VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA HYBRID-IN PERSON AND ON-LINE
MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 102, 9 FIREHOUSE RD.
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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 p.m. Notice of the meeting was properly posted

2. ROLL CALL

Marlene Salazar, Village Clerk, called the role and 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 Turner **PASSED:** 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2025, REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

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

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office: Scott Freeman (VTSV Fire Chief) & Evan Perry (Lt. Fire Fighter)

Mayor Chris Stanek performed the Oath of Office and welcomed our new Fire Chief and Lt. Fire Fighter

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 Matthew Hayner addressed the council, praising recent improvements in the village while expressing concerns about past leadership challenges and the importance of responsible leadership in upcoming elections.

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.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Commission (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman) Councilor Wittman reported that no meeting was held in September 2025, but the Commission plans to reconvene in October 2025.

B. Public Safety Committee (Councilman Henry Caldwell) Board Chair Caldwell reported that a meeting was held on September 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. Items discussed included Kachina Park and the Williams Lake area. Administrator Bellis has been working diligently with TSVI and the Forest Service on how to manage overuse of the Williams Lake area, which also runs into Kachina Park. Discussion also included talk about the smart water meters, and winter maintenance of the Sutton Place crossing. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held October 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

C. Firewise Community Board (Councilman Henry Caldwell) Councilor Caldwell reported that the Firewise Committee has been speaking and working with Garrett Hansen (ENSO) he reported that $250,000 of the $350,000 wildfire mitigation grant had been spent, treating 54 lots in the Ski Valley. ENSO will be seeking other residential lots applications that may benefit from this grant with the funds that are left over. The Firewise Committee is seeking additional funding to rewrite the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The underground power work is set to begin in Amizette, and the microgrid project for the village is in process, with the Village having created and surveyed the proposed site. There was continued discussion regarding the extension of natural gas up Twining with NM Gas and the prepared pricing for the trenching was obtained through staff. The next meeting of the Firewise Committee will be held October 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee (Joan Woodard) No report, as he Chair was not present, but the Administrator indicated that he would report on several matters under from the Committee under his report later in the meeting.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (Councilman Chris Stagg) Councilor Stagg reported the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board did not meet and will wait to assess budget levels based on collections before they have another meeting.

F. TIDD (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman) Board Chair Wittman reported that an IPRA request lawsuit was denied, but resident Michael Fitzpatrick has appealed the decision. The next meeting of the TIDD Board will be held on October 20, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS (Are all included in the attached Administrator's and Department reports)

A. Enchanted Circle Council of Governments (ECCoG) (No meeting, no report)
B. Enchanted Circle Marketing Cooperative (Met in August, per Village Administrator's Report)
C. Taos Regional Landfill (TRF) (Meeting Thursday, per Village Administrator's Report)
D. North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) (Met in August, no report)
E. Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO) (Met 8/8/25, at NCRTD, No report)
F. North Central Economic Development District (NCEDD) (No meeting, no report)
G. Rio Hondo Watershed District (RHWD) (Met in September re: wildfire efforts, no report)
H. San Juan Chama Water Contractor's Association (SJCCA) (per Village Administrator's Report) Summer Triannual Convention met in Taos, with site visit, meetings in and presentation by VTSV.

Village Administrator Bellis highlighted a successful presentation to the San Juan Chama Contractors Association and thanked TSVI for the use of their meeting room. The Village has also received an invitation from the American Planning Association for a similar tour in late October. All reports were provided in the Council Packet.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT (Mayor Chris Stanek) No reports

10. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS Attached. (Rick Bellis, Village Administrator)

Administrator Bellis reported the Trails Plus grant work is nearly complete with the work being completed by Rocky Mtn Youth Corp, with plans for trail realignment and completion of Kachina Vista Park improvements, including a parking lot installation and camera monitoring for the Village water tanks, and installation of gates in Kachina Vista Park for enforcement of the Council directed winter closure of the park for safety reasons.

Councilor Wittman suggested adding warning signs about severe avalanche danger be posted up near the Kachina Vista Park entrances and exits.

Administrator Bellis praised the small four-person public works department for their successful management of multiple large projects simultaneously, including road improvements, parking lot work, park maintenance, major excavation projects and water/sewer system operations.

Councilor Caldwell raised questions about the Wheeler Peak construction work and the website development process. He questioned the eligibility of the master meter project under the TIDD, which Administrator Bellis clarified was included under broad voter approved language for "water system improvements" as a mechanism to locate the otherwise evasive leaks in the system.

Village Administrator also noted positive news about the village's water quality, which tested clean of any PFAS (forever chemicals), leading to a lighthearted suggestion about bottling and selling the water.

11. FINANCE REPORT

Attached. (Carroll Griesedieck, Village Finance Officer)
Financial update presentation. (Carroll Griesedieck, Village Finance Director)

Finance Director Griesedieck reported that utility billing for June and July showed a 19% decrease in gross receipts tax compared to last year, but September's figures reversed this trend to a 26% decrease. This was due in part to a delay in instituting the anticipated July 1 increases. Finance Director Griesedieck noted improvements in the residential construction reporting processes and expressed hope for a steady stream of projects to buffer against recent economic fluctuations. Director Griesedieck mentioned a smooth audit process with the Village's independent auditors, having streamlined the process from using two CPA firms to one, and who are now working on the financial report without any issues to-date.

All information was included in the finance report.

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. RESOLUTION 2025-36: A RESOULTION REQUESTING A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO THE FY2026 BUDGET (BAR) INCREASING BUDGETED EXPENSES IN THE CANNABIS REGULATION ACT FUND TO REFLECT ANTICIPATED FY26 CANNABIS ADMINISTRATIVE FEES CHARGED.

B. VTSV CONTRACT 2026-07: MUNIBILLING UTILITY BILLING SOLUTIONS SOFTWARE: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MUNIBILLING UTILITY BILLING SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE PERIOD OF 5 YEARS, AS SPECIFIED PER THE AGREEMENT WITH A SUBSCRIPTION FEE PER INVOICE CYCLE OF $1278.00 FOR UP TO 275 SERVICE LOCATIONS BILLED, ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICE LOCATIONS WILL BE BILLED AT $240.00 FOR EACH 50 SERVICE LOCATION INCREMENTS.

C. VTSV CONTRACT 2026-08: WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STUDY; A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY (VTSV) AND FCS, A BOWMAN COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF $50,620 FOR A WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY FOR SERVICES AS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TO A PROJECT INITIATION MEETING, DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS, REVENUE REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS, COST-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS, RATE DESIGN AND PROKJECT REVIEW MEETINGS WITH STAFF, COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD 9-2-25 THROUGH 6-30-26.

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

13. OLD BUSINESS

None

14 . NEW BUSINESS

STAFF REQUESTS THAT THE BELOW ITEM BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA AND THAT STAFF BE PERMITTED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 2025-035 (INCLUDED BELOW FOR REFERENCE) TO REPUBLISH AT A LATER DATE WHEN THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

A. ORDINANCE 2025-04: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, CORRECT AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE IN ORDINANCE 2022-17: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE; CREATING RULES REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF A LOCAL LICENSE; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF CANNABIS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND IN PUBLIC PLACES; LIMITING THE SALE, PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURE AND CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS INFUSED PRODUCTS TO CERTAIN ZONE DISTRICTS; LIMITING GROWING AND CULTIVATION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS TO PERSONAL USE ONLY

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

Council voted to remove this item from the agenda, as Administrator Bellis explained this was a previously approved resolution and due to a miscommunication with the Village

Clerk and with state involvement the Village staff will need additional time to work and republish this item at a later date.

"RESOLUTION 2025-035: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PUBLICATION OF AND SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, CORRECT AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE IN ORDINANCE 2022-17: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE; CREATING RULES REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF A LOCAL LICENSE; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF CANNABIS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND IN PUBLIC PLACES; LIMITING THE SALE, PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURE AND CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS INFUSED PRODUCTS TO CERTAIN ZONE DISTRICTS; LIMITING GROWING AND CULTIVATION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS TO PERSONAL USE ONLY."

15. OTHER BUSINESS

A. PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Negotiations for RFP 2025-06, Comprehensive Plan update, regarding the issue of scope and price are on-going. Consistent with NM State Procurement, the Village may, at the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer, reject all responses and re-RFP or Bid the contract if none of the responses received are within the scope and budget of the original RFP or are otherwise deemed unresponsive or unacceptable.

Administrator Bellis announced that negotiations for the RFP 2025-06 comprehensive plan update were ongoing, with the possibility of rejecting all responses and re-bidding the contract if the scope and budget requirements are not able to be met by the respondents/awardee(s).

16. LEGAL UPDATE/STATUS REPORT: Attorney Appel reported that there were no legal updates for the past month, and the council entered a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

17. 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, 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, and 10-15-1.H (2) limited personnel matters.

Motion to enter into a closed session:

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

Motion to return from closed session:

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

18. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION (John Appel, Village Attorney) Village Attorney reported to the public: The only matters discussed in the closed session were related to 10-15-1.H (2) limited personnel matters. No other matters were discussed and no decisions were made.

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

OCTOBER 17, 2025: REGULAR MEETING. 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 meetings on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 1:00 pm in Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd., Taos Ski Valley, NM

The Agenda, Agenda attachments, and Zoom Meeting link will be available to the public on the Village website at https://www.vtsv.org.

20. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Chris Stagnek

Attest: Marlene M. Salazar

Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar