



VILLAGE OF HATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Attendees: Mayor Torres, Mayor Pro Tem Atencio, Trustee Martinez, Trustee Olvera, Trustee Chairez (late arrival), Mike Castillo, JR Ellis, Concha Benavidez, Andrea Legarreta, Bernadette Acosta, Louis Edwards, Eric Hamilton, Matt Thompson, Michelle Simon, Lisa Neal, 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 Olvera - Present, Trustee Chairez-Present (late arrival 6:15 p.m.). 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:

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

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

3. *Consent Agenda (Police, Museum, Planning & Zoning, Parks & Rec, Library, Cemetery, Court Reports, Approved Bills List, Delinquent Bill List, Utility Applications, Travel & Training, Regular Meeting Minutes February 10, 2026).

Minutes:

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

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

4. Public input

Minutes:

Bernadette Acosta, President of the Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief report on the past month's activities. She stated that February 25 and 26 were Bookmark Days, during which bookmarks were made for local schools. She also reported that the Chamber will be holding a Chile Festival Committee meeting, is currently planning for the Cash Party, and will host Social Friday on March 26. Community members were invited to attend and meet the Chamber of Commerce. Plans are also underway for the Easter Rock Hunt.

Michelle Simon, Marketing Coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Division, also gave a brief report outlining the services their division provides. She discussed the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant, which supports the planning and development of trails and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

6:15 p.m. at this time Trustee Chairez joined the meeting.

5. Planning & Zoning

- a. ***Consideration and approval of Variance Request, Case No. 2026-02-01, submitted by Abel Rosalez.**

Minutes:

Mayor Pro Tem Atencio moved to approve the Variance Request for Case No. 2026-02-01, submitted by Abel Rosalez. Seconded by Trustee Olvera. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

6. Bohannan Huston Report

Minutes:

Eric Hamilton, Senior Project Manager provided a status update for all ongoing services provided by Bohannan Huston

7. Wilson & Company Report

Minutes:

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

8. Department Head Input

Minutes:

Lisa Neal, Library Director, reported that this year's library theme is civics. She stated that schools will be invited to participate in the summer reading program at the library. She also invited everyone to celebrate America's birthday.

Mike Castillo, Public Works Director, reported that issues were identified with the main transportation system, as two check valves were not functioning properly and required repair. He stated that the construction crew has begun work on the Storm Pumps Reconstruction Project. The Public Works crew has also started weed abatement efforts.

Trey Gimler, Chief of Police, reported on the Police Department, noting that it was

another good month. He stated that the department continues to work well with State Police and DASO while efforts are underway to reach full staffing levels.

9. Mayor & Trustees Input

Minutes:

The Mayor reported that he heard back from Aaron Chavarria with NMDOT regarding Capital Outlay funding for the construction of the Canal Bridge, and stated that with the Capital Outlay award, NMDOT may provide the remaining funding through TPF to complete the project.

10. 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:

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.

8:44 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 Clerk and Chief of Police 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

11. * Adjourn

Minutes:

In the absence of further business, Trustee Martinez moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Atencio, and it carried.

Signed: _____

ATTEST: _____

Date: _____

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 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: April 14, 2026

Contact: Elizabeth Porras (eporras@villageofhatch.org 575-267-5216) | Minutes published on 03/16/2026, adopted on 04/14/2026