

**COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS, NM
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wood called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Mayor Pro Tem Ronita Wood, Councilor Erica De Smet, Councilor Michael Cheromiah, Councilor Tim Baughman, Clerk/Administrator Vernon Abeita, Assistant Clerk Julie Gabaldon, Treasurer Yvonne Maes, Police Chief Andrew Owen and Attorney Mark Jarmie arrived during executive session.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 10-15-1H (2) NMSA, 1978, PURSUANT TO PERSONNEL MATTERS, TO HIRE A POLICE OFFICER

Councilor Baughman made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 5:48 p.m. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Councilor Baughman made a motion to reconvene at 6:24 p.m. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Mark Jarmie stated that discussion during the executive session was limited to 10-15-1H (2) regarding personnel matters and nothing further was discussed.

4. SILENT INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Wood asked to remember State Police Officer Justin Hare. She thanked all first responders and EMS workers.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Cheromiah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Baughman made a motion to strike items 13.B, 13.C and 13.I from the agenda, approving the remaining items. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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7. APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 15, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilor Baughman made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2024, Regular Meeting. Councilor De Smet seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

March 7, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes

Councilor De Smet made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2024, Special Meeting. Councilor Baughman seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief Owen presented February 2024 police and animal control reports.

Toni-Lynn Hart, Library Director, gave an update on some things that are taking place including gearing up for the Summer Reading Program, partnering up with Senior Olympics, and a performance with the dance kids. Most of the money received by Pay it Forward went back into programing. She will be taking her staff next week for a treat.

9. MAYOR & COUNCILOR'S REPORTS

Councilor De Smet and Mayor Pro Tem Wood secured seven hundred thousand dollars to fully fund all repairs we need for well #1. 950 McNew owner can hook up to water and sewer. She is also working to secure funding for our fire department to upgrade to 700 megahertz radios.

Councilor Cheromiah helped Vince Otero, Animal Control, with the dog food drive. They were able to help a lot of people.

Councilor Baughman would like to start a memorial for law enforcement, military and fire services. It is important to remember those that serve us here and abroad.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood thanked everyone for their help with the grant. She announced Tony-Lynn, our librarian, received \$400 from Pay it Forward. She reminded everyone the fair is coming up. She gave updates on fixing the roads. She stated half of West Bosque Loop and half of Winchester will get done. The whole road of Esperanza will be recoated.

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10. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Maes presented February 2024 treasurer's report.. Councilor Baughman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report for February 2024. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

11. NON-AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION LIMITED TO 1 ½ MINUTES

Tom Allen, resident of thirty (30) years, spoke about his concern of events that created a division within the office and community that we all love so much.

Neomi Allen, Village employee and 30-year resident, thanked Governor Abeita for every effort he made to make the Village a better place to live. She also expressed concern about the environment in the Village office.

Fable Hoesch, contract employee and 18-year resident, stated she had concerns about the work environment in the Village office and with some of the employees and a council person's social media posts not being accurate. She also thanked Governor Abeita.

Mary Chavez, Village employee and lifetime resident, thanked Governor. Abeita and stated she is sad to see he him go.

Yvonne Maes, Village employee and resident for 12 years, stated concerns about Village employees not following policy. She explained how we are on our third clerk in less than two years. Ms. Maes thanked Mayor and Council for keeping it professional and asked them to take these concerns seriously. She thanked Governor Abeita for his efforts.

Toni-Lynn Hart, Village employee, is concerned about comments on social media. It is not true that everyone has been impacted negatively by Governor Abeita. The only effect he has had on the library has been great, helpful, very nice and kind. He helped before he was the Clerk/Administrator.

R. Lar Thomas, resident and was the Judge of the Village and the Pueblo of Isleta. He thanked Governor Abeita for his service at Isleta and Bosque Farms. Several citizens have ceded their time to him. He was concerned with inappropriate social media posts regarding candidates for Mayor. He was also concerned about employees conspiring in a personnel hearing to violate the rules set forth by the chairman of that board.

Jana Baughman, resident for 18 years, said how sorry she is to see Governor Abeita leave the community. She stated this is the third clerk to quit since June of 2022. She stated the Village needs to be protected and governed in a manner that that keeps its facilities safe and operable for the good of the Village.

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Jim Bruhm, village resident 20 years, thanked all the Council for help with the water issue. He stated we can't dwell on the problems we have to move forward and fix those problems.

Todd C Baughman, Annie Scoggin and Charlie Scoggin ceded their time to Lar Thomas.

James Mason signed up but didn't speak. They are new to Bosque Farms and introduced themselves.

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Jennica Kettle, a resident, introduced herself and expressed her concerns on the way she was represented on social media because her husband is a candidate for Mayor.

Lillie McNabb, resident, spoke for Governor Abeita. She stated he follows protocol, chain of command, ordinance and policies. She also thanked Governor Abeita and his family.

Rose Poitras, resident and Community Center Director, spoke on behalf of Governor Abeita and talked about the division in the workplace and community.

Lily Luman, resident of 13 years, requested the ordinance about tethered animals be revised to only tether an animal, in emergency or unusual circumstances. She stated, unintentionally, this code has allowed a dog in our neighborhood to live in inhumane conditions.

CJ Kettle introduced himself, he is in the running for mayor.

Greg Jones, chairman of the personnel board, stated he saw complete disdain for policy and order of procedures during the personnel hearing. He explained it is a hostile environment right now and he hopes tonight is the way forward.

12. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Consideration of Establishing Procedure, Process, and Timeline to Appoint a Mayor

Attorney Jarmie gave an update on what he found about the length of time. There was discussion. There will be interviews with candidates next week. They will appoint a Mayor at a Special Meeting the following week.

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B. Consideration of Hiring a Police Officer

Item struck from agenda.

C. Consideration of Appointment of an Individual to the Personnel Board

Item struck from agenda.

D. Discussion with Blue Star Mothers Debra Selisky

Debra Selisky introduced herself. Blue Star Mothers is the mother of a child that is either serving currently or has served in the military. Every year they put on a State Convention. They run on donations. She is here to request if the council or the Village of Bosque farms would like to sponsor breakfast or lunch for the convention that they will be holding on April 13, 2024.

E. Consideration of Approval for the Donation of a Brush Truck

Chief Brogdon gave an update on the Brush Truck donation. Councilor Baughman motioned to postpone approval for the donation of a brush truck. Councilor Cheromiah second the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

F. Consideration of Approval for an Agreement with Yucca Little League for Land Use (Joey Timmons)

Joey Timmons gave an update on Yucca Little League. Councilor Baughman motioned to approve an agreement with Yucca Little League for Land Use. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Walkup paid the \$1.00 (one dollar) fee the Village of Bosque Farms charges Yucca Little League for the use of the fields.

G. Consideration of Approval for MOA with Valencia County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Chris Gillespie

Chris Gillespie gave a brief explanation in reference to the MOA. There was discussion. Councilor Cheromiah motioned to approve MOA with Valencia County Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Councilor Baughman seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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H. Consideration of Approval for VRECC Budget Adjustment Resolution 1042-24

Councilor Cheromiah motioned to approve VRECC Budget Adjustment Resolution 1042-24. Councilor Baughman seconded. Roll call as follows: Councilor Baughman, for; Councilor Cheromiah, for; Councilor DeSmet, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

I. Discussion and Consideration of Amending Animal Control Ordinance 8-5-1 Penalty

Item struck from agenda.

J. Discussion and Consideration Amending Ordinance 2017-01 Loan with NMED to Lower the Interest Rate

There was discussion. Councilor Baughman made a motion to accept the amending Ordinance 2017-01 loan with NMED to lower interest rate. Councilor Cheromiah seconded. Roll call as follows: Councilor Baughman, for; Councilor Cheromiah, for; Councilor DeSmet, for. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Discussion and Consideration of Revision of Bosque Farms Police Department Overtime Policy Article 10 Section 10.5

There was discussion. Councilor Baughman made a motion to publish revision of Bosque Farms Police Department. Councilor Cheromiah seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

14. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF APRIL 2024.

Chris Gillespie, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Julie Gabaldon, Assistant Clerk