



**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 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 Chris Stanek at 1:00 pm. Notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Stanek

Councilor Caldwell

Councilor Turner

Councilor Stagg

Councilor Wittman

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2025, REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING AND THE MAY 9, 2025 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING WITH AMENDMENT TO ADD A DISCUSSION FROM COUNILMAN WITTMAN AND CORRECTION OF VOTE REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

DISCUSSION: Deputy Clerk, Marlene Salazar requested the May 9th, 2025, minutes be amended to add a discussion regarding the utility rates from Councilor Wittman, and the correction of a vote on agenda item #3. (Approval of the agenda) also on the May 9th, 2025, meeting.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. A presentation by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative regarding KCEC wildfire prevention efforts, the KCEC/VTSV joint project to place electrical service underground in order to reduce fire risk, and a proposed joint KCEC/TSVI/VTSV project for a micro-grid battery storage project. (Luis Reyes, CEO of KCEC)

Mr. Luis Reyes (Kit Carson Electric CEO) presented and discussed wildfire prevention efforts, the VTSV underground electric project and the Battery Microgrid Project.

Mr. Reyes stated the Village is on Phase II of the underground electrical project. This phase will help continue to mitigate the fire risk as electrical lines are being buried underground. There are a total of 26 residents that need to be connected to underground electricity. The remaining areas include Amizette, Snowshoe Rd, and Zap's Rd.

Project Manager Wooldridge stated the Village is planning on utilizing franchise fees to fund some of the project costs. The cost will be split between the homeowner and the Village. The Village will be responsible for all the work on the right-of-way, and the homeowner will be responsible to complete the rest of the line hookup from the right-of-way to their home.

Mr. Reyes reported on the Battery Microgrid project. The microgrid project is another project that can be used to mitigate wildfires and reduce resiliency and provide backup power for the long term. The microgrid will consist of 4 megawatts of power storage, which equals to about 6 hours of battery storage. Utilization of the battery microgrid will ensure that critical infrastructure (sewer), (water) etc in the Village will continue to have power when power outages occur.

B. Introduction of a VTSV wildfire public information and outreach campaign. (VTSV staff)

VTSV Wildland Coordinator Garrett Hanson and Fire Chief Matt Rogers presented a PowerPoint presentation that discussed The Wildfire Mitigation progression in VTSV. The presentation included Village Firewise status, Fire Department updates, cooperative agreements, continued commitments and community engagement. The presentation provided residents with VTSV Forestry Initiatives and Community Services that VTSV offers residents and what homeowners can do to prevent fires. A map of the 2 VTSV fire districts, and the hydrant distribution locations was also presented and provided in the council packet.

Village Administrator Bellis provided a fire prevention and response summary identifying public information and outreach and hands-on fire prevention and education services the Village will undertake this summer to improve public safety and awareness. The items listed include a portable commercial woodchipper for Village Public Works and public use, scheduling green waste collection days, a list of heavy equipment operators that can be mobilized during emergencies, summer outreach campaigns via E-blast/Text, an updated EVAC plan, site specific fire and property inspections, and information on eligibility and how to apply for the NFL grant.

6. A. CITIZEN'S FORUM –Discussion of non-agenda items only. Limited to 5 minutes per person. (Please email msalazar@vtsv.org to sign up in advance so that you can be recognized).

Resident Michael Chandler spoke in regard to the Underground Electric Project, and stated this project is a high priority. Mr. Chandler stated there is big problem that the Village needs to solve, and that's getting residents hooked up to the underground electric. Mr. Chandler stated the Village talks about all these problems but does not provide solutions to the problems. Mr. Chandler expressed the Village is radically vulnerable to wildfires and more needs to be done. Mr. Chandler feels the universal issue with all of the Village needs is identifying and setting aside the money required for the projects.

B. CITIZEN'S FORUM - Limit of 5 minutes per person related to a specific agenda item. Public comment during consideration of agenda items by the Council is only permitted at the discretion of the Chair and is limited and those directly affected.

No speakers.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Commission (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman) Commission Chair Wittman stated no meeting was held in May 2025. The next meeting of the P&Z Commission will be on June 2, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

B. Public Safety Committee (Councilman Henry Caldwell) Board Chair Caldwell stated there are no reports to share, the next meeting of the Public Safety/Firewise will be on June 2, 2025, at 10:00/11:00 am.

C. Firewise Community Board (Councilman Henry Caldwell) see above.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee (Joan Woodard) Board Chair Woodard stated a meeting was held on April 22, 2025. Items discussed were the Trails + grant, activities that will be held this summer in 2025, and Spring Clean Up Day which will be held on May 27, 2025. Everyone is invited and we will meet at the upper plaza at 9:00 am.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (Councilman Chris Stagg) No Reports

F. TIDD (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman) Mayor Pro Tem Wittman stated a meeting was held on the 28th, of April 2025. Budget items discussed included expenditures, and revenues.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS

(Included in the attached Administrator's and department reports)

A. Enchanted Circle Council of Governments (ECCoG) (No report)

B. Taos Regional Landfill (TRF) (See report) Village Administrator Bellis reported the Taos Regional landfill approved a 25% rate increase along with a 5% COLA. The Village has already budgeted for these increases.

C. North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) (No report)

D. Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO) (No report)

E. North Central Economic Development District (NCEDD) (No report)

F. Rio Hondo Watershed District (RHWD) (report provided in the council packet)

G. San Juan Chama Water Contractor's Association (SJCCA) (report provided in the council packet)

9. MAYOR'S REPORT (Mayor Chris Stanek) Mayor Stanek acknowledged VTSV Fire Chief Matt Rogers and staff of the Fire Department for their efforts in clearing and cleaning up the Rio Pueblo below the Slide Trail. The collaboration consisted of help between VTSV, Taos County, BLM and Community members. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

10. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS: All reports were provided in the council packet (Rick Bellis, Village Administrator)

11. FINANCE REPORT

(Carroll Griesedieck, Village Finance Officer) All reports were provided in the council Packet

12. 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, that item will be heard when reached under the regular agenda.

A. Approval of VTSV Contract 2025-004, a contract between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and the Enchanted Circle Trails Association for the provision of services required by and in fulfillment of the Village's requirements as specified in the FY 2024-25 NM EDD Division of Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant, and the attached scope of work for project management (\$5,030.00), GIS and mapping (\$7,115.00), stakeholder and community engagement (\$7,115.00), field work, data collection and reporting (\$4,610.00), draft report and revisions (\$7,875.00), and permitted indirect costs (\$33,057.00), **for a total not to exceed \$33,627.00.**

B. Approval of VTSV Contract 2025-005, a contract between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for the provision of services required by and in fulfillment of the Village's requirements as specified in the FY 2024-25 NM EDD Division of Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant and the attached scope of work for the provision of trail-related repairs and improvements within the Village of Taos Ski Valley **in an amount not to exceed \$23,489.00.**

C. Approval of VTSV Contract 2025-006, a contract between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and Gizmo Productions for the provision of services required by and in fulfillment of the Village's requirements as specified in the FY 2024-25 NM EDD Division of Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant, and the attached scope of work for the development of a unified branding, style, and signage system for trails and way-finding for the trails and recreation system throughout the Enchanted Circle Region of northern New Mexico, and within the Village of Taos Ski Valley, specifically, and **at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00.**

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

13. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of the revised FY 2025-26 Village of Taos Ski Valley Budget and permission to submit the budget to NM DFA for consideration and approval. (Carroll Griesedieck, Village Finance Officer) **All reports were provided in the council packet**

The full VTSV FY 2025-26 Budget may be viewed here: [Interim-Budget-PDF-for-approval-at-May-16-2025-CM.pdf](#)

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

14. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the staff report and recommendation for the TIDD project for phase 2 of the Rt. 150 corridor utilities improvement project and the formal acceptance of the dedication from TSV, Inc. to the Village of Taos Ski Valley. (Rick Bellis, Village Administrator)

The full Report and all attachments may be viewed here: [TIDD-Dedication-Project-for-Phase-2.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION: Councilor Caldwell expressed his concerns about this major dedication. Councilor Caldwell stated there were no checks and balances regarding this dedication, no physical dedication, no audit of the interest that's being charged, and no justification as to what the costs are, and it's not understood why this practice continues.

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Turner **PASSED:** 2-1

VOTING NAY: 1 Councilor Caldwell

ABSTAINED: 1 Councilor Stagg

15. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Personnel

Recommendation of the Village Administrator for the appointment of Acting Clerk, Marlene Salazar to the position of Village Clerk based upon applications received, qualifications of the candidate and her performance in the position of Acting Clerk. Further, having successfully completed 6 months in the position of Acting Clerk as of June 16th, while also continuing her duties as Deputy Clerk and Public Works Administrative Assistant, and having completed multiple years of commendable service with the Village as Deputy Clerk, that the 6-month probationary period be considered as

having been satisfied. (Rick Bellis, Village Administrator)

Mayor Stanek made a recommendation to Village Council to appoint Marlene Salazar as the Village Clerk, once approved Marlene Salazar was sworn in by Mayor Stanek.

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

16. 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, and 10-15-1. H (7): attorney client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant.

No session was held.

17. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION (John Appel, Village Attorney)

No report was required.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the Village of Taos Ski Valley will be held as a hybrid in-person and on-line meeting on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 1:00 pm in Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd., Taos Ski Valley, NM and the Agenda, Agenda attachments, and Zoom Meeting link will be available to the public on the Village website at <https://www.vtsv.org>.

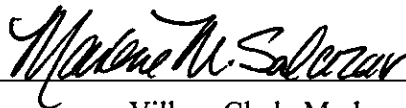
19. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Chris Stanek

Attest:



Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar