



**VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA HYBRID - IN PERSON AND ONLINE
MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 102, 9 FIREHOUSE RD.
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 AT 1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village 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, Village Clerk called the roll and quorum was present

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Chris Stanek
Councilman Henry Caldwell
Councilman Doug Turner
Councilman Chris Stagg
Councilman Tom Wittman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR STAGG PASSED: 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19TH, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AND THE NOVEMBER 21, 2025, REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 4-0

5. PRESENTATIONS

None

6. CITIZEN'S FORUM

- A. 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 Mike Fitzpatrick raised concerns about the destruction of public documents and the slow progress of the undergrounding electrical utility project. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested pausing contributions to the TIDD until the undergrounding project is complete, which could generate approximately \$400,000 annually for the project. Mr. Fitzpatrick emphasized the importance of the project for health and safety, urging the council to act on this high priority.

Resident Francie Parker expressed concerns about Council meeting attendance. Mrs. Parker expressed a desire for all elected officials to attend in person while maintaining hybrid options for villagers.

- B. 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)

Commission Chair Wittman reported no meeting was held in December 2025. The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will be held on January 5th, 2026.

B. Public Safety Committee (Councilman Henry Caldwell)

Committee Chair Caldwell reported a meeting was held on December 1, 2025. The Committee discussed placing proper signage around the Village for Public Safety and what role this will play within the Enchanted Circle Trails Association.

C. Firewise Community Board (Councilman Henry Caldwell)

Committee Chair Caldwell reported the Firewise Committee discussed fire safety initiatives, including reported progress from Garrett Hanson (Taos County & Village of Taos Ski Valley Wildland Fire Coordinator) on the CWPP application and Firewise renewal, while noting the need to develop a more effective approach to addressing downed trees than the heavy-handed method used by Angel Fire recently. Discussion also included keeping the underground project on track since the Village Project Manager has departed. A meeting will be held with the current Village Administrator Bellis, in regard to keeping the project moving forward and other potential fund sources. The Public Safety and Firewise Committee's next meeting will be held on January 5th at 10 a.m. via Zoom; and will consider changing future meetings to afternoons for better attendance.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee (Committee Chair Joan Woodard)

Committee Chair Woodard expressed gratitude to members of the Council and the community who participated in the recent planning and community sessions. Committee Chair Woodard reported on community input sessions for trails and green space planning, with ECTA as contractor. A report will be available for the Mayor & Council review in February 2026. Committee Chair Woodard mentioned the committee will submit another Trails Plus grant application, this will be delayed until July. The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation will be held January 27, 2026, at 10:00 am.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (Councilman Chris Stagg)

Councilor Stagg reported no meeting, no report

F. TIDD (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman)

Councilor Wittman updated on the TIDD's response to an IPRA request that is currently being processed and upcoming board elections. Two newly elected officials were elected to the TIDD in the November 2025 election. The next meeting of the TIDD will be held in February 2026 at which a new TIDD Chair will be voted on.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS

(All are included in the attached Administrator's and Department reports)

Village Administrator Bellis reported forwarding a memo about the E911 board to Mayor and Council. Taos County Commissioners recently held a meeting where they discussed two major regional issues: a

county proposal to dissolve a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for emergency services, which Administrator Bellis explained would not be legally possible, and increasing federal water rights pressures due to changing regulations.

Councilor Caldwell mentioned there was still an open meeting item in regard to the Marijuana Ordinance in which Village Administrator Bellis confirmed that the marijuana ordinance would be completed before his departure. Councilor Caldwell questioned the \$8 million Governor's Capital Outlay. Village Administrator explained that the \$8 million Governor's Capital Outlay project would be handled through a joint meeting in January to review existing county equipment and systems rather than starting from scratch.

- A. Enchanted Circle Council of Governments (ECCoG) (No meeting, no report)
- B. Enchanted Circle Marketing Cooperative (No report)
- C. Taos Regional Landfill (TRF) (per Village Administrator's Report)
- D. North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) (per Village Administrator's Report)
- E. Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)(per Village Administrator's Report)
- F. North Central Economic Development District (NCEDD) (per Village Administrator's Report)
- G. Rio Hondo Watershed District (RHWD) (per Village Administrator's Report)
- H. San Juan Chama Water Contractor's Association (SJCCA) (per Village Administrator's Report)

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Mayor's Report (Mayor Chris Stanek)

Mayor Stanek reflected on the year's achievements and expressed gratitude to village staff, committee members, and volunteers for their contributions. Mayor Stanek acknowledged the hard work of the Village's small team and encouraged residents to thank staff when they see them. Mayor Stanek also paid tribute to Councilor Caldwell for his diligent service and to Village Administrator Rick Bellis, who is transitioning to retirement after many years of dedication.

10. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS

- A. Administrator & Staff Reports (Rick Bellis, Village Administrator)

Village Administrator reported that all information was listed in the Administrator's and Staff reports. Administrator Bellis highlighted the village's strong team and positive community engagement, while also noting that a year-end status report would be provided to Council.

11. FINANCE REPORT

- A. Finance Report (Carroll Griesdieck, Village Finance Officer)

Village Administrator Bellis reported that a status report will be available for Mayor & Council in January 2026, due to Finance Director Griesdieck being out on vacation.

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. (NONE)

13. OLD BUSINESS

(NONE)

14. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Reporting of the official 2025 General Election results/canvassing and acceptance by Council.

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 4-0

Village Clerk Salazar presented the official tallies for various positions, including the Village Council seats and the Tax Increment Development District Board (TIDD).

- B. RESOLUTION 2025-040**
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2026 UPDATE TO THE
VILLAGE WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 4-0

- C. RESOLUTION 2025-041**
A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING FINDINGS FOR AND DECLARATION OF AN
EMERGENCY

Village Administrator explained the emergency declaration was needed to expedite funding from the state of New Mexico for construction projects.

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR STAGG PASSED: 4-0

- D. Approval by Council to grant authority to the Mayor to negotiate a Professional Services Contract, not to exceed 6 months, with the departing Village Administrator to complete certain outstanding grants and projects and to provide such services as deemed necessary by the Village to ensure a smooth transition, contingent upon the availability of funding.

Village Council approved a motion granting the mayor authority to negotiate a professional services contract with departing Village Administrator Bellis to complete outstanding grants and projects.

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 4-0

15. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. A. Procurement Announcements (None)

16. LEGAL UPDATES/STATUS REPORT

17. 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.

Mayor Stanek discussed entering a closed session to talk about the next village administrator.

TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: COUNCILOR TURNER SECOND: COUNCILOR WITTMAN PASSED: 4-0

TO RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: COUNCILOR TURNER SECOND: COUNCILOR WITTMAN PASSED: 4-0

18. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

(John Appel, Village Attorney)

Village Attorney Appel reported that no decisions were made in this closed session, and the only item addressed in closed session under the NM Open Public Meetings Act under exemptions was 10-15-1. H (2.) limited personnel matters.

19. PERSONNEL

- A. Recommendation of the Mayor for appointment of a candidate to the position of Village Administrator and ratification by Council.

The Village Council discussed the potential hiring of Henry Hammond Paul as the new Village Administrator. While some council members expressed concerns about Hammond's experience and part-time commitment, the motion to approve the mayor to negotiate an offer to Hammond passed 3-1.

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 3-1

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

JANUARY 9, 2026: SPECIAL MEETING. The next 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, January 9, 2026, at 1:00 pm in Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd., Taos Ski Valley, NM (Swearing in Ceremony) 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, January 16, 2026, at 1:00 pm in Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd., Taos Ski Valley, NM& (Organizational Meeting) The Agenda, Agenda attachments, and Zoom Meeting link will be available to the public on the Village website at <https://www.vtsv.org>.

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: COUNCILOR WITTMAN SECOND: COUNCILOR TURNER PASSED: 4-0



Mayor Chris Stanek

ATTEST:



Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar