



VILLAGE OF HATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Attendees: Mayor Torres, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio, Trustee Crist, Trustee Martinez, Trustee Franzoy, Aurora Hernandez, Matt Thompson, Bernadette Acosta, Jorge Au, Angel Soto, Elizabeth Soto, Lisa Neal, Mike Castillo, Elizabeth Porras

Trustees Chambers - 133 North Franklin St, Hatch New Mexico

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of Silence

Minutes:

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hatch was held in the Trustees Chambers located at 133 N. Franklin Street, Hatch, NM, on the above date. Mayor Torres asked the Clerk Treasurer for roll call as follows: Mayor Torres-Present, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio-Present, Trustee Crist-Present, Trustee Martinez-Present, Trustee Franzoy-Present. There being a quorum, Mayor Torres called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Martinez led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance and Trustee Franzoy gave the opening prayer.

2. * Approval of Agenda

Minutes:

Trustee Crist moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

3. * Consent Agenda (Police, Fire, Museum, Planning & Zoning, Parks & Rec, Library, Cemetery, Court Reports, Approved Bills List, Delinquent List, Utility Applications, Regular Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024).

Minutes:

Trustee Martinez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Franzoy. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

4. Public input

Minutes:

Bernadette Acosta provided a brief report on ongoing plans for the Chamber of Commerce and the Chile Festival. The Chile Festival Committee will commence planning for the 53rd Annual Chile Festival. Preparations are also underway for the Cash Party and the Easter Rock Hunt.

5. Wilson & Company Report**6. Bohannon Huston Report****Minutes:**

Matt Thompson, Senior Vice President provided a status update for all ongoing services provided by Bohannon Huston.

7. *Consideration and approval of Grant Agreement between the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division and the Village of Hatch.(STEP Project No. 05-PT-RF-043, \$4,983.00)**Minutes:**

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio motion to approve the Grant Agreement between the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division and the Village of Hatch. (STEP Project No. 05-PT-RF-043, \$4,983.00). Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

8. *Consideration and approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Hatch Police Department and the County of Otero, New Mexico.**Minutes:**

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Hatch Police Department and the County of Otero, New Mexico. Seconded by Trustee Crist. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

9. Department Head Input**Minutes:**

Jorge Au, Fire Chief, provided a status report: Training is ongoing, including weekend shifts. ISO documentation and updates are in progress. Recruitment efforts continue via current staff and social media. SCBA annual testing will be completed once the Air Compressor is installed. Radios and Toughbooks have been received by Advanced Communications and are being programmed. Hatch Fire Department was unsuccessful in its SFMO grant application. One new volunteer application has been submitted. Discussions were held about the possibility of the Village of Hatch entering an agreement with Doña Ana County to take over the station. Further deliberation is required before moving forward.

Lisa Neal, Library Director, reported: Over 200 toys were distributed for Christmas, thanks to donations from Dollar General.

Mike Castillo, Public Works Director, reported: Christmas decorations have been removed. The heater at the Andy Nunez building failed and is being replaced. Two water breaks were reported

and repaired. A new Ford Ranger has been ordered to replace an old vehicle.

Aurora Hernandez, Chief of Police, provided the following report: Four penalties, 13 court appearances, and 34 warnings, totaling 51 citations. One felony, seven misdemeanors, and four warrants were handled. Officers assisted DASO on a county case, requiring TB testing for two officers. Interviews for vacant positions are scheduled for Friday.

10. Mayor & Trustees Input

Minutes:

Trustee Martinez inquired about the status of the T-Mobile equipment installation. Mayor Torres responded that the company is still working on the project and expects to complete it soon.

Mayor Torres also commended Trustee Martinez for his efforts in collecting a large number of toys donated by the Marines. After distribution, the remaining toys were provided to the Fire Department to make plans for further giveaways.

11. CLOSED SESSION to discuss limited personnel matters; threatened or pending litigation, as authorized by the Open Meetings Act 10-15-1(H) (2), 10-15-1 (H) (7) and 10-15-1 (H) (5) respectively.

Minutes:

*7:01 p.m. Trustee Crist moved to convene in closed executive session to discuss limited personnel matters and threatened/potential litigation as authorized by the open meetings act 10-15-1(H) (2), 10-15-1 (H) (7) and 10-15-1 (H) (5) respectively. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio-aye, Trustee Crist-aye, Trustee Martinez-aye, Trustee Franzoy-aye. Motion carried.

7:02 p.m. At this time Samantha Barncastle, Village Counsel joined the meeting via phone.

*8:19 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to reconvene in open session from closed executive session where no decisions were made, but where guidance was provided to Village Counsel regarding moving forward with the limited personnel matters and threatened/potential litigation that were discussed. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio-aye, Trustee Crist-aye, Trustee Martinez-aye, Trustee Franzoy-aye. Motion carried.

12. *Personnel

a. *Discussion and possible action to approve the extension of probationary status for Brandon Villarreal for an additional thirty days, ending on February 12, 2025.

Minutes:

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio motion to continue probationary status for Officer Brandon Villarreal for an additional six (6) months to evaluate effect and ramifications of recently disclosed matters with instructions to Counsel to research the issues and report back to the Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Franzoy. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio-aye, Trustee Crist-nay, Trustee Martinez-aye, Trustee Franzoy-aye. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 1

b. *Approval of Contract to hire Mediator/Arbitrator related to ongoing discussions with FOP.

Minutes:

Trustee Crist motion to approve the Mediator/Arbitrator contract for continued negotiations with the FOP with a delegation of authority to legal counsel to sign the agreement on behalf of the Village. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio-nay, Trustee Crist-aye, Trustee Martinez-aye, Trustee Franzoy-aye. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 1

13. * Adjourn

Minutes:

In the absence of further business, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Martinez, and it carried.

Signed: _____, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Date: _____

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to discuss limited personnel matters; threatened or pending litigation, as authorized by the Open Meetings Act 10-15-1(H) (2), 10-15-1 (H) (7) and 10-15-1 (H) (5) respectively.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Village of Hatch office at (575)-267-5216 at least one (1) week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats.

Next Regular Meeting: February 11, 2025.