

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on August 7, 2023, via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am and notice of the meeting announced. Members present were Jim Woodard, Ben Pitz, Henry Caldwell, Mitch Daniels, and Kent Kiehl.

With Trudy's resignation, the agenda was modified to include selecting a new chairman (Motion: Jim, Kent, Unanimous).

A motion was made and passed to select Henry Caldwell as Chairman, with help from Jim Woodard as Secretary, (Motion: Jim, Kent, Unanimous) for both the Public Safety Committee and the Firewise Board.

Public Safety Committee:

After some discussion it was decided (Motion: Jim, Ben, Unanimous) to recommend to the P&Z Commission and Village Council that all building permits filled with the village office be placed on the village website for community notification and safety review.

John Avila provided an extensive summary of the activities being pursued by the Village to improve the water system. This includes a proposed pilot program to investigate remote meters and shut off valves for village residences.

Henry gave the committee an update on the Village Council's discussion and final decision to increase both the water variable and fixed rates by 15% next year.

The package lockers and keys are available for use in the Post Office Annex in the Tent. There is still some question about how long a package will be left in the package box with the key in the recipient's mailbox, but the system is now in use.

Rail Tail Surveying has been asked to prepare a bid to establish property lines for Kit Carson Electric Company to complete the undergrounding of the above power lines in Amizette. The goal is still to complete this project before winter.

The issue of dogs not on a leash within the Village boundary was raised again. We need to understand the current Village ordinance, and if necessary, recommend modifying the village ordinance to require all dogs be on a leash no longer than 10 feet when not on their owner's property within the village boundary. Once done, signs need to be installed making the ordinance clear to residents and visitors. Henry agreed to seek the village attorney's advice on the issue.

Firewise Board:

Jalmar provided an update on the NFL Grant, which is still under legal review by the state. He reported that he had been informed that vacant lots could only be treated with grant funding if the landowner agreed that development of the lot would be delayed for at least ten years. It is not clear what the consequences are for agreeing to and then changing the development timeline. Landowners who applied need to be informed of this timeline so that they might turn to the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District Program for funding if necessary.

It was reported that the 4th of July Firewise table was well attended and informative. There was agreement that next year we should spend

more time reviewing the location of the Firewise Table and the Fire Department Assets to get the most attention for both.

Virgil reported that there was agreement on the command staffing between the Village and TSVI in the case of an Emergency Evacuation. Virgil also reported that there are plans under way with the Taos County Emergency Management Department to run a Tabletop Exercise on the "Fire in the Canyon, Route 150 Closed" Emergency Scenario.

Mitch reported that with a great deal of help for the Village Staff the CWPP is now on the Village Website. Efforts are underway to get the appropriate signatures and submit the document to Taos County. It is worth review by the Firewise Board as there are requirements which need to be completed.

Stage I Fire Restriction allow fires in Forest Service Fire Pits, including the ones just up from the Parking Lot. Mitch agreed to reach out to the Forest Service to see if the Village could control use of those fire pits.

Efforts are underway to secure a chipping contractor to deal with slash during the third week in September. It is not clear yet where the homeowner is to deposit slash to be chipped.