

## **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on Monday, March 3rd, 2025, via Zoom.**

The meeting was called to order by Henry Caldwell at 10:01am. Notice of the meeting was properly announced. Members present were Henry Caldwell, Bob Thomas, Kent Kiehl, Jim Woodard and Ben Pitz.

The agenda for today's Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting was approved (Motion: Jim, Second: Kent, Unanimous). The minutes for the February 3, 2025, Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting were also approved (Motion: Jim, Second Kent, Unanimous).

### **Public Safety Committee:**

#### **Water Billing Software Procurement Status**

Two companies, Cassell and Civic Plus, are being considered to replace the billing software and interface with the new smart meters being prototyped in the Village. Neither of these options will delay the spring start of the meter replacements. The plan is a direct replacement of the old meter wherever it is. If the service line is defective, the homeowner will be asked to replace it.

#### **Recycling Status**

The Governor is still interested in the Northern New Mexico Recycling Project initially organized by the Village and TSVI. The grant is currently marked at \$8M, which would cover a new recycling building at the County Landfill site and some local recycling containers. Initial thoughts of the Village and TSVI starting a limited recycling program in the Spring are now on hold since the grant, if it comes to pass, would include the initial costs for local containers PLUS a truck to take containers down to

the recycling center but would not be reimbursed if the Village started early. The Committee agreed to postpone further discussion of this issue until the May Committee meeting.

### **Kachina Park/ PARC Grant Status**

Rick stated that grading, cleanup and gate replacement at Kachina Park will be done in concert with the \$94K PARC Planning Grant, which has been approved, since many of these items are part of Cost Sharing for the Grant. Work will hopefully start in July and be completed by Fall. Gabe, Rick and the PARC committee will tour the area and finalize planning. Some items like the Gate repair will be initiated before the contract signing.

### **ATV Usage on Village Roads**

Rick is working an ATV Ordinance which should be ready for a first reading at the March Regular Village Council Meeting. The Ordinance needs to be consistent with the State rules and regulations for ATV's. However, Rick believes that ATV use can be regulated and avoid the Village being overrun with ATV's. There is a Village and TSVI meeting on Friday where Rick hopes to coordinate ATV usage and rules with TSVI to avoid confusion.

### **No Passing Signs for Hwy 150 in Amizette.**

Chief Vigil stated that two new "No Passing" signs have been installed in Amizette. There are now 39 signs installed in the 2 miles of Hwy 150 in Amizette. Mike Fitzpatrick has been very active in working with the NM DOT to get the signs upgraded. The committee encouraged yet more signs at the beginning going both ways thru Amizette. Virgil said he would make the request.

### **Gondolita Crossing on Upper Sutton Place**

Since this area will be completely regraded and resurfaced during the Saint B construction, nothing will be done this winter. There is a plan to improve the cross grade and surface of this area. This is a potential TIDD Project.

### **Signage Standards**

Rick said that the meeting scheduled including the Forest Service, TSVI, the Village and the Chamber to identify and get agreement on a sign standard for use within the Village did not happen due to Forest Service staffing reductions. Signage is also an issue to be worked in the PARC Grant so he will continue to work the issue.

### **Event Permit and Parking and Camping Status**

The Event Permit Ordinance and the Parking and Parking Ordinance received their first reading at the last Village Council Meeting and are expected to be approved with minor modifications at the next Village Council Meeting.

### **Miscellaneous Items**

Rick discussed his work to address three complaints concerning a new business in Amizette. He could not verify two of the issues, dogs running loose and night sky lighting concerns. But the Banners and Signs were a potential safety issue, which has been addressed. The business owner has been cooperative. This will be on the agenda for the Special Village Council meeting this week. Henry stated that a week ago the lights were shining directly into his windows. Rick said he would look at the lights on that side of the building.

### **Firewise Board:**

### **NFL and CWPP Grants**

Garrett was not available to provide an update, but little work was planned for the winter months.

### **Underground, Microgrid, Battery Power Status**

KCEC will be reporting on these projects in a special meeting open to the public to be scheduled for March. Siting is an issue. There is Village land which could be used. The Forest Service is being consulted about this project and its location. Rick would like to see this project include extending the main water line to the Sewer Plant for firefighting. The project could start as early as July or September.

### **Natural Gas Line Extension of Upper Twining**

Bob Thomas and Jim Woodard had a meeting with Chris Baca, our representative for NM Gas, to understand the process for extending the main natural gas line to the end of Upper Twining Road. The process starts with applications from as many of the lots that would be served by the line as possible. Site Maps and Warranty Deeds must be included in the application. Applications receive credits for their potential use. The remaining costs minus the credits is divided equally by those making application. Bob will try to engage more of the owners who have not sent in applications. Henry offered to obtain Warranty Deeds from the County for applications.

### **Real Exercise Planning**

Virgil stated the Tabletop Planning Exercise is planned for March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Questa Youth Center from 1pm to 4pm. All are invited to observe.

### **Miscellaneous**

Matt Hayner requested that in light of the burn restrictions the Village contract with a wood chipping company and chip the piles left from the Hwy 150 thinning project. Rick was worried about the cost and liabilities of such a project.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

The next meeting will be at 10am on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, via Zoom.

**James B Woodard**