



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE & FIREWISE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for today's Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting was approved (Motion: Jim, Second: Bob, Unanimous).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Discussion and approval of the minutes of the December 1, 2025, meeting.

The minutes for the December 1st, 2025, Public Safety Committee and Firewise Board Meeting were approved (Motion: Jim, Second: Bob, Unanimous).

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Approval of RESOLUTION 2026-002 CONCERNING GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS AND PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED (ALL)

The committee discussed this resolution. At least for the ski season, it was agreed that the meeting should be moved to 3pm on the first Monday of February, March and possibly April. After a few months of the new time the committee will discuss whether to leave the meetings in the afternoon or return to the morning time slot. The committee approved the modified resolution (Motion: Jim, Second: Henry, Unanimous)

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Brainstorm Underground Power - All

The project plan Robbie prepared for the Underground Power Project stated that it would require 13 years to complete using available franchise fee funding. The committee felt strongly that the Village should seek additional funding to complete this project sooner. In conversations with Rick Bellis, a grant from the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources seemed the best fit for additional funding. Apparently, their grant applications are due in July. It was agreed that this would be one of the topics to be addressed with the new Administrator later this month.

- B. Miscellaneous Items

No miscellaneous items were discussed

6. FIREWISE BOARD

A. Proposed Community Forestry Program- Garrett Hanson

Garrett Hansen could not attend the meeting, so this issue will be deferred to the next meeting.

B. NFL grant (acres/lots treated) Garrett Hanson

Although Garrett could not attend, Chris Hansen stated that the foresters treated 64 lots and a total of 70 acres for a total of \$351,480. The program spent all but \$153 of the available resources. Very successful execution of the Grant.

C. Brainstorm Dead and Down approach – Garrett Hanson

Rick Bellis believed that the new Building Code adopted by the Village Council would allow the Village to treat out of control lots with dead and downed trees to reduce the fuel available in case of a wildfire. The process would involve letters, possible fines, and eventually the Village hiring foresters to treat the lot. The starting point for this process is a list of out of control lots within the Village. Chris Hanson volunteered to create such a list for the Board. He believed that with the relatively light snow fall so far, that he could even do some of the work before the snow melts. The Board will discuss this issue with the new Administrator. The group identified Pioneer Glade as an area with significant dead and downed trees.

D. Firewise Annual Renewal Progress – Jim Woodard

Jim Woodard reported that he had completed the renewal application and the Certification below received:



E. Natural Gas Line Extension Update – Bob Thomas

Jim and Bob reported that Chris Baca of NM Gas has provided a tentative written estimate for extending the main natural gas line to the end of Upper Twining Rd, including trenching. Bob will explore with homeowners if the costs are acceptable and implore more lot owners to join in.

F. Miscellaneous Items:

With insurance rates rising and insurance companies failing to insure properties in wildfire prone areas, the Board discussed establishing some kind of certification or report that homeowners could provide to prospective insurance companies. Apparently, Chris Hanson has provided some owners with documentation for insurance companies. It is not clear if this needs to be on a property-by-property basis, a village wide report of some sort or both.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY/FIREWISE COMMITTEE

FEB 2, 2026-REGULAR MEETING. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety/Firewise Committee of the Village of Taos Ski Valley will be held as a hybrid in-person and on-line meeting on February 2, 2026, at 10:00 am 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>.

The next meeting will be held as a hybrid in-person and on-line meeting on February 2, 2026, 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>.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

James B Woodard