



VILLAGE OF HATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Attendees: Mayor Torres, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio, Trustee Crist, Trustee Martinez, Trustee Franzoy, Aurora Hernandez, Norberto Vizcaino, Zack Libbin, Louis Edwards, Rose Garcia, Jeanne Shaw, Dr. Diana Bustamante, Angel Soto, Elizabeth Soto, Bernadette Acosta, Jorge Au, JoAnn Au, Joseph Mata, Randy Lopez, Richard Garcia, 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 Franzoy 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, Travel & Training, Regular Meeting Minutes July 8, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes July 23, 2025).

Minutes:

Trustee Martinez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

4. Public input

Minutes:

Bernadette Acosta provided a brief report on the ongoing activities planned for this year's Chile Festival, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the Chile Festival Committee. She expressed optimism for a successful event, noting the variety of activities scheduled throughout the weekend."

a. Proclamation - Hatch Chile Festival

Minutes:

Mayor Torres presented Bernadette Acosta with a proclamation declaring September 2025 as Hatch Chile Festival Month in the Village of Hatch, New Mexico. He encouraged all residents and visitors to join in the celebration, support local farmers and businesses, and honor the legacy of Hatch Chile. He also thanked Ms. Acosta for her dedication to the Chamber of Commerce and the Chile Festival Committee.

5. ***Consideration and approval to support the application to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for a Special Event Permit to host a parade and 5K run on Franklin and Hall Streets, and to authorize Village of Hatch public safety personnel to coordinate with NMDOT and event organizers as needed.**

Minutes:

Trustee Crist moved to approve to support the application to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for a Special Event Permit to host a parade and 5K run on Franklin and Hall Streets, and to authorize Village of Hatch public safety personnel to coordinate with NMDOT and event organizers as needed. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

6. Planning & Zoning

a. *Consideration and approval of Case No. 2024-02-03: Housing and Economic Rural Opportunity Inc. – Request for a zone variance to: Change the land use designation to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential); and Exceed the allowable density from 25.5 units to 32 units, by adding 7 additional apartments on a 2.57-acre property.

Minutes:

Norberto Vizcaino gave a brief presentation on HERO's El Camino Real Apartments Phase II project and requested consideration for approval. Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to approve Case No. 2024-02-03: Housing and Economic Rural Opportunity, Inc. – Request for a zone variance to change the land use designation to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential) and to exceed the allowable density from 25.5 units to 32 units by adding seven additional apartments on a 2.57-acre property. The motion died for lack of a second.

7. Bohannon Huston Report

Minutes:

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

8. *Acceptance of Capital Outlay Grant Agreement No. 25-J2948 between the State of New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) and the Village of Hatch in the amount of \$650,000.

Minutes:

Trustee Franzoy moved to approve to accept Capital Outlay Grant Agreement No. 25-J2948 between the State of New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) and the Village of Hatch in the amount of \$650,000. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

9. Wilson & Company Report

Minutes:

Louis Edwards provided a status update for all ongoing services provided by Wilson & Company.

10. *Consideration and Approval to Amend the Uniform Traffic Ordinance (UTO) by adopting the 2025 Legislative updates to the 2010 Compilation.

Minutes:

Trustee Crist moved to approve to Amend the Uniform Traffic Ordinance (UTO) by adopting the 2025 Legislative updates to the 2010 Compilation. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

11. *Consideration and approval to amend Chapter 3.08 of the Hatch Municipal Code to include short-term rentals as lodging under the lodger's tax, increase the lodger's tax rate to five percent, and strengthen the enforcement and administration of the lodger's tax.

Minutes:

Trustee Crist moved to approve to amend Chapter 3.08 of the Hatch Municipal Code to include short-term rentals as lodging under the lodger's tax, increase the lodger's tax rate to five percent, and strengthen the enforcement and administration of the lodger's tax. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

12. Personnel

- a. *Consideration and approval to transition Officer Steven Cardona from probationary to non-probationary status and increase his salary by \$1.00, effective August 19, 2025.

Minutes:

Trustee Martinez moved to approve to transition Officer Steven Cardona from probationary to non-probationary status and increase his salary by \$1.00, effective August 19, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Crist. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

- b. ***Consideration and approval to hire Michael Mackewish as a Police Officer, contingent upon successful completion of all required pre-employment testing, with a six-month probationary period and a starting hourly rate of \$21.00.**

Minutes:

Trustee Franzoy moved to approve to hire Michael Mackewish as a Police Officer, contingent upon successful completion of all required pre-employment testing, with a six-month probationary period and a starting hourly rate of \$21.00. Seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

13. Department Head Input**Minutes:**

Lisa Neal, Library Director, gave a brief report on ongoing activities at the library, noting it has been quiet since the start of the school year. She also reported that the library's annual report has been submitted.

Jorge Au, Fire Chief, reported the addition of five new members to the roster. Annual inspections and hydrant testing are scheduled to begin on August 22.

Mike Castillo, Public Works Director, reported on the Utilities Department. Fencing at the ball fields has been installed, and water testing has been completed, with samples to be delivered to the lab by Friday. The pool will close for the season on August 24. Trustee Martinez expressed concern about a large amount of sand under the pool water, creating a slippery surface. Mr. Castillo stated that the pool's cleaning equipment ("the dolphin") is operating, but he will look into the issue. He also informed the Board that the Lift Truck will need to be retired due to liability concerns, as it is not functioning properly.

Chief of Police Hernandez gave a brief report on citations issued during the month. She stated they are working with the Chile Festival Committee to arrange for safety measures and patrol coverage during the Chile Festival weekend. She also noted that today marks nine years since the passing of Officer Chavez, and they are working with the family and NMDOT to explore placing a memorial sign in his honor. She reported that ICE was in town this month and detained individuals, but no further details were provided to her. She concluded by noting that school is back in session and the new School Resource Officer has been busy.

14. Mayor & Trustees Input**Minutes:**

Mayor Torres informed the Board that it was prudent for the Village of Hatch to request

Transportation Project Fund (TPF) funding from the New Mexico Department of Transportation. NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Serna reported that at the State Transportation Commission's special meeting on August 27, 2025, the Commission is expected to approve the FY26 TPF awards. Secretary Serna will be recommending a \$4.5 million award to the Village of Hatch for the Canal Bridge project, and the Governor committed \$10 million in Capital Outlay funds, only \$6 million will be needed after the TPF award.

15. * Adjourn

Minutes:

In the absence of further business, Trustee Crist moved to adjourn at 7:31 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.