

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 and notice of meeting announced.
Members present were Trudy DiLeo, Jim Woodard, Ben Pitz and Mitch Daniels.

Public Safety Committee:

Jalmar requested to speak first about the NFL grant, as he needed to leave the meeting early in order to drive to Santa Fe. Morris Herrell, Project Forester with the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of New Mexico, reported that the TSV NFL grant has been approved, but the state legal department has to sign off on it. He is hoping to have it completed in about 6 weeks, as the state's fiscal year ends June 30th. At that point, contractors can be set up to get work started in the valley. Jim Woodard asked how long we had to execute this work and Morris stated we had 3 years to get it done, with a possible extension, if necessary. He said we had about 150 acres of work involved with this. He also said that we can use as many contractors as we want, but each one has to complete paperwork with the state.

Jalmar stated he would notify all applicants of this grant if they have been accepted or denied. He stated that with the size of the grant, no one should be left out. He also said that he has a contractor all ready to go.

Chief Vigil spoke to the issue of our lack of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance in the village. He asked the committee to request to Council that the purchase of a new ambulance/ rescue vehicle be moved up in priority on our 2024 Infrastructure CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) schedule, as well as increasing the amount to \$400,000.

Currently residents and guests in TSV have to wait for an ambulance to come from Taos, or beyond. This means that in any critical situation, a resident or guest has to wait a minimum of 30 minutes for the arrival of an ambulance, though we have EMS / EMT's on our staff.

Jim Woodard asked about the increase to \$400,000. Chief Vigil explained that the request was previously at \$325,000., but after Covid, prices have gone up.

Ben Pitz asked about locations of defibrillators around the village. Chief Vigil said that the current transport van has one, and that there's always one in the police unit on duty. There's one at the village office and one at the firehouse. He said most businesses have one, including TSVI. He said that he is waiting to hear on grant money in the next couple of months for some more defibrillators.

Jim Woodard made a motion to make acquiring an ALS ambulance a priority for the village and to increase the funding to \$400,000. Trudy DiLeo seconded the motion. The committee voted '4 yes - 0 no' votes to approve the motion.

Anthony Martinez was not present to give a monthly update on the water system of the village.

John Avila was also not present, so Trudy DiLeo gave an update of what she knew about the water metering system and remote turnoff valves made by Zenner, that the village is considering purchasing. The system does not require WIFI, as the individual units at each residence have 'antennas' of sort, that communicate with each other, and then to a 'collector' which is picked up on a computer at the village / public works office. Turnoff valves can be controlled with a keystroke from the office. The meters have a 10-year warranty, and are then pro-rated for the next 10 years. The system does not need electricity and the batteries last about 10 years. The antennas are above ground.

Henry Caldwell was not present, so Trudy DiLeo also gave an update on the project involving burying power lines in Amizette, to help prevent wildfires. She stated that the village had come up with some creative design work to accommodate landowners, and that hopefully the work would be completed this summer.

Ben Pitz, who is a project manager for TSVI, then told the committee and attendees about a new, innovative sewer system that is being installed in the Austin Haus in Amizette. He is the lead on this project. This is the same system that is currently in place at the Columbine Inn. This system doesn't pollute, as in - the water that comes out of this system has no contaminants. Each individual resident (total of 47) is allocated 30 gallons of water per day. The entire system will shut down when that amount is reached (as in a leak or unnecessary wastage) until the next day. All existing tanks will be replaced, with the new tanks (underground) being covered with insulation. The system uses UV and tertiary cleaning, keeping the solids in the tanks for 13 days, after which time, the solids are eliminated, and the waste is clean. All the elements in the system are duplexed, so if one half of the system goes down, the other half will run it. He described the drain field of the system which improves local perennial vegetation and sequesters additional carbon, improving the local ecosystem. He mentioned that part of the technology used in this system was invented here in New Mexico. He also said that more efficient toilets are being installed as well. 100% of the water used in this system is being put back in the environment - clean- every couple of weeks. This system is available for private homeowners as well. He offered to provide more information for anyone interested. Folks can also get more information at the New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group online.

Chief Vigil stated that the village evacuation plan was recently updated. He is working with TSVI to create an Incident Command Structure that will clearly state who is in charge of various areas in case of a natural disaster. Working with the Office of

Emergency Management, the village will have a “tabletop’ disaster drill on Highway 150 this summer. This will involve all the entities that will need to be active in a disaster. The evacuation will be updated on the village website.

Trudy DiLeo gave an update on the Forest Health Program offered by the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District. Letters were sent out last week to applicants throughout the county.

Last minute details of the Firewise display at the 4th of July celebration tomorrow were talked about briefly.

Ben Pitz asked if the village has made any efforts to coordinate Firewise resources with TSVI. Mitch Daniels stated that only peripherally, as in sharing names of contractors, etc. Ben Pitz said he would investigate ways that we might be able to work together with TSVI in this area.

Mitch Daniels brought up the problem of residents and guests not keeping their dogs on leashes. He stated that the current rule in the village is that if you are in verbal command of your dog, that it does not need to be leashed. He wants to see that changed to owners keeping their dogs on leashes, and he wants us to bring this concern up to Council. Other members spoke of problems with dogs not on leashes as well. The possibility of a dog park was brought up. All committee members present supported the idea of a leash law. Trudy DiLeo said she would bring the recommendation up to Council from the committee.

Our next meeting will be August 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.