



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, MARCH 20, 2026 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 a quorum was present.

**Governing Body Present:**

Mayor Chris Stanek

Councilman Matt Myers

Councilman Chris Stagg

Councilman Tom Wittman

**Not Present:**

Councilman Doug Turner

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Myers **PASSED:** 3-0

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2026, regular Village Council Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Myers **PASSED:** 3-0

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Presentation of the FY2025 Annual Financial Audit by Southwest Accounting Solutions

The FY25 annual financial audit was presented by Geoff Mamerow from Southwest Accounting Solutions. The audit received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest standard opinion, and showed positive fund balances across all major funds, though there was one finding related to debt covenant compliance in the utility fund due to negative income.

Mr. Mamerow reviewed the statement of net position, highlighting the Village's strong cash position and positive net position across all line items. Mr. Mamerow also explained the inclusion of pension-related items in the financial statements per GASB 68 requirements, noting that these are primarily state-related matters.

The discussion covered several key financial topics including the net pension liability, which Mr. Mamerow explained is assessed by the state but not directly paid by the village. The general fund showed positive results with excess revenues over expenses of approximately \$1.256 million. A significant discussion centered on the Joint Utility Fund, which showed a negative operating income of \$483,623 due to depreciation expenses and other costs. Administrator Hammond-Paul explained that recent rate

adjustments implemented in 2025 and 2026, including a 20% increase in July 2025 and another 20% increase planned for 2027, were designed to address these financial issues and bring the fund into compliance. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with one finding related to debt covenant compliance, which Geoff indicated should be resolvable given the recent rate adjustments. Mr. Mamerow gave final feedback praising Finance Director Greisedieck, stating she is one of the best Finance Directors in the business.

## 6. CITIZEN'S FORUM

- A. 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.

Resident Michael Fitzpatrick introduced a proposed resolution directing that all historical and future Hold Harmless distributions be allocated exclusively to the Village General Fund. This measure ensures these revenues are utilized as intended: to address critical funding gaps in municipal infrastructure and public safety initiatives.

Mayor Stanek stated for the record that the Resolution Mr. Fitzpatrick referred to was not generated by the Village Staff or by the Mayor & Council.

Resident Christoff Brownell recommended the reopening of Kachina Vista Park following the seasonal snow melt. Additionally, Mr. Brownell requested status updates regarding the municipal recycling program, the anticipated reopening of the Post Office, and the current progress of the micro-grid project.

- 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)

Board Chair Wittman reported a meeting was held on February 2, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The Commissioners reported a detailed overview of ongoing zoning activities and departmental priorities that were discussed with the new Village Administrator, Hammond-Paul, to provide an orientation of current Planning and Zoning operations. The Commission also held a formal clarification regarding the terms of office for the currently serving Commissioners. Membership terms were verified to ensure compliance with local bylaws and appointment schedules. Lastly, discussion was held by the Commission regarding the scheduling of the next regular meeting on April 6, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

- B. Public Safety Committee (Committee Chair Henry Caldwell)

Chair Caldwell emphasized the urgent need for utility undergrounding to mitigate wildfire risks and frequent high-wind fire alerts. KCEC has committed technical support and potential funding for the two-year project. The Committee recommended immediate commencement of preliminary phases using existing funds.

### Capital Reserve Utilization

Citing the recent audit identifying \$4 million in unrestricted cash, Committee Chair Caldwell suggested deploying these reserves toward the underground project.

### Project Management Oversight

A proposal was made to engage a contracted professional project manager. This individual would provide dedicated oversight to ensure project milestones are achieved without increasing permanent staff

headcount or impacting the Village Administrator's current capacity.

**Fire Mitigation Grants & Equipment**

**Hazardous Fuel Reduction:** The Committee reported a \$150,000 grant application for thinning overgrown lots to reduce fire risk across both occupied and unimproved properties.

**Biomass Management:** Discussion was held regarding a potential state transfer of a wood-fueled boiler system for biomass utilization, noting the need for a sustainable operational plan.

The next meeting of the Public Safety and Firewise will be held on April 6, 2026 at 10:00 am.

**C. Firewise Community Board (Committee Chair Henry Caldwell)**

( Report included in the Public Safety report above)

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

No Reports

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

Councilor Stagg reported no meeting had been held. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2026, time TBD.

**F. TIDD (Mayor Pro Tem Tom Wittman)**

Board Chair Wittman reported a Special Meeting was held on March 10, 2026 at 4:00 pm. The TIDD Board held a special meeting to appoint a successor, following the resignation of Chaz Rockey. Kris DeVogelaere was formally appointed as the new TIDD Treasurer.

Kris DeVogelaere currently serves as the Finance Director for Taos Ski Valley (TSV) Inc. Providing a seamless transition due to his extensive knowledge of local financial operations. The TIDD Board expressed deep appreciation to Chaz Rockey for his many years of dedicated service and significant contributions to the TIDD Board's financial stability.

Lastly, the TIDD Board reviewed the final audit report presented by Geoff Mamerow from Southwest Accounting Solutions (following the preliminary briefing provided by the audit team). The report indicated that all financial records are in good standing. The next meeting of the TIDD Board will be held on April 20, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

**8. MAYOR'S REPORT**

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

No Report

**9. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Administrator and Staff Reports (Henri Hammond-Paul, Village Administrator)**

Village Administrator Hammond-Paul reported the Village has formally submitted three applications for transportation-related grants through the State. The Total Funding Requested is approximately \$7.0 million. The Project Scope includes construction of a retaining wall and road widening, infrastructure improvements to Porcupine Drive, and infrastructure improvements to Twining Road.

**Grant Terms:** These applications are highly favorable, requiring only a 5% local match (compared to the standard 25%), significantly reducing the burden on Village reserves.

Village Administrator Hammond-Paul reported on the Legislative Capital Outlay Award (New Village Hall). The Village was notified of an award of \$150,000 in capital funding from the state legislature.

These funds are specifically restricted to the design and construction of a new Village Office. Village Administrator Hammond-Paul reported on the Congressional Designated Funding (CPF) Request. A request for \$3.0 million has been submitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation for Congressionally Directed Spending. This is a preliminary request; funds are not yet secured. If awarded, this would provide the primary capital necessary for the implementation of the Village Hall project.

Village Administrator Hammond-Paul recapped the Fire Protection Fund (FPF) Allocation Adjustment changes to the State's Fire Protection Fund (GT) and its impact on local fire and EMS recipients. The Village's distribution has been reduced from 10% to 6.5%. It was noted that the Town of Taos experienced a more significant reduction, moving from a 25% to a 5% allocation.

Village Administrator Hammond-Paul reported the Village has hired a new Fire Chief: August Young, and Garrett Hanson has been appointed as the Assistant Fire Chief. These leadership roles are part-time appointments focused on building a sustainable, fully staffed department. The Village aims to ensure stable operations regardless of county-level funding fluctuations. The department is actively investigating alternative funding streams to bolster operations.

EMS Stabilization: Initiatives are underway to explore expanded emergency medical services, billing and transport capabilities to create a more resilient and self-sustaining department.

Grant Pursuits: Department leadership continues to coordinate with the New Mexico State Fire Marshal to identify supplemental grant opportunities to offset the allocation reductions.

An update was provided regarding the transition to the new Village Post Office facility. USPS Post Master Antonia Leyba was onsite during the previous week to finalize the labeling and organization of postal boxes. The project is estimated to be approximately two weeks away from its formal opening.

#### Microgrid Project

Village Administrator Hammond-Paul reported on the Microgrid project. The project is currently awaiting the General Services Agreement from the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). Kit Carson Electric and their subcontractor are scheduled to be on-site next week to begin preliminary work. There is a procedural hurdle regarding how state funds are passed through to the utility. The Village may need to initiate a sole-source bidding process for the utility (due to its monopoly status).

#### Finance Director Highlights

Finance Director Griesedieck reported the Fiscal Year-to-Date Total state tax revenue remains down 14%. The combined water and sewer revenues are currently up 5% for the fiscal year. The transition to a new billing system has caused substantial delays in invoice processing and payment receipt. Management expects all billing to be caught up and revenue to be accurately reconciled by the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

### 10. 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. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Contract #2026-02 with Lisa Olsen Bookkeeping Services.

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

- B. Resolution 2026-10 A resolution requesting a budget adjustment to the FY2026 budget (BAR)

to increase payroll expenses in the law enforcement fund for FY26

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

- C. Approval of Designation of Village Representatives to the Taos Central Dispatch E911 Board

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

(None)

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2026-009 A resolution requesting acceptance and approval of the FY 2025 Final Audit

**MOTION:** Councilor Stagg **SECOND:** Councilor Wittman **PASSED:** 3-0

- B. Request for Approval to Establish New Positions: Events & Marketing Manager and Parks, Recreation and Visitor Experience Coordinator

**MOTION:** Councilor Myers **SECOND:** Councilor Wittman **PASSED:** 3-0

Discussion: Village Administrator Hammond-Paul presented a procedural request for creation of new staff positions: Events & Marketing Manager and Parks, Recreation, and Visitor Experience Coordinator. Both roles are currently designated as non-Village funded and are preliminarily unfunded. The roles are designed to expand the Village's tourism and recreation scope into a year-round model (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter), moving away from the current winter-centric focus.

## 13. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Selection of Date for FY2026 Budget Work Session, with recommended dates being either April 24 or 25 2026.

The FY27 budget workshop was tentatively scheduled for April 24, 2026, starting at 10:00 am, pending confirmation of Councilor Turner's availability.

## 14. LEGAL UPDATES/STATUS REPORT

(None)

## 15. 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.

## 16. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

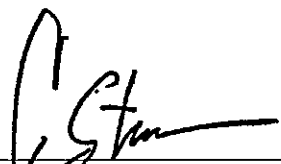
(John Appel, Village Attorney)

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

04/17/2026-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 meeting on April 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm 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>.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

  
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Mayor Chris Stanek

ATTEST:

  
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Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar