



**VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING DRAFT 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  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 1:00 PM**

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

The special 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 roll and quorum was present.

**Governing Body Present:**

Mayor Stanek

Councilor Caldwell

Councilor Turner

Councilor Stagg

Councilor Wittman

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**All employees and members of the public are invited to ask questions and offer comment on the following items of business before the Council:**

The public hearing included a group discussion between the Village of Taos Ski Valley employees, one resident Michael Chandler and the Mayor & Council. Participants reviewed a defined benefit plan that includes a one-time makeup payment of \$51,910 for past years not covered, followed by ongoing contributions of 2% for staff (except police/fire at 2.5%) plus employee contributions of 1% and 1.5%, respectively. The program offers comprehensive health insurance benefits (medical and optional vision, dental, drug, life) that can provide standalone coverage (if under 65) OR supplement your Medicare coverage (if over 65). You must obtain Medicare Parts A and B, if you are eligible. Some plans have no co-pays or deductibles. The mix of plans generally reflects the same providers that we have now under the state health plan. Once you are part of the plan and have paid in service time, just like PERA, you don't lose that time if you switch PERA employers or leave government service and return. Costs for those plans that have a cost are calculated in a table by years of service in NMRHCA, with the costs decreasing with the years of service you have in the plan. If you file for NMRHCA insurance at the time you retire under PERA there are no medical precondition penalties and no medical questions. Councilman Turner and Stagg cited the program's generosity compared to other states and its potential value in providing medical insurance security for employees and their families, with participants noting that the 1% payroll deduction would in exchange provide guaranteed long-term benefits to the employees.

**A. NM RHCA (NM Retiree Health Care Association membership (status) Report by Village Administrator, Rick Bellis**

Administrator Bellis Rick presented a proposal to join the New Mexico Retiree Healthcare Association, explaining its benefits for employees and the village. The plan would provide comprehensive healthcare coverage at no or below commercial market costs to participating retirees, with monthly contributions of 2% of salary from employers and 1% from employees for most staff, or 2.5% and 1.25% for emergency services personnel (police and fire). Rick emphasized that participation of all employees of the Village would be mandatory and irrevocable, if approved by the Village Council, with the plan to be likely effective July 1st and requiring a \$51,910 actuarial assessment. The council discussed the implications, with Councilman Caldwell asking about the impact on overall and existing healthcare costs and Mayor Stanek confirming that current healthcare plans would remain separate from this retirement benefit.

**B. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38 A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY GOVERNING BODY EXPRESSING INTEREST IN AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW MEXICO RETIREE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY PROGRAM**

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

**C. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-39 A RESOLUTION ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE ACT, SECTIONS 10-7C-1 ET SEQ. NMSA 1978, EXERCISING THE IRREVOCABLE OPTION TO DETERMINE TO BE INCLUDED IN COVERAGE UNDER THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE ACT**

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

**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.

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

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

**NOVEMBER 21, 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, November 21, 2025, at 10:00 am 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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Chris Stanek

Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar