70, the Village of Taos Ski Valley (Village) is authorized to collect to cover the costs of the physical connection to the Water and Sewer system. The Village incurs significant excavation and construction costs to make water and sewer service connections to new residences and businesses requiring such service connections, which costs should be borne by the property owners requiring the new services.

Connection fees are designed to recover all or a portion of the materials and labor cost of connecting a customer to the nearest water or sewer line (compared to system development charges which are designed to cover the costs of the major system components including treatment plants and, in some cases, major distribution lines). The total connection fee shall include the cost of the water meter that shall be purchased by the Village plus the meter installation charge.

Connection fees shall be according to such rate schedule as adopted by Resolution of the Village of Taos Ski Valley from time to time. A schedule of fees was included as part of the Resolution. Director Martinez noted that in the event of unforeseen circumstances, the Connection Fee Ordinance addresses extraordinary fees.

The costs that would be covered are as follows:

Water

- Excavation: Equipment hours
- Excavation and installation: Man hours
- Tapping Saddle
- Corporation Valve
- Corporation Valve Can
- Meter
- Bedding material

- Base Course

Sewer

- Excavation: Equipment hours
- Excavation: Man hours

**MOTION:** Approve **Resolution No. 2022-510** Recommendations for Setting Water and Sewer System Connection Fees, Providing for regular modification of water and sewer system connection fees to cover increased operational and maintenance expenses, but changing the wording in item 4. to “annual adjustment of fees” from “annual increment of costs” and that the Council may increase or decrease fees in its discretion

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

**B. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2022-511, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2022 NMDOT LGRF**

Director Martinez explained that the Village Council needs to approve a Resolution for NM State Highway and Transportation Department funding for the next fiscal year. After passage of the attached resolution, the Highway Department will be drafting a contract for Village approval for the 2022 road project. The Village requests that NMDOT contribute \$55,199.00 with the Village to match or exceed \$18,400.00 for a total contract price of \$73,599.00, which is consistent with recent funding applications with NMDOT.

The project scope of work: drainage structures, culverts, blading, reshaping, hauling, disposal, placement, and compaction of all materials. We also plan to continue to apply base course and dust control materials throughout the Village to build up the roads due to material loss from erosion.

**MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 2022-511, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2022 NMDOT LGRF**

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

**C. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2022-512, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2022 - 2023, NM DOT Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) Cooperative Agreement**

Director Martinez explained that this is the second time that the Village has received MAP funding. The Village Council needs to approve a Resolution for NM State Highway and Transportation Department funding. After passage of the attached Resolution, the Highway Department will be drafting a contract for Village approval for the 2022-2023 road project. The Village requests that NMDOT contribute \$84,540.00 with the Village to match or exceed \$28,180.00 for a total contract price of \$112,720.00 which is consistent with recent funding applications with NMDOT.

The project scope of work: drainage structures, culverts, blading, reshaping, hauling, disposal, placement, and compaction of all materials. We also plan to continue to apply base course and dust control materials throughout the Village to build up the roads due to material loss from erosion.

Director Martinez said that the NMDOT Coop funds would be used for the lower stretch of Twining Road. This MAP funding will be used to work on Zap’s Road above where the Twining Road project would end.

**MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2022-512, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Financial Assistance from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department FY2022 - 2023, NM DOT Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) Cooperative Agreement**

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

**D. Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2022-513 Concerning the Separation and Renaming of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire Department and the Village of Taos Ski Valley EMS Department**

Administrator Avila explained that Mayor King has expressed his desire to have the departments separated, even though the departments had been combined just a few years ago. Mayor King said that the organization needed to be updated.

Both the Fire Chief and the EMT department are being paid from Village funds anyways. Mayor King will discuss this in more detail with the Fire Department Board.

**MOTION: To Approve Resolution No. 2022-513 Concerning the Separation and Renaming of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire Department and the Village of Taos Ski Valley EMS Department**

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

**E. Consideration to Approve an Amendment to the April 2021 MOU Regarding a Village-Wide Water System Master Plan**

Administrator Avila explained that this amendment would assist in turning the previous Water Study into a Water Master Plan for the Village. On April 5, 2021, the Village and TSVI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU),



**MOTION: To Approve of Settlement Agreement with Mike Fitzpatrick of Legal Claim**  
**Motion: Councilor Caldwell                      Second: Councilor Knox                      Passed: 4-0**

**12. MISCELLANEOUS**

**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 Regular Council Meeting on July 26, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:35.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Neal King

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk