



**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
EDELWEISS LODGE AND SPA CLUB ROOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 2:30 P.M.

7 Firehouse Road
Post Office Box 100
Taos Ski Valley
New Mexico 87525

(575) 776-8220
(575) 776-1145 Fax

E-mail: vtsv@vtsv.org
Web Site: www.vtsv.org

MAYOR:
Neal King

COUNCIL:
Kathleen V. Bennett
J. Christopher Stagg
Barbara L. Wiard
Thomas P. Wittman

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:
Mark G. Fratrack

CLERK/TREASURER:
Vanessa N. Chisholm

I. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor King, Councilors Bennett, Stagg, Wiard and Wittman were present. Staff members present included Mark Fratrack, Vanessa Chisholm, Don Schieber, and Dave Wallace.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilor Wiard requested that item B under New Business precede item A, as the Representatives from Senator Bingaman's office were running late.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Councilor Wiard **Second:** Councilor Wittman

Passed: 4-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Resolution #2012-228, A Resolution Supporting a Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) Grant Application to NM DOT

Fratrack explained that the MAP process is set up specifically to construct those streets that are principal extensions of rural state highways and of other streets not on the state highway system. If funding is available, this will be a two phase process. Phase I will be the State Road 150 termini at Twining Road. Phase II would be a continuation of the road through Twining Road to Ernie Blake Road to Thunderbird Road which will termini back at State Road 150. The Council must pass a resolution to enable staff to proceed forward with this grant application process. The Village needs to design and build this road in conjunction with the Master Plan.

MOTION: To approve Resolution #2012-228, a resolution supporting a Municipal Arterial Program grant application to NM DOT.

Motion: Councilor Wiard **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0

A. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Resolution #2012-226, A Resolution Supporting the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Designation

Various groups and organizations have been working diligently in an attempt to have the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area be recognized as Wilderness Area Designation. Senator Bingaman’s Office in Washington D.C., sent two members of his staff on a fact finding mission to the Village of Taos Ski Valley. The Senator’s representatives were Janelle Frederick and Jorge Silva.

Mayor King stated the rules of the meeting to the audience. He explained that this was a fact finding meeting and dialogue and discussion would be between the Senator’s staff and the Village Council members only. There would be no audience participation.

Jorge Silva explained that Senator Bingaman’s team considered several options that are available in this area. Silva provided several maps to aid in the discussion. He talked about excluding the trails named Gold Hill and Long Canyon and leaving this area as Forest Service land and allowing mountain bikes on these trails. Silva discussed the Goose Lake trail in Red River as well as several trails around Taos Ski Valley. The two biggest concerns, fire management and mountain biking, were discussed at length. The National Recreation Area designation was also discussed at length. Other topics of discussion were Forest Service Land Management, prescribed fire burns, forest fires, hunting, horses, cows, safety issues, and search and rescue as well as other topics.

It was determined after much discussion there is a need for more dialogue between the various groups that support the wilderness designation and the various groups that support the use of mountain bikes in this area. Jorge Silva said he would take the Village Council’s concerns and issues back to Senator Bingaman and would be in touch with the Council with Senator Bingaman’s response. The Council unanimously voiced their very serious concerns and hoped that Senator Bingaman would consider them.

MOTION: To approve Resolution #2012-226, a Resolution Supporting the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Designation.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Stagg **Failed:**4-0

(Voting Against the Resolution (dissenting) were Councilors Wittman, Stagg, Wiard, and Bennett.)

XII. MISCELLANEOUS: None

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the Village Council will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Councilor Bennett **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0.