

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico held at 10am on Monday, September 8th, 2025, via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Henry Caldwell at 10:00am. Notice of the meeting was properly announced. Members present were Henry Caldwell, Kent Kiehl, Bob Thomas, Michael Chandler, Jim Woodard and Ben Pitz.

The agenda for today's Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting was approved (Motion: Kent, Second: Bob, Unanimous). The minutes for the July 7th, 2025, Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting was approved (Motion: Kent, Second: Bob, Unanimous).

Public Safety Committee:

Kachina Park/ PARC Grant Update

As part of the match for the Trails+ Grant, the Village committed to do work on Kachina Vista Park to make it safer for users, less prone to vandalism, and to generally improve its aesthetics and use. It is, above all, still a required evacuation route in case of an emergency, so there is a limit on what we can do as nothing can impede its use as a pedestrian and vehicular evacuation route. So, we are going to have to be a bit creative, given its narrowness, steepness, being prone to slides of snow, rock and mud, and the impact whatever we do will have on the properties and houses below it. The plan is to create both parking and picnic areas at the top and parking below. Cameras are to be installed to monitor the top and bottom entrances to the park. Public Works has completed about half of the rock cleanup along the length of the park. There was considerable discussion regarding changing the current Ordinance which requires Kachina Park be closed in the winter due to the avalanche danger and the need to use the park

for snow storage. It was tentatively agreed that it was best not to change the Ordinance at this time. Rick and PARC are considering an informational bulletin and questionnaire regarding winter closure of Kachina Vista Park,

Williams Lake Overuse Solutions Update

Rick reported that the Village, TSVI and the Forest Service are moving to a position which revolves around year-round public use of the Gondola to allow the Village to restrict vehicles on Twining Rd and Kachina Area parking. Rick is working on an inter-jurisdictional operational plan which might be available at the beginning of November 2025.

Meeting Frequency Discussion

There was a short discussion regarding meeting in the winter. Sentiment was expressed that Safety is a year-round issue. There will be a meeting next month (October 6th) when the issue will be addressed again.

Smart Water Meters Update

Rick stated that the Village has a new meter reader and a new software contractor to assist in the interface with the reader and billing software. We very nearly have all the same water meters. Rick also believes that the last big leak has been found. One result of fixing all the leaks is higher water pressures, however. Next Spring, homeowners will be asked to coordinate with the village to have their service lines checked to insure they are not leaking with the higher pressure.

Gondolita Crossing on Upper Sutton Place. Update

With the Saint Barnard Hotel construction delay, the Gondollita Crossing will not be re-graded as planned. The Village will use movable signs and gravel to improve the crossing experience for this coming winter.

Miscellaneous Items

Firewise Board:

CWPP/NFL Grants Status

Garrett reported that out of the \$351,000 NFL Grant, \$107,000 remains. They have treated 54 Lots amounting to 54 Acres of Taos Ski Valley. There is no one left in the queue and further invoices must be submitted before the end of the calendar year. They have plans to spend the remaining funds with last minute applicants and treating the areas around the substation and Green Water Tank. Mark Shoots at Watershed Dynamics has been the go-to contractor for the final stage of the project. They have done a great job. They are insured and comfortable with burning, resulting in very clean projects.

If committee members identify lots that still need to be treated and send photos and addresses to Rick and Garrett, they will reach out the lot owners to encourage them to treat their lots.

Garrett is still looking for funding to rewrite the Taos Ski Valley CWPP. It is a big effort requiring someone with experience to perform. The State Fire Marshal has been approached to provide permission to use their funding.

Underground Power

Robert Wooldridge reported that they have a new contractor for undergrounding electrical power. They plan to do the lower half of Amizette, 8/9 Coyote Lane, and all of Upper Twining Road before the construction season ends this year.

Microgrid/Battery Power Status

Rick stated that tariffs and a better understanding of winter conditions in the Village have delayed the project. The units are designed and being fabricated, but it will probably be Spring before construction really begins. The Village has prepared the site with twice the area required to provide the option of increasing the coverage from 6 or 8 to a full 24 hours. The installation will improve the quality of the power for the Village because the units act as a large surge protector.

Natural Gas Line Extension of Upper Twining

While there are not as many applications as hoped, Jim and Bob have submitted 11 applications for Natural Gas to New Mexico Gas. Chris Baca has provided a preliminary estimate for bringing the main line to the end of Upper Twining Road. Chris's estimate did not include trenching. Rick is getting an estimate from the Village trenching contractor.

Miscellaneous

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:26am.

The next meeting will be at 10am on October 6th, 2025, via Zoom.

James B Woodard