

COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS, NM
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gillespie called the meeting to order at **6:00** p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF GOVERNING BODY

Present were Mayor Chris Gillespie, Councilor Ronita Wood, Mayor Pro Tem Erica De Smet, Councilor James Bruhn, and Councilor Manuel Zamora. Quorum present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Bruhn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet called Point of Order and moved to modify the order of agenda to place Item 4.A City Attorney Training at the end of the agenda as Item J. under New Business. Councilor Zamora seconded.

Mayor called to move Item I. under New Business to under Presentations as Item 4.B. Councilor Bruhn second the motion.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Yucca Little League Proclamation

The President of Yucca Little league Joey Timmons gave a presentation. Last year Yucca had a hugely successful year. They had three hundred and fifty (350) kids, they won two (2) district championships, they had seventy-five (75) All-Stars. That is a testament to everyone working together with the Village, the Arena, the Community Center and everyone being on the same page. He also introduced Reynaldo as the Vice President. One of the special things they do at Yucca Little League is their Challenger's Program. It is designed for players with intellectual and physical challenges who are given the opportunity to come play every Sunday night. They get to play in their own environment where they feel safe and have fun. He introduced Joseph Moya and his son Gunner Moya who are part of this program.

Mr. Moya explained this is about inclusion. The biggest thing these kids are facing is being included in their normal everyday lives; when they are out there their smiles are so big and they are so happy. He invited everyone to come out and see a game. It's a whole different type of baseball; it's more like an experience. They are asking for help to spread the word about this program.

Mr. Timmons thanked Emilio and Zach for all their help. They take good care of the fields and the park. He talked to Senator Sanchez about getting the lights eventually. They are working to modernize the dugouts to make them wheelchair accessible for some of these guys.

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B. Appointment of the Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Bill (William) Richardson.

Mayor Gillespie appointed Mr. William Richardson to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve appointment of Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Bill (William) Richardson. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Bill (William) Richardson was sworn in by Judge Eldridge.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Fire Chief Schnieder gave some short term and long-term goals. Short term goals include the fire hydrants. They are working with the Clerk to get an updated map on hydrants. They are going to do annual inspections on hydrants. As part of ISO rating, flow testing on the hydrants needs to be done. The fire department is working to identify a contractor to come in and do all the testing for ISO requirements. They are focused on getting purchases done. They need some updates to their equipment. The fire department has reached out to the Clerk's office requesting a newsletter to bring attention about home and yard safety as we are approaching Spring. He is asking for cooperation and communication with the Village. Long term goals are training, building upgrades, and equipment.

Police Chief Owen presented the Police Department and Animal Control reports for January 2026. He announced his retirement on March 13, 2026. He stated it was a great honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Bosque Farms for the past twenty years.

Prodigy update was given by the mayor. The Village did get a little ding on arsenic when they pulled directly from well two. They have had discussions with NMED. The water going out to the citizens is in compliance with the ordinance with the arsenic level requirements. They are hand blending to keep it down to a level that is appropriate for drinking water for the entire Village.

6. MAYOR & COUNCILOR'S REPORTS - no official action

Councilor Zamora nothing to report.

Councilor Bruhn went to training in Santa Fe for Valencia County Day. He talked to a lot of senators and representatives. He wrote an e-mail that sparked some controversy with the ambulance. Councilor Bruhn was wondering why there wasn't a departmental report for EMS if it is a department now. He asked a question, requested a special meeting, and that's where it ended.

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Mayor Pro Tem De Smet read a document for Clerk Martinez that formally called and demanded that a special meeting of the governing body be scheduled. The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss and take possible action on matters such as discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Vernon Abeita as EMS Coordinator for the Village of Bosque Farms. Discussion and possible action regarding the legal authority, operational status and oversight of EMS, EMS personnel and EMS operations conducted under the authority of the Village of Bosque Farms. The proposed meeting date and time request for the special meeting to be scheduled for is Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 5:00 pm or soon thereafter. The Village Clerk is respectfully directed to issue public notice and agenda for the special meeting.

Attorney Winters advised the governing body by majority vote may call for a special meeting by majority indication. We need to hear from the other members of the governing body to confirm that there's a majority. Then she respectfully suggested that seventy-two hours notice is needed and they will have to work with everyone's schedule.

Councilor Zamora and Councilor Bruhn support the special meeting.

There was discussion on the time and date of the meeting. There is already a Personal Board meeting, then a special meeting following the board meeting.

Attorney Winters advised these two issues can be combined in a special meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet mentioned only a majority of the governing body has to be in attendance. That would mean a quorum would need three (3) voting members of the Council. It's not necessary for the Mayor to be in the meeting if he is not available.

Attorney Winters clarified with Mayor Pro Tem De Smet that she is suggesting if the Mayor is otherwise occupied on Tuesday, she wants to hold a special meeting anyway. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet confirmed. Attorney Winters agreed it could happen; however, it would be disenfranchising those members that could be available on another day when all five members could be there. She suggested working with Clerk Martinez to come up with a date.

Councilor Wood nothing to report.

Mayor Gillespie addressed the EMS controversy. The Village of Bosque Farms had an EMS system functioning in the past. That that EMS system stop operating for reasons unknown to him. After he was appointed as Mayor it was a big deal to get EMS back online. Given that Bosque Farms has an active working agreement with Peralta to provide the EMS service, good through 2029, we expect our neighbor to help us out as we have helped them out in the past. No one maintained any of the licensing or any other services and functions of EMS for this Village. After Mayor Gillespie did not get cooperation from the Fire Department management, he then attempted to have the Valencia County Fire provide some help and

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discovered the Village couldn't afford it. Mayor Gillespie did appoint a volunteer. He knew this person could restore the rescue unit to an operational status. As a one hundred percent volunteer, this person is running the rescue in a limited manner. He is ensuring qualified and certified volunteers are being recruited to rebuild the EMS system to full strength. It is the intent of the Village to advertise for an EMS director and possibly one full-time person, either EMT advanced or paramedic, to assist in having regular shifts of service by our EMS system.

Fire Chief Schnider responded to say the Fire Department did not cooperate completely is misrepresenting everything that happened. He stated they sat in meetings and interviewed candidates for EMS Director. They also helped develop an MOU to work with Peralta to bring in an EMS Coordinator to support both communities.

7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Maes presented the Treasurer's report for the month of January 2026.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet questioned on GRT's. She also questioned why nominal funds are being held up.

Treasurer Maes responded that in the past, the nominal fee has come out anywhere between August and February. This year it's different because it has to go through payroll. She has to build a whole new payroll in order to pay the firefighters their nominal fee. There is a resolution for mid-year, on the agenda, where the nominal fee was built into a salary line, it needs to be approved and get through DFA because those lines aren't in the budget. We are not the only entity that's held up on the stipends and the nominal fees because of the IRS and potential findings with not issuing W2's to the firefighters.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet asked about the process of PO's, she asked about water utility fund and sewer utility fund.

Treasurer Maes responded with a list of duties she has and why a PO might take a few days to process. She also referred Mayor Pro Tem De Smet to the treasurer's report regarding the breakdowns of the water and sewer funds.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve the treasurers' reports for the month of January 2026. Councilor Bruhn seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Comments are limited to 1 ½ Minutes, time cannot be shared)

Nacho – Did not speak

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Lillie McNabb, resident, thanked the Fire Department, Fire Chief and Police Chief. She loves this Village it is her second family. She doesn't like what is going on with pointing fingers. Its about time everyone grew up and did not pick on each other. There is a mayor and he runs these meetings. We might dislike elected people, but we must respect their positions.

Rick Babcock, resident, brought up concerns about removing public comments. He thinks the citizens of the Village want to be able to come up and talk to the Council and express their opinion. This is the only time the four Councilors and Mayor are here to hear what residents have to say. He also believes Council needs to take control of its own agenda.

9. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to remove the Consent Agenda from the Order of Business and requiring that each item be individually presented and voted on under New Mexico Statute 3-12-3, the governing body determines its own Rules and Procedures. Councilor Zamora seconded the motion.

Attorney Winters stated the motion Council just made doesn't really make a difference. The minutes can be removed from the consent agenda. That would be a more appropriate motion and then Council can discuss the minutes if that's what they want. The Consent Agenda is designed to identify one to ten items that there are no concerns about. The Council would all be voting in favor of and in that way, you accomplish business a little quicker.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet took back her motion to amend the agenda and made a motion to remove the minutes from January 15, 2026, from the Consent Agenda. Councilor Zamora seconded the motion.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from January 15, 2026

Councilor Bruhn made a motion to approve the minutes from January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting as stated. Councilor Wood seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Yucca Little League lease

Counselor Bruhn made a motion to approve the Yucca Little League lease for the ten-dollar (\$10.00) amount for the year. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet seconded the motion.

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Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Discussion Regarding Street Lighting on Hwy. 47 (Mayor and Clerk/Administrator Martinez)

Mayor started the discussion. The Mayor, Village Clerk and one (1) member of the governing body met with State of New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) officials, including a NMDOT contractor regarding lighting and outages on Hwy 47. No current or proposed vendors to the Village were present. Issues discussed included what the poles and lamps would look like and the scope of work that needs to be done. Village funding and NMDOT grant monies available to the Village were also discussed. The meeting was held outside of Village Hall in a public place. There is expectation that all lights will operate by December 2026. It was a very productive meeting. It brought some funding sources and capabilities to the Village that we have not heard about before. It sounds like a very good thing for the Village to look into.

There was an aftermath to that meeting that was unbelievable. There was a very long e-mail asking to preserve all documents and everything from that meeting. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet thought the meeting was in violation of State Law.

Councilor Bruhn stated, in defense of Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, he also received calls from residents asking what the meeting was about.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet stated she is an elected Councilor for the Village of Bosque Farms, and she is allowed to ask questions, including information discussed at a meeting.

Councilor Bruhn asked where we are on that project. He informed that he talked to the lineman at the lineman school and they are willing to set up a meeting to have their linemen do most of the labor on that project as training.

Clerk/Administrator Martinez informed the funding isn't going to be available until next fiscal year. July 1, 2026 that's when they will start looking and taking into account all the letters of interest they received.

Councilor Zamora questioned if it is a full project or if there are funds to fix parts of it at a time. If the underground line is fixed it's going to fix most of the issues.

C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding American Rescue Plan Actin (ARPA) funds received, obligated and expended. Water/Wastewater Repair and Maintenance.

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Mayor Gillispie started off by stating just before this meeting they got in touch with Leandra Garcia with DFA who is a state expert is on what the ARPA funds can be used for.

Clerk/Administrator Martinez added she sent a follow up e-mail asking for the process to reauthorize the remaining balance. She gave examples such as water/wastewater, the lighting project, Winchester and Esperanza. She will let Mayor and Council know as soon as she gets a clear understanding.

D. Review and Approval of Resolution No. 1081-26 Rules of Procedure

Councilor Zamora made a motion to deny Resolution No. 1081-26 in its entirety and direct staff to schedule a public Workshop. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Discussion regarding Door-to-Door Sales (no action)

Mayor Gillispie started with there is no action in this it is more informational for the counselors.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet informed Active Pest Control is the company that states we are infringing in their First Amendment rights by not allowing them to conduct door-to-door sales in the Village of Bosque Farms. Active Pest Control has about forty (40) lawsuits with various municipalities in the United States. They often target senior citizens and push them into contracts that are impossible to get out of. She is concerned about the citizens of this Village.

Attorney Winters offered to look at the Village ordinance and confirm whether it is constitutional or not and review the litigations.

A resident spoke up. He is a police officer for the Village of Los Lunas, which allows door-to-door sales. They get numerous service calls a day for suspicious people in the neighborhood going door-to-door. It's always salespeople but it ties up officers.

Councilor Bruhn suggested adding permitting and restrictions to make it difficult to get without completely banning it, as to not infringe on their First Amendment rights.

Chief Owen stated the First Amendment right does not allow for solicitation. The First Amendment Right is freedom of speech. Going on to someone's property and knocking on their door is infringing upon someone else's constitutional rights. Whatever can be done to strengthen this would be greatly appreciated.

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F. Discussion EMS MOU with Peralta for EMS Services

Mayor spoke about the Agreement for Mutual Aid of Fire Protection and EMS Response between the Town of Peralta and Village of Bosque Farms. It was signed on the seventh day of March 2024 and is good through 2029.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. She sent Clerk/Administrator Martinez supporting documentation for the EMS MOU with Peralta. This paperwork was not what she submitted. She asked why it was not added.

Attorney Winters responded that the Village currently has an operating agreement with Peralta. Any other agreement with Peralta, given that there is one, is premature.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Permission to Advertise Ordinance No. ____ Repealing Rules of Procedure Section 2-2-2

Attorney Winters respectfully suggested postponing, table or putting this on the agenda with the workshop on the Rules of Development. If the governing body comes up with a rule that they are happy with by resolution, then take action to advertise the repeal.

B. Approval of Fair Board Contract

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve the Fair Board contract. Councilor Bruhn seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, excused; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried.**

C. Hiring of Water/Wastewater Employees

Mayor Gillispie informed there are two (2) new hires for Water/Wastewater. They do not have experience. Once they are trained the current employees can take a day off. They wish to stay with us for a year or more at least and get certification levels.

Councilor Bruhn asked about their qualifications and training. As Council they don't know anything about these guys they are being asked to hire. He believes the system needs to be changed. This needs to come in front of the Council before they are hired. One of the big problems in the Village is we hire guys with no training, no certifications.

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Mayor Pro Tem De Smet added she doesn't know anything about these people or if background checks have been done. Do they have OSHA training, lift training? She does not feel comfortable with this process going backward.

Councilor Wood asked if they are not having executive sessions about the new hires anymore.

Attorney Winters stated generally, when it comes to an employee at this level, they don't even appear for their Council Meeting presentation. It is not a department head position. The Administration is doing its due diligence on the background checks. They are asking permission, which is required. There can be a packet together with their resume or a work history in a packet.

Mayor Gillispie is working with Jamie Dawes to get a contract for the new hires. The contract includes that they need to have a year of experience before they can test with the water authority. One hundred eighty (180) days past that they are being asked to test for their level one on both sides water and wastewater. They both agreed to that. For that they will get an increase in pay. If they don't fulfill those obligations under that contract they owe the village back.

Councilor Bruhn made a motion to approve the hiring of these two (2) employees with the contingency that they stay here that it is in the contract. Councilor Zamora seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Approval for use of funds to purchase 700 MHz pagers

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve the expenditure of funding in the amount of thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) for the 700 MHz pagers for the Fire Department. Bruhn seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Approval for use of funds for purchase of firefighting equipment (nozzles, lights, fan, etc.)

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve the expenditure of funding in the amount of thirty-three thousand five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$33,525) for firefighting equipment for the Fire Department. Councilor Wood seconded the motion.

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Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

F. Review and approval of Resolution No. 1083-26 Midyear Budget Adjustment Requests

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1083-26 Midyear Budget Adjustment Requests. Councilor Wood seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

G. Review and approval of Resolution No. 1084-26 FY26 Budget Adjustment Request for Valencia County Regional Communications Center (VRECC)

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1084-26 FY26 Budget Adjustment Request for Valencia County Regional Communication Center (VRECC). Mayor Pro Tem De Smet seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet opened it up for discussion. Tommy Sanchez and Sylvia from VRECC were there to answer questions.

There was discussion. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet stated there was a 50% increase last year and a 50% increase this year, she doesn't see anything in here that's saying it's ever going to stop. Can this just keep going up 50% every year? She doesn't see a lot of justification, especially when sitting on 62% reserve.

Mr. Sanchez answered with what happens with VRECC is the moderation of it. Within the last two (2) years VRECC became a State Accredited Center. That affects all the fire departments. You can automatically get all your ISO points for communications because VRECC is accredited. As we keep expanding there is more need. There used to be one (1) person paying attention to all of fire. Now we need six (6). Each person comes with all the training, all the certification, all the benefits, all the PERA costs. A lot of the contribution, even how we split it now, wouldn't equate to one (1) full-time employee.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet questioned why he is sitting on so much reserve.

Mr. Sanchez explained the reserves have been used in several instances. He gave several examples. It's basically taking the statistics you're getting a percentage of volume and then you're subsidizing what the state doesn't pay for. So, as Director, he has been working to get more of this subsidized, like CAD, that is coming up. It's a \$1.1 million dollar project. He has to budget that project because it would jeopardize everybody in this community. If there is a system failure, if that hardware fails it puts more people at risk. The budget is responsible; it

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needs to protect every agency. Without 911 you have nothing. Another example was all other agencies chose not to move toward the seven hundred system. We knew it was going to be a state push. We used the VRECC reserves to bail out every other agency to get them on that system. Four hundred thousand (400,000) in reserves were used to switch to priority dispatch for Fire and EMS.

Councilor Zamora asked Attorney Winters if this item could be postponed until there is more clarity.

Mr. Sanchez responded if this does get postponed there is a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that makes a board, the governing body is represented on that board and the governing body would be going against what the VRECC 911 board recommended so at that point Mr. Sanchez would report it to the DFA and go from there. VRECC has to have the budget by law by March 1, so if this gets postponed it will shut down the whole process.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet commented it looks like we are forced into approving it.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

H. Approval request for Mark Podeyn and Lonna Podeyn who are requesting a Subdivision Land Split (from 1 parcel to 2) of LANDS OF BOGGESS Tract: 3C1 S: 1 T: 7N R: 2E 4.25 ACRES Located to the west of 1210 Bosque Farms Blvd and immediately east of Bosque Farms Blvd

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve Subdivision Land Split. Councilor Bruhn seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13. Training – City Attorney

Members of the audience requested that this be postponed until the March meeting.

Councilor Bruhn made a motion to move this training to the March meeting. Councilor Zamora seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows: Councilor Wood, for; Mayor Pro Tem De Smet, for; Councilor Bruhn, for; and Councilor Zamora, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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Mayor Pro Tem De Smet announced what she wanted to see on the next agenda including: Ordinance 2-1 needs to be up for discussion; Ordinance 4-1 needs to be up for discussion and

possible action, the annexation of the property in Peralta, the correct EMS MOU form June of 2025 for discussion and possible action, RFP for legal counsel and a workshop with Prodigy.

Councilor Bruhn would like something on the agenda to indicate an amendment to the Open Meetings act and change the meetings to Wednesday evenings.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS GOVERNING BODY
WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2026.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 31st DAY OF MARCH 2026

Chris Gillespie, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Erica A. Martinez, Clerk/Administrator