



**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025 1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Wittman at 1:00 pm. Notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

Marlene Salazar, Acting Village Clerk, called the roll and a quorum was present.

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Wittman

Councilor Caldwell

Councilor Turner

Councilor Stagg

Not Present: Mayor Chris Stanek

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2025, REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION: Councilor Stagg **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 4-0

5. A. CITIZEN'S FORUM –for non-agenda items only. Limit to 5 minutes per person (please email msalazar@vtsv.org to sign up)

Timothy Blevin's (father) of the late Simon Tate (deceased) TSVI employee, spoke in regard to his son's tragic accident that occurred on the mountain on March 28, 2025. Mr. Blevins stated he had been on a quest to find out what happened to his son. Mr. Blevins reported that his son passed away at Mogul Medical due to his injuries from a ski accident. Mr. Blevins stated he spoke with TSVI, and Village employees whom he stated were loving, and kind, and thanked everyone. Mr. Blevins asked the Council members to read the police report about this case and asked that everyone take a moment of silence in his sons' memory.

(Mayor Pro Tem Wittman then proceeded to take a moment of silence to honor Simon Tate, and offered the Mayor and Council's condolences to Mr. Blevins)

B. CITIZEN'S FORUM - Public comment on agenda items. Limit of 5 minutes per person. This is an opportunity for the public to comment on items appearing on the meeting agenda, except for Public Hearing items. Subsequent public comments by persons not directly affected will generally be permitted only at the discretion of the presiding officer during discussion of agenda items by and among the Council members and persons and entities who are directly affected.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Commission: Board Commission Chair Wittman reported no meeting was held in April 2025. The May meeting is currently being discussed, the next meeting will be tentatively held on May 5, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

B. Public Safety Committee: Committee Chair Caldwell reported a meeting was held on April 7th, 2025 at 10:00 am. Committee Chair Caldwell was unable to attend so had little information.

C. Firewise Community Board: Committee Chair Caldwell reported the committee is working with VTSV to send out a video from the NFPA. The video offers informational tips for residents in regard to hardening and preparing their property and protecting citizens homes from wildfires.

Resident Matthew Hayner suggested the Village use funds left over from the NFL grant in purchasing or renting a chipper. Mr. Hayner suggested the funds be used for a chipper that residents can utilize on their properties, in efforts to help the Village Fire Department with moving some of the flammable wood laying around and chipping it. **Finance Director Griesedieck** stated the funds for the NFL grant are only to be used for purchasing contractors to work. **Village Administrator Rick Bellis** reported two projects are currently underway. Taos County is looking into getting a shredding machine that shreds tires and wood chips. If approved this will be lent to requesting municipalities. The Village is also looking into a Grant to obtain a permanent chipper for use by VTSV staff.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee: No reports, the next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee will be held on April 22, 2025, at 10:00 am.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board: Board member Stagg reported a meeting was held on April 2, 2025, at 1:00 pm. The Village Budget was discussed for FY 25-26 and was submitted to Village Administrator Rick Bellis, and Village Finance Director Carroll Griesedieck for processing.

(This item will be discussed further in this meeting below 11.B)

7. REGIONAL REPORTS: Village Administrator Rick Bellis stated this item will be discussed under Administrator and Staff Reports (below)

8. MAYOR'S REPORT: No reports

9. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORT: Village Administrator Rick Bellis reported the Village is currently updating the Personnel Policy, particularly benefits, job descriptions, and policy organizational charts. **(Items will be discussed further in this meeting 13.B)**

Contractor Wooldridge has been working on charting workflows, benchmarks and timelines on Village projects.

The new meeting room, located at Unit 103, 9 Firehouse Rd., is up and running and ready to host hybrid meetings.

Ambitions IT group is working on separating Village files and access privileges in accordance with department and individual responsibilities. This was a security concern as all employees were able to access all files. Now employees can only access files according to their specific areas of need and duties.

Eight million dollars was awarded to the Regional Town of Taos Landfill for recycling. The funds should be available by mid-July 2025.

The Village Public Works Department has been transporting sludge to the Town of Taos Landfill on a regular basis. The Town of Taos Landfill board performed a rate analysis on trash utilities, and an increase is underway. This will be an increase in addition to the annual COLA that Waste Management sends out.

VTSV is working with Chaz Rockey and the TIDD Board infrastructure group in generating a report for the May Village Council Meeting. The report is in regard to the second half of the TIDD dedication for route 150 project and underground electric.

The Trails Plus Grant has been signed and the Village has received the contract. The Village will receive the \$94, 000.00 dollars up front and the work will start within the next week or so on Kachina Vista Park improvements.

VTSV IPRA requests have been in abundance lately and are being processed in a timely fashion, in accordance with the state law. The legislation to help reform IPRA did not pass.

Village Administrator Bellis mentioned that the NMML league has continued to fight for the continuation of the carveout tax for the Water Trust Board at 145, 000, 000.

Village Administrator Bellis thanked Councilman Stagg for helping with the Lodgers Tax Board meeting and making needed cuts. VTSV Public Works department will be taking over the Hiker Parking restroom to relieve the Parks & Recreation committee from this duty to save money and Councilor Stagg offered TSVI's help with maintenance and watering the flower baskets on Sutton Place.

Administrator Bellis reported there has been a lot of activity on water rights. There was an early release of water of the San Juan Chama reserves by the Bureau of Reclamation. The big question being asked was if the water was going to be replenished.

Administrator Bellis stated a follow up meeting will be held in June 2025 with USFS. The meeting discussion will include finding solutions to mitigate overuse impacts on USFS and VTSV facilities. In hopes this will help VTSV, TSVI, USFS, the Taos Pueblo and other stakeholders compromise and come to mutual agreements on signage, and public awareness, and overuse etc.

Project Manager Robert Wooldridge reported on the Underground Electric Project. The project will continue next on Bighorn Hill, Twining, Upper Twining and Coyote Lane. Additional contractors are being pursued to work in Amizette. The Village and Kit Carson Electric are working on placing underground transformers where needed. Project Manager Wooldridge will be reaching out to residents that are affected by the construction across the right-of-way. **Village Administrator Bellis** stated a map will be sent out to residents of the houses and locations in regard to the Electrical Underground Project being worked on next. The Village will also schedule time, if possible, for Mr. Reyes (Kit Carson Electric) to speak on the Underground Project at the next Village Council meeting in May 2025.

10. FINANCE REPORT: Village Finance Director Griesedieck reported all the information is in the Council packet. Finance Director Griesedieck recommends the Mayor & Council approve The FY 2025 3rd Qtr. financial report that will be discussed in the meeting today. **(Item 11.B)** Director Griesedieck stated two grants from NMED were approved for a time extension of two additional years. The two grants are the Capital Outlay Grants, H4297-Booster Station Kachina Tank, and F2393-Other Booster Station for the Water Network Infrastructure.

11. CONSENT AGENDA- This item is placed on the agenda so that the Governing Body, by unanimous consent, can designate those routine agenda items that they wish to be approved or acknowledged by one motion. If any proposal does not meet with the approval of all Governing Body members, or if a citizen so requests, that item will be heard when reached under the regular agenda.

A. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2025-016** requesting a Budget Adjustment (BAR) to the FY2025 Budget, adding revenues and expenses in the Law Enforcement Retention Fund (LERF) to Reflect the LERF awarded to Village of Taos Ski Valley from the NM Department of Public Safety.

B. Council Acceptance of the FY 2025 3rd Quarter Financial Report to be submitted to the NM Dept. of Finance Administration, Local Government Division by 30, 2025.

C. Consideration to approve a **Sublease of Unit 102 In the Neal King Memorial Firehouse**, between Taos Ski Valley, Inc., a New Mexico corporation ("Landlord"), and The Village of Taos Ski Valley, a New Mexico municipal corporation ("Tenant").

MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Caldwell **PASSED:** 3-0

1-ABSTAIN-Councilor Stagg

12. OLD BUSINESS

(None at this time)

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. A proclamation by the Village of Taos Ski Valley recognizing and in support of Building Safety Month, presented by Jalmar Bowden, Village of Taos Ski Valley Building Official.

Building Official Jalmar Bowden reported the information is in the Council packet. Official Bowden stated this proclamation is to bring awareness to residents with the importance of hardening and Wildfire ignition information. Official Bowden offered his services and invites all owners to contact him for advice and recommendations.

B. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of **RESOLUTION 2025-017 A Resolution by the Village Council Establishing the Village of Taos Ski Valley Employee Benefits and Repealing Prior Inconsistent Ordinances.**

DISCUSSION: Village Administrator Bellis recommends this items approval as it will simplify the current multiple Villages employee leave categories into one. The Village currently has sick, and or vacation leave and the Village would like to combine them into one category as personal leave. This will alleviate employees calling in sick in order to use their sick leave. All other categories will be condensed under Administrative Leave.

MOTION: Councilor Caldwell **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 4-0

C. Consideration and possible appointment of Taos Ski Valley resident Janet Ratliff to the Village Parks and Recreation Committee to fill a current vacancy.

MOTION: Councilor Stagg **SECOND:** Councilor Caldwell **PASSED:** 4-0

14. OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Village of Taos Ski Valey will conduct a Budget Workshop from 10am to 3pm on April 26th, 2025, at Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd, Village of Taos Ski Valley. Workshops are informal sessions for presentations, discussion, informational, and planning purposes only and no business will be conducted.

Village Administrator Bellis announced this meeting will not be broadcast; it is an in-person meeting only. Residents are encouraged to attend.

15. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION

The following matters may or may not be discussed in closed session under the NM Open Public

Meetings Act under exemptions 10-15-1.H (8): meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by a public body.

16. Report on closed session by Village Attorney.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The next meeting will be the Village Budget Workshop on Saturday April 26, 2025, at 10:00 am in person meeting, followed by the Regular Village Council Meeting on May 16, 2025, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

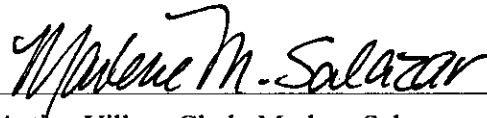
18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 4-0



Mayor Pro-Tem Wittman

Attest:



Acting Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar