

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AND FIREWISE BOARD MEETING
FOR THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
HELD ON APRIL 3, 2023 (VIA ZOOM) at 10:00 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 and notice of meeting announced.

Members present included Trudy DiLeo, Henry Caldwell, Jim Woodard, Kent Kiehl and Mitch Daniels.

Public Safety:

Trudy DiLeo apologized for not having the agenda out in a more timely manner.

Henry Caldwell reported that the keys to the package lockers in the post office are still MIA. He has been in contact with the Taos postal worker (Mario) about this and, hopefully, the keys will be available for use shortly.

Henry then gave an update on the project to get the power lines in Amizette buried. Letters were mailed to the residents whose land was involved on the south side of Highway 150, which included easements for the Village of Taos Ski Valley and also for Kit Carson Electrical Cooperative. Two separate power lines will be coming over from the north side of the highway to the south side. Because of some confusion through the years from the U. S. Forest Service and from the DOT, we are having residents sign easements so trenching can be done on private property in order to finally get the project started.

We have received some of the easements back from the residents. A few residents have legitimate concerns about having Kit Carson dig on their property, such as having invested a lot of time and money into landscaping and contouring the property for drainage. Some are concerned about future placement of septic systems that need to be close to the highway, so we are working our way through that issue. We'll hopefully get the easements settled by the end of April, and digging can begin when the snow melts.

John Avila also spoke about the frustration of dealing with the Forest Service, DOT and Kit Carson through the years with this project.

Jalmar Bowden was not present to confirm if turn-off valves are mandated by state inspectors for new construction.

Chief Virgil Vigil gave an update on the gas leak that occurred yesterday on Twining Road. The road had to be taken down to one lane while waiting for New Mexico Gas Company crews to come from Espinola and then completely shut down during the repairs to the gas line. Repairs were done with no unanticipated problems.

John Avila stated that the gas line that had leaked was only buried about 2 feet and was not far from the water line that had also been leaking. When the public works crew began digging for the water line, a big rock was dislodged that put a pinhole in the gas line, which was only 3 feet from the water valve. He stated that the gas line should have been placed at least 4 feet deep. He is in conversation with the crew that buried the gas line to re-install that segment of line (about 30 feet) to the proper 4 foot depth.

John reiterated that the village has a bunch of old, thin-walled PVC in the water system. He said that if we can repair the leaky section of water pipe (as opposed to replace), then hopefully, the water tank can start filling. There was a delay of several hours to address the water leak waiting for the gas leak to be repaired.

Trudy asked John Avila to update the information on the village website pertaining to the underground power lines in Amizette.

Chief Vigil said that we could use the VTSV ReGroup in the future for quick communication with the residents in cases like the gas leak and road closures.

Kent Kiehl had asked the committee about monitors put on the water tanks that would automatically shut down the tank in event of a major water leak. John Avila said that there will be 8 meters installed along the water system line starting April 10. These meters will not be able to shut down flow from a water tank in the event of a large leak in the system, but an upgrade in the future could perform this function.

John spoke to the fact that most of the water system is 50 years old and that this may be an indication of its useful life in this environment. Henry mentioned that what was installed 50 years ago was what the village could afford. John stated that it was different 50 years ago, when there weren't million dollar homes in the village. Currently, we only know there's an issue with the water system when a resident calls public works and says they have no water. Leaks are not visible on the surface in the winter.

Jim Woodard asked about having a good database on where the gas lines and water lines are located in the village. John explained that when the gas lines were installed, there was an excavation permit obtained, but no one from the village actually observed how deep the line was placed at 4 feet. Henry asked if the village building inspector should be observing these kinds of jobs. John agreed and stated that the village would need to charge for that time. John later said that the gas lines should not be laid in the same area as the water lines. Sometimes this is difficult trying to place electric, gas, fiber, water, sewer and drainage pipes up the same road. Jim asked if the database for the crew in the field is really adequate. John said it should be better. Jim asked that an improved database with access be part of our plan moving forward. John said that it is, but our GIS person is no longer with the village, and he did not provide us with some information we were expecting. Henry asked John if the village can put our GIS data on a map and John said that the village has the capabilities to do that.

Kent Kiehl questioned why the water valves have to be below surface, so we don't have to dig for them, especially in the winter. John explained that they have to be buried so they don't freeze, and to protect the valves from the heavy equipment used in road maintenance and snow plowing. John also mentioned that we could use concrete collars around the valves, but they still need to be below ground. He added that the roads cannot be paved until all the drainage is managed on every piece of property.

John gave the current status of water in the green tank as of this morning.

Trudy asked that down the line, after the water system is repaired, if we could get a general diagram of the water system on the village website for residents to look at, so this might all make a bit more sense to the community. John said that we can give a monthly report at this committee meeting of the status of our water repairs.

John explained that if there was a leak anywhere past the main line, regardless of where the meter is located at a residence, the resident is responsible for the cost of the water leak. He said that we need to clarify and update village ordinances that address these issues. He recommended adding that residents should install a 'back flow preventer' as well. Henry said that our ordinances need to identify what kind of monitoring needs to be done. John added that meters that are moved inside the home can be read by radio by public works crews. Jim Woodard stated that he put his meter inside his home and there is a

transmitter on it that is read by the public works crew. His transmitter needed to be replaced once, but otherwise works fine.

John stated that at the village budget meeting, they are working on figuring out how much of a water rate increase will be necessary to get on solid ground with funding our water system. He said that water funds, ideally, should not be coming out of the general funds.

Michael Chandler mentioned that a home on Upper Twining was a 'rebuild' in the last year. He asked John if, during the building of the new home, was the builder required to replace the old water service line from the main water pipe to the new home. He recommended that new buildings be mandated by the village to replace those old water service lines, making sure they are deep enough.

Firewise:

Jalmar Bowden was not present to update the Board on the status of the NFL grant, the potential placement of the CWPP on the village website, nor the ability of putting additional entries to CWPP on "Sharepoint" on the village website.

Trudy noted that the next meeting would be on May 1, 2023 at 10:00 AM via zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.