



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
HYBRID/ZOOM MEETING
ROOM 102, 9 FIREHOUSE RD.
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY MAY 9, 2025 2:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Village Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Stanek at 2:00 pm. 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 Chris Stanek

Councilor Henry Caldwell

Councilor Doug Turner (attended meeting 15 minutes later from start)

Councilor Tom Wittman

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

Review with Mayor and Council of red-lined post-workshop FY 2025-26 preliminary budget changes. Presented by Carroll Griesedieck, Finance Director

Village Finance Director Griesedieck reported on the changes to the budget since the budget workshop held on April 26, 2025. Only the following funds were changed:

1. **Fund 110** (General Fund) The Workers Compensation amount was increased to adjust to the increasing number of employees in the Fire Department.
2. **Fund 113** (Kit Carson Underground Project) the beginning balance was decreased from \$400,000 to \$100,000 to reflect activity that will be taking place this FY compared to next FY. Expenses were reduced from \$470,000 to \$70,000 as well.

A temporary loan in FY25-26 was added to cover additional expenses. Until Franchise revenues can catch up.

3. **Fund 206** (EMS) the beginning balance of the fund was increased from \$100,000 to \$170,000. The amount to Rent and Land of Building increased from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Capital Expenses were increased by \$89,000 to reflect expenditure of development impact fee/revenues. Employee Training was adjusted from \$10,000 to \$8,000.

4. **Fund 218** (NFL Grant) was changed from a beginning balance of 0 to a beginning balance of \$500.00, since the PO has been extended.
5. **Fund 296 & 297** (DPS Impact Fee) & (Roads Development Impact Fees) the predicted income of \$15,000 was changed to \$5,000 to match all other funds impact fees in both accounts.
6. **Fund 501 & Fund 503** (Water Enterprise & WW Enterprise) Water Enterprise, Wastewater enterprise and Solid Waste enterprise revenues were increased 20% per instruction from the budget workshop.
7. **Fund 528** (Apartments) a new line was added for Rental Fees as a place holder with \$6,000.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of **RESOLUTION 2025-018. A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE JOINT UTILITIES FUND, COMMENCING JULY 2025 AND SUPERCEDING AND REPLACING ALL PRIOR RATE AND FEE SCHEDULES AND ALL ASSOCIATED RESOLUTIONS.** Presented by Rick Bellis, Village Administrator

DISCUSSION: Village Administrator Rick Bellis reported to the Council that the resolution before the Council was drafted based on the studies, findings and materials presented at the Village Budget Workshop on April 26, 2025, subsequent discussion by the public and governing body, and resulting direction provided to staff to identify a structural solution.

The resolution identifies the financial and regulatory circumstances requiring the Village to make the adjustments, while the Fee Schedule provides the public with an explanation of how rates are calculated and what the costs of each rate cover, as well as allows the public to see how their individual rates will be affected.

The resolution and fee schedule together constitute the corrective action plan that was recommended by the auditors and financial advisors and sought in the communication provided by the State. The Council was provided with a table showing how the rates were calculated to meet the requirements of the plan.

The rate adjustments are spread across 3 years to minimize their impact over time and will include a 20% increase in July of 2025 against the current 2024 rates, and second rate increase of 20% in July of 2026, also based on the 2024 rates, and an annual 5% COLA increase beginning in July of 2027 to COLA costs we are already aware of by vendors our services rely on.

This is a temporary measure to bring the Village into compliance with the Audit findings, the Villages loan, and other funding sources with the other element of a long-term solution being conducting an independent rate study to do a rate analysis, an identification of areas of potential increased efficiencies for the system, and a multi-year plan to pay off and reduce long-term debt service

Citizen Fernando Frimm spoke in regard to resolution 2025-018. Mr. Frimm stated he had attended a budget meeting a couple of years ago and it was stated that the Joint Utilities Account was in deficit. Mr. Frimm stated that he noticed that there was a significant amount of depreciation impacting the fund balance of the account and that there were no funds dedicated to offset the growing depreciation. Mr. Frimm stated that you will have a growing depreciation amount accumulating year after year due to the fact that there is no fund created to reimburse the depreciation. Mr. Frimm asked if the proposed changes would

begin to address that.

Administrator Bellis answered that Mr. Frimm was correct and, yes, that in calculating the needed increase a depreciation offset, identified as a replacement reserve account, was included to address this structural issue.

Councilman Tom Wittman expressed he did not agree with setting the rates for a three-year period. Councilman Wittman suggested that the Village review the flow of GRT that comes in every year, before rate increases are decided upon. Councilman Wittman stated this year is also an election year in November 2025 and he did not agree with saddling the new council with a 3-year rate increase. Councilman Wittman stated the council understands that good tourism ski years is what brings our GRT's up and down. Councilman Wittman suggested the Council should insinuate in the Resolution that the fee increase will only be applied for one year, for this upcoming FY 25-26 budget. Councilman Wittman expressed to the Mayor & Council that he would not vote for this item. Councilman Wittman also stated the resolution has some language he does not agree with stating "the Village inherited an aging and deteriorating public water distribution and sewage treatment system," Councilman Wittman stated all water and sewage treatment systems are dated. Councilman Wittman explained that the water supply system for local residents is dated back to about 40 years, and most municipalities don't consider changing their water systems until a 50-year point. Other areas in the Village for example are the Blake Residences. This water system is about 10 years old. Phoenix Switchback has had many issues in the past but has been recently replaced.

MOTION: Councilor Caldwell **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 3-1
VOTED AGAINST: Councilor Wittman

- B. Discussion, Consideration and possible approval of **RESOLUTION 2025-019, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO THE FY 2025 BUDGET (BAR) ADDING REVENUES AND EXPENSES IN THE RECREATION FUND (PARKS AND RECREATION) TO REFLECT THE NMEDD OUTDOOR RECREATION TRAILS+ GRANT AWARDED TO THE VILLAGE OF TAO SKI VALLEY FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.**

DISCUSSION: Village Finance Director reported the Village received grant money from the State of NM Economic Development Department for the Trails+ Grant. A line item needs to be added to the FY25-26 budget to accommodate for this revenue.

Presented by Carroll Griesedieck, Finance Director

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

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following matters may be discussed in closed session under the New Mexico 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, and 0-15-1(H)(2) for the discussion of limited personnel matters.

Motion to enter Executive Session:

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

- A. Update on appraisals and negotiations for the purchase of 9 Firehouse Rd Unit 101 (Firehouse) and conveyance of 9 Firehouse Rd. Unit 103 (Post Office Annex).

Presented by Rick Bellis, Village Administrator

B. Discussion of limited personnel matters by the Village Administrator with the Mayor and Council.

Presented by Rick Bellis, Village Administrator

Motion to return to regular session.

MOTION: Councilor Turner **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg

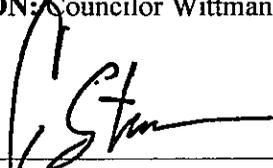
Mayor Stanek reported that only the matters eligible to be discussed under the OPMA exemptions and subjects cited were discussed and that no actions were taken.

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

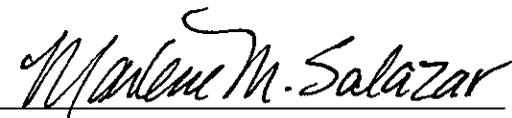
The next meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Taos Ski Valley will be on Friday, May 16th at 1:00 pm and will be a hybrid meeting held at 9 Firehouse Rd. Unit 103, Village of Taos Ski Valley and on Zoom, available on the Village website at vtsv.org.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Chris Stanek

Attest: 

Acting Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar