

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on October 2, 2023, via Zoom.

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

The minutes for the 7 August 2023 Public Safety and Firewise meeting were approved, (Motion: Jim, Second: Mitch, Unanimous).

Public Safety Committee:

The posting of all building permit applications was discussed, and Ann Marie agreed to post each application on the village website. The committee believes that this will improve transparency and allow residents to see what is happening in their neighborhood.

Virgil discussed the consequences of a Taos County cross commission for the VTSV public safety officers. One is that dog leash requirements in the village are those of Taos County. At the discretion of an officer a dog owner may be cited for not having his/her dog on a leash. This would require the owner's appearance at the county court.

To bury the electrical power lines in Amizette using private easements, KCEC is requiring that the private property lot corners be surveyed. Red Tailed as agreed to survey the lots before the snow falls.

The committee discussed how to have a bigger influence on the village. It was noted, it is much better to present solutions rather than problems to the village. Further, if the committee can work with the

Village staff directly to implement these solutions much time and effort can be saved.

Ann Marie said that she received a message from some hikers on the Bull of the Woods Trail that there was dangerous forest thinning being performed over the weekend. There were insufficient trail warning signs and the personal involved did not speak English and were not helpful.

Firewise Board:

Jalmar stated that he expected to have a signed contract with the state for the NFL Grant in a few days. He is getting contractors online to get the work rolling. (October 20: Jalmar did in fact receive the go ahead to execute the Grant.)

Virgil reported that he had attended four or five meetings to plan for a Tabletop exercise to explore the consequences of a wildfire coming up Highway 150 from the campgrounds below. It is expected that the exercise will be accomplished by the end of October. Village Fire and Police, TSVI, Kit Carson Electric, NM Gas, and the Forest Service will all be involved. Documentation for the Exercise will be available.

Virgil also reported that the Village has established with the County the ability to issue an emergency alert like an “Amber Alert” on all cell phones in the area. This system does not require a cell phone user to sign up to receive these alerts.

Mitch has organized a slash pick for October 16 thru 19, 2023. Homeowners are to place their slash alongside the road by their driveway. A letter announcing this pickup was included in the water bill.

The next meeting will be at 10am on November 6th, 2023.