



# VILLAGE OF HATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Minutes

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

Attendees: Mayor Torres, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio, Trustee Martinez, Trustee Chairez, Trustee Olvera, Angel Soto, Elizabeth Soto, Andrea Legarreta, Concha L. Benavidez, Brenda Mata, Kathie Franzoy, Mike Castillo, Bernadette Acosta, Teresa Trujillo, Matt Thompson, Rhonda Gimler, Trey Gimler, 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 Martinez-Present, Trustee Chairez-Present, Trustee Olvera-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 Mayor Pro Tem Atencio gave the opening prayer.

### 2. \* Approval of Agenda

#### **Minutes:**

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

#### **Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 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 December 9, 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 / Abstains: 0

#### 4. \*Re-organization of the Board

**Minutes:**

Mayor Torres opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Torres recommended Trustee Atencio to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the next two years.

##### a. Nominations for Mayor Pro Tem

**Minutes:**

Trustee Martinez moved to close nominations and elect Trustee Atencio as Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Chairez and upon vote, the motion passed.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

##### b. Trustee Liaison Appointments

**Minutes:**

Mayor Torres recommended the following liaison appointments:

Mayor Torres: Village Administration

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio: Economic Development, Museum, Airport

Trustee Martinez: Police Department, Utilities Department, SCRT, Storm Water Coalition

Trustee Chairez: Facilities (Senior Center & Community Center), Library, Parks & Rec

Trustee Olvera: Codes Enforcement, Beautification, School District

Following the recommendations, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to accept the liaison appointments as presented by Mayor Torres. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and it carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

##### c. Village of Hatch Organizational Chart

**Minutes:**

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio motioned to approve the presented Organizational Chart. The motion was seconded by Trustee Chairez. After a brief discussion, the motion carried with all Trustees in favor.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

##### d. Authorized signers for the Village of Hatch

**Minutes:**

Trustee Martinez moved to approve Mayor G. Dennis Torres, Mayor Pro Tem Peter J. Atencio, Trustee Robert D. Martinez, and Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth J. Porras as authorized signers for all Village of Hatch bank accounts and any legal documents required by the Village. Mayor Pro Tem Atencio seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

- e. **In accordance with Section 3-11-5 NMSA 1978, to confirm the following appointive officers for the Village of Hatch: Elizabeth J. Porras, Clerk Treasurer, Michael Castillo, Public Works Director, and Lisa Neal, Library Director.**

**Minutes:**

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to approve, in accordance with Section 3-11-5 NMSA 1978, the confirmation of the following appointive officers for the Village of Hatch: Elizabeth J. Porras, Clerk Treasurer; Michael Castillo, Public Works Director; and Lisa Neal, Library Director. Seconded by Trustee Olvera. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

- f. **In accordance with Section 3-11-5 NMSA 1978, to confirm the employment of all current full-time and part-time regular employees, as well as all probationary and as needed employees for the Village of Hatch.**

**Minutes:**

Trustee Martinez moved to approve, in accordance with Section 3-11-5 NMSA 1978, the confirmation of the employment for all current full-time and part-time regular employees, as well as all probationary and as-needed employees for the Village of Hatch. Seconded by Trustee Olvera. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**5. Public input**

**Minutes:**

Bernadette Acosta, President of the Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief report on the past month's activities. She stated that the X-Mas concert was a success, and the Army Corps expressed their appreciation. She also thanked Trustee Franzoy and Trustee Martinez for attending. Ms. Acosta noted her disappointment that the event did not have a full house and mentioned that she is unsure whether the performers will return in the future due to low community participation. Mayor Torres thanked her for her efforts in coordinating the events organized by her team throughout the year.

**6. Bohannon Huston Report**

**Minutes:**

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

**7. Wilson & Company Report**

**Minutes:**

There was no representative from Wilson & Company in attendance at this month's meeting.

8. **\*Approval of Grant Agreement 25-ZJ5047-8 between the State of New Mexico, Department of Finance and Administration and the Village of Hatch .**

**Minutes:**

Trustee Martinez moved to approve Grant Agreement 25-ZJ5047-8 between the State of New Mexico, Department of Finance and Administration and the Village of Hatch in the amount of \$1,313,816.00. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**9. \*Approval of Grant Agreement between the State of New Mexico Economic Development Department, and the Village of Hatch.**

**Minutes:**

Trustee Chairez moved to approve Grant Agreement between the State of New Mexico Economic Development Department, and the Village of Hatch in the amount of \$99,999.00. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**10. \*Ratification of approval of application, loan and grant documents, and any accompanying documents or actions approving the transaction.**

**Minutes:**

Mayor Pro Tem moved to ratify the approval of the application, loan and grant documents, and any related documents or actions necessary to approve the transaction for Grant/Loan No. DW-6671 with the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA). The motion was seconded by Trustee Martinez. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**11. Department Head Input**

**Minutes:**

Mike Castillo, Public Works Director, provided a brief report on ongoing Utilities Department matters. He reported that the Maverick project is underway, with construction expected to begin soon, and that Renegade Construction has requested a water meter from the Village. He also reported working on EBID permits for a new water service on Highway 185 and reviewing additional water and sewer service requests in Milagro and on Cordova Lane, the latter requiring installation of a manhole. Mr. Castillo noted that the Village backhoe is currently inoperable due to an apparent hydraulic system issue, and a mechanic is scheduled to begin repairs the following day. He also addressed the Christmas lights that burned out, explaining the issue was due to incorrect bulbs provided by the vendor. The correct bulbs were supplied and installed in time for the holiday season.

Chief of Police Gimler provided a brief report on Police Department activity, stating it was a good month with a total of 217 calls for service, 59 of which were county calls. He noted the county remains understaffed and that the Hatch Police Department continues to assist with calls in nearby areas. Chief Gimler emphasized the importance of community watch and prioritizing the Hatch community. He also reported that the department continues efforts to recruit officers to fill current vacancies.

**12. Mayor & Trustees Input**

**Minutes:**

6:44 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to convene in closed executive session to discuss limited personnel matters and threatened/potential litigation, as authorized by the Open Meetings Act, Sections 10-15-1(H)(2), 10-15-1(H)(7), and 10-15-1(H)(5), respectively. The motion was seconded by Trustee Martinez. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio — aye; Trustee Martinez — aye; Trustee Chairez — aye; Trustee Olvera — aye. Motion carried.

Village Counsel Samantha Barncastle joined the meeting by phone at this time.

7:46 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to reconvene in open session. The Board stated that no decisions were made during the closed executive session; however, guidance was provided to Village Counsel regarding the limited personnel matters and threatened/potential litigation discussed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Martinez. The Board was polled as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Atencio — aye; Trustee Martinez — aye; Trustee Chairez — aye; Trustee Olvera — aye. Motion carried.

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**13. \* Adjourn****Minutes:**

In the absence of further business, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Martinez, and it carried.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY CONVELE 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 10, 2026.