



**VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 2:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
4. **WORKSHOP:**
 - A. Introduction of Agency Officials:
 - Office of U.S. Postal Service
 - Office of Senator Heinrich
 - Office of Senator Lujan
 - Office of Representative Leger Fernandez
 - Office of Attorney General Balderas
 - Office of Governor Lujan Grisham
 - B. Status Review of U.S. Postal Service services in the Village of Taos Ski Valley
 - C. Discussion: Options to Retain a U.S. Postal Service Contract Postal Unit in the Village of Taos Ski Valley
 - D. Q&A
5. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221199352?pwd=Rm5VaVh3Uks3ejJ3TnBMemVWYmp2dz09>

Phone 13462487799

Meeting ID: 882 2119 9352

Passcode: 138637



Village of Taos Ski Valley
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**VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 2:00 P.M**

1. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor Brownell at 2:00 p.m. The notice of the Special Meeting was properly posted.

2. ROLL CALL

Ann Wooldridge, Village Clerk, called the role and a quorum was present.

Governing Body Present

Mayor Christof Brownell
Councilor Jeff Kern
Councilor Neal King
Councilor Chris Stagg
Councilor Tom Wittman, Mayor Pro Tem

Village Staff Present

Village Administrator John Avila
Village Clerk Ann Wooldridge
Finance Director Nancy Grabowski
Building Official Jalmar Bowden
Planning Director Nicholson

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion: Councilor Wittman Second: Councilor Stagg Passed: 4-0

4. WORKSHOP

A. Introduction of Agency Officials

Mayor Brownell introduced Mr. Ross Pfaff, District Manager of Customer Relations for the United States Postal Service (USPS) District which includes New Mexico.

B. Status Review of U.S. Postal Service services in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Mr. Pfaff explained that because of a possible transfer of ownership, the USPS decided to give up on the idea of a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in the Village of Taos Ski Valley. A Village Post Office (VPO) does not provide Post Office boxes or regular postal services. He suggested that an existing business apply to become either a VPO, a CPU, or a Contract Post Office (CPO). These could become an added amenity to the existing business.

Mr. Pfaff explained that what was needed to try and have another CPU approved was a proposal that would allow for the USPS's mandate for universal service for U.S citizens. The USPS does not want to lease a space or hire employees, he said, but the location must be safe, secure, and with good access. Staff must be reliable and trustworthy. Insurance is required as well as a bond.

A proposal should explain the suitable location, who would be responsible for stamps and be honorable and have integrity, as well as confidentiality for the sensitivity of handling the mail. A meter would need to be purchased but otherwise supplies would be provided. A potential contractor could work with local postmaster Antonia Layba on training and straightening out details. All postal regulations would have to be followed but changes in service or prices would all be communicated from the USPS, he said.

C. Discussion: Options to Retain a U.S. Postal Service Contract Postal Unit in the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Councilor Stagg explained that TSVI was willing to partner with the Village and the Chamber to figure out a solution. A proposal will be drawn up and submitted by the end of the week.

Ms. DiPalma with Representative Fernandez Leger's office and Mr. Chavez with Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office were in attendance and said that they were interested resolving this issue for the Village.

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

The next meeting of the Village Council will be the Council Regular Meeting on October 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Teleconference.

6. ADJOURNMENT

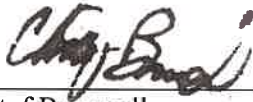
MOTION: To Adjourn

Motion: Councilor Wittman

Second: Councilor Stagg

Passed: 4-0

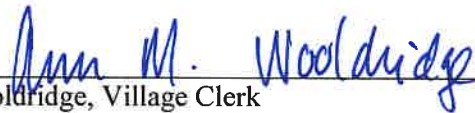
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Mayor Christof Brownell

ATTEST: _____

Ann M. Wooldridge, Village Clerk



Ann Marie Wooldridge

From: Andrea Heckman <andreaheckman333@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Ann Marie Wooldridge
Subject: Postal meeting tomorrow at 2pm

Hi Ann Marie

Hope you are doing fine. I'm wondering if this could be sent to the Mayor and Council members before tomorrow's Zoom meeting?

Critical points for 10/12/2021 meeting regarding VTSV postal service:

1. A Post Office is critically important to the hotels, businesses and community of the Village of Taos Ski Valley.
2. VTSV is the largest tax base to the state of NM and important to NM.
3. While the year-round population and voter registration is about 100-120 people, roughly 250,000 people pass through the ski valley annually who may need and desire postal services.
4. The reality of postal service at 9,300' elevation in winter is very different and needs to be considered. Would the postal carrier sort mail into boxes in a snow storm or 0-degree weather? Would people have access to outside boxes knee deep in snow?
5. Can the village keep the access plowed? TSV Inc. is a private business as are the other 30+ businesses in TSV. TSV Inc. is not responsible for plowing the offices of VTSV. Would people have access to outside boxes knee deep in snow? What is the liability for VTSV if cars slide into each other on their property due to insufficient driveway maintenance?
6. It's our understanding that the owner of Box Canyon, has offered a space for the Post Office rent free for one year in order to provide postal service to the community and visitors. Since the indoor boxes would not have to be moved this would be cost-effective for the US Postal Service. Kathy Bennett, a TSV resident, who trained in Postal Service under the former owners of Box Canyon, Hillary and Melissa Ames, has applied for the position to operate the TSV Post Office with the US Postal Service in the space of Box Canyon. While there are rumors the current space might need to be vacated in April 2022, there is no factual information to support this.
7. The time-consuming, costly, and unpleasant task for businesses and residents to change addresses is a burden, that is to notify friends, family, insurance, clients, banks, credit card companies etc. The cost of reprinting all promotional materials is excessive but more importantly it is still confusing whether our mail would go to a PO box or physical address. With outside boxes, there is also a security issue for valuable documents as well as the safe access issue.