



MINUTES
VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 15th, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:01

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Gilliespie led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Executive Session**

The mayor & council entered the executive session at 6:05 PM and exited at 06:15 PM stating that the only matters discussed were those related to the executive session.

4. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

RW	✓	MC	X	ED	✓	TB	X
Quorum present		Yes	No				

5. **Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Wood requested a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item number 13. Hiring of a Police Officer.

Councilor DeSmet requested the motion to include an amendment to the public comment section of the agenda. Councilor DeSmet voiced concerns that the public nor the Council had been given an opportunity to request or vote upon the changes to the allotted time and ability to distribute public comment amongst peers in the audience perspective.

A C T I O N	Motion	Approval of the Agenda with the addition to time in the public comment section for the May meeting and the removal of item 13.		
	Made by:	DeSmet		Councilor Wood-Yes Councilor Cheromiah-Absent Councilor DeSmet-Yes Councilor Baughman-Yes
	Second by:	Wood		
	Motion carried?	PASSED	FAILED	

6. **Public Comment**

Carly Devay Resident

Thanked Councilor DeSmet for her efforts in voicing concerns regarding the Bosque Fire. The residents were displeased by the Mayor's and another Councilor's lack of coordination and effort during the fire event. The resident also thanked the Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts in handling the Fire best they could.

Councilor DeSmet thanked the residents for speaking up and utilizing their own company truck to help combat the fire. Councilor DeSmet went on further to thank PG and other companies who used trucks for their assistance as well.

Melanie Bennet Resident

The resident stated that she believed it was inappropriate that the Village Council had the regular meeting during the fire event. She thanked Councilor DeSmet for prioritizing assisting the community instead. The resident read aloud comments made during the previous meeting regarding the fire spreading to the plant so that the Village would finally be funded. The residents requested reflection from the Councilor to better understand their oaths of office and better serve the community.

Monique Dereta Resident

Mrs. Dereta stated that she has concerns regarding open meeting acts potential violations regarding the limitation of public comment. Stating that under Clerk Limon's administration there have been changes that do not correlate to Village ordinances of the Governing Body's ability to establish rules of procedure.

Councilor DeSmet requested the Clerk Administrator that on the next agenda that an item be placed regarding public comments and the ability to pass on time to peers be placed so that the Governing Body may discuss and vote on the item.

Clerk Administrator Limon went into detail regarding Robert's Rules of Order and how it allows for the Chair to set time and order to the agenda, the Clerk went on to recap the Mayor instructed him to fix the agenda to be within compliance of current Robert's rule of order and the Mayor requested the time be limited to a minute and half and he is within his right to do so in accordance with state statute.

Rowena Tachias Resident

Mrs. Tachias requested her official complaint be listed in the minutes as follows:

To: Mayor Gillespie, Council Members Wood, Baughman, Cheromiah,
DeSmet, and Municipal Administration Village of Bosque Farms Subject: Formal
Complaint: Offensive Conduct and Dangerous Irresponsibility During Wildfire Emergency

Dear Mayor Gillespie, Council Members Wood, Baughman,
Cheromiah, DeSmet, and Administrative Staff,

We are writing to submit a formal and deeply serious complaint regarding the conduct and judgment of Village leadership during a recent Village Council meeting held amidst the

wildfire crisis. This meeting was not only grossly inappropriate in tone but also recklessly irresponsible in its very location.

While residents were attempting to evacuate the elderly and their livestock, many were also trying to protect their homes from the approaching fire—which ultimately destroyed some homes—and emergency services were stretched thin, Village officials chose to convene a meeting inside the evacuation zone, at the Village Council Hall.

This decision placed staff and attendees in harm's way and defied basic emergency protocols. Holding a government meeting in a fire-threatened area during an active evacuation is beyond irresponsible—it is dangerous, and it potentially violates public safety directives.

Even more appalling was the conduct of those present. As confirmed by a recorded audio file of the meeting, adding to the troubling picture, during the meeting, the office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich contacted the Village offering assistance. The mayor was unprepared to respond meaningfully due to the lack of information from a designated Coordinator of Emergency Management for the Village in accordance with the ordinance 4-3-1. This position has not been occupied for at least a year.

At a time when coordination, leadership, and clarity were urgently needed, the Village's top elected official failed to articulate the community's needs.

Members of the council, the mayor, and the deputy clerk openly joked about the possibility of the Village's wastewater treatment plant catching fire. The comments suggested that such destruction might enable the Village to access federal disaster funding—remarks that were met with laughter. This is not just tone-deaf, it is grotesque. While residents were reeling from the trauma of losing their homes, officials entrusted with leading the community through crisis saw fit to make jokes about further destruction and opportunistic financial gain. That behavior is an affront to every evacuee, every firefighter, and other first responders risking their lives, and every family trying to hold it together in the face of disaster.

Additionally, during a fast-moving emergency, timely and clear communication is critical. The absence of the Village Clerk (who has been working remotely from out of state due to personal and family issues) contributed significantly to a breakdown in communication with the public from the Village administration. The lack of on-site administrative leadership and the failure to disseminate essential information to the public only worsened the crisis, leaving residents confused, unsupported, and vulnerable. Keep in mind, Bosque Farms has been without EMS services for over a year, a critical failure in basic public safety infrastructure.

Furthermore, in return for the tax dollars we contribute, residents are now left asking: What exactly are we getting? The absence of emergency medical response, coupled with this display of poor leadership and cavalier attitudes, amounts to zero return on our investment as taxpayers.

This kind of callous, self-serving attitude and disorganized response has no place in public service. It undermines public trust, disrespects those who are suffering, and reveals a startling lack of leadership, empathy, and accountability.

Accordingly, we demand the following:

1. A formal, public apology from the mayor, council members, and deputy clerk involved in making or endorsing these comments.
2. A full explanation as to what Village business was so pertinent that the meeting was even necessary, and then held in an active evacuation zone, including what safety measures, if any, were considered and when.
3. Immediate review and implementation of emergency procedures to ensure no such recklessness happens again.
4. Mandatory crisis management and sensitivity training for all elected and administrative officials.
5. A review of current “remote work” administrative practices, including whether key staff working out of state can adequately fulfill their duties, especially during emergencies.
6. Finally, we ask that the Clerk either take a leave of absence or resign from his position, and that Mayor Gillespie resign as Mayor.

Our community deserves better—far better—than to be mocked, endangered, and disregarded by the very people who are supposed to serve and protect it. We expect this matter to be taken seriously and addressed without delay.

Sincerely,

Michael and Rowena Tachias
Bruce and Monique Dereta
Residents of Bosque Farms

Alyissa Johnson resident

Resident stated her dissatisfaction with scene security as her husband in full gear was forced to enter the scene on foot from the beginning of Lily Drive.

Pam Mitchell resident

The resident stated her dissatisfaction and agreement with previous comments towards the council and staff. Residents requested updates on who is checking fire hydrants for the Village as she believes they go with no maintenance for years.

Councilor DeSmet stated that under a previous administration the Volunteer Fire department had communicated the need to address hydrant issues. After the fire, a total of 5 nonfunctional were repaired by the current Water/Wastewater staff.

Rick Babcock Resident

Mr. Babcock stated his agreement with Mrs. Tachias comments and went on to state he believes it to be a concern that the Clerk Administrator is working remote. Mr. Babcock went on to state he is not attacking the abilities of the Clerk, as he has been appreciative of Mr.

Limon's communication and directives of how to modernize the Village's ordinances and procedures and he believes the Clerk inherited a mess which was unfair to begin with. Mr. Babcock believes Mr. Limon cannot best serve the Village remote in California.

Ray Spindler

The residents stated that on Parklane drive no one follows the speed limit in that area and he witnessed several children almost struck by traffic. Mr. Spindler is requesting, if possible, speed bumps could be added to the street to help deter speed.

Virgil Proctor Resident

Mr. Proctor is looking for suggestions from members of the public or council regarding the flow of traffic on Mitchell near Sopas and the flea Market. Mr. Proctor would like to have a meeting with NMDOT scheduled by the Administrator Clerk to help voice concerns of the public and nearby business owners.

Clerk Limon stated that he has reached out to his contact and NMDOT regarding a request for a meeting with public participation and he will have Molzen & Corbin view the area prior to seeing if any updated striping of road needs to occur.

Justin Foster Resident / Volunteer Firefighter

Mr. Foster stated his displeasure with Council proceeding with the meeting during the fire. Also, he directed comments towards the clerk to better present himself on video and avoid faces or slouching.

Lily McNab Resident

Stated she is dissatisfied with the comments made by the public tonight. The resident explained that she witnessed the mayor and members of the governing body present at the community center helping during the fire event in any way that they could. The residents went on further to explain to the public that if they truly wish for change members should show up to vote or run for elected positions.

Sharon Eastman Resident / Planning & Zoning Chairwoman

Chairwoman Eastman stated her thanks to the efforts of Fire and the Police departments and thanked the nearby entities who assisted in support as well. Chairwoman Eastman also thanked the community and the police for assisting with the location of a lost child who shares relation for her.

Shoshanna Cervantes Resident

The resident stated her dissatisfaction with the way the scene around the neighborhood was locked down by the Police department. She felt herself and others were only trying to help evacuate homes sooner.

Lee Whorton Resident

The resident stated that she has drafted a plan with a committee for an animal evacuation plan and would like the Council to review and proceed with possible adoption if needed.

Michael (last name not provided) Resident

The resident stated that he is a combat veteran and runs a group of individuals who deal with emergency planning and disaster training and would like to offer those services to the Village.

Departmental Reports

Fire Department Chief Jason Schneider stated he could not provide much comment regarding understanding of the fire as those investigations are still pending from those who oversaw the scene; however, he would try to assist the public in any way that he could.

Chief Schnider stated that his team has completed a new recruitment class, and 4 more volunteers are set to join the team.

Chief Schnider stated one of the engines was damaged however has been reported to the Village's insurance for repair.

Chief Schnider stated that his department is flowing hydrants and would like to have the work outsourced to better free up him members.

Purchase Order for command units has been approved and moved forward.

Chief Schnider stated that he is working with the Clerk's office to secure an admin office to help the department receive more funding from the County. A meeting has been scheduled with the Deputy Clerk to review the following day.

Chief Schnider stated the Volunteer Fire Department is working with the Town of Peralta for a memorandum of understanding for EMS services for the Village and this item should be for Council's review soon.

Chief Owen cited the statistical report for Police & Animal Control activities for the month of April.

Clerk Limon provided the following updates:

- Molzen & Corbin are preparing cost estimates for the following requests for the Clerk Administrator now that the on-call agreement has been approved: A scope of price and total workload for a road critically index (This is a road analysis for Bosque Farms that will establish a listing of road repair based on need rather than desire.) This is a tool that can be used for current administration and future Bosque Farms leadership. Secondly a scope of price and workload for updated digital mapping of fire hydrants and zoning maps has been requested. Current Bosque Farms zoning maps are only available via physical data and are not easily accessible to the public. This information will aid the public with zoning questions and the mapping of hydrants will be beneficial for the Volunteer Fire department when assessing needs in the field and our Water operators for tracking of needed repairs. The last scope of price and workload is the updates needed to the comprehensive master plan and land use study performed in 2023. (Updates to Public priorities and Governing body input is needed, again a pool was the focal point of the

plan and given current infrastructure needs and plans this should be overhauled to better suit Village needs when asking for federal funding.)

- Desert Fox final invoice and payment has been mailed via CES for the culvert project performed. This project should be finalized with Molzen soon.
- The Clerk's office would like to retain Mr. Gardner's services at the next council meeting in June. The auditor's contract will be up for extension, The clerk would like to thank the efforts of his staff, especially Yvonne who led this year's audit which helped the Village remove 3 audit findings from the previous fiscal. Resolution has been provided to DFA for approval and closeout.
- Trenching Safety training and CPR field training has been scheduled via the New Mexico Municipal League for the dates of May 29th and June 3rd. Our crews will be on limited availability on those days as training is approximately 6 hours however our Field Supervisor Sanchez will be seeking aid from Prodigy for coverage those days.
- Prodigy has provided the Clerk's office with the needed quotes from the Water – wastewater workshop and those have been sent off for obligation as of 5/8/25.
- The Council will notice that ARPA funding is not on today's agenda for obligation. This is due to recent communications with LeAndra Garcia of DFA. LeAndra informed the Clerk's office that we as the Village of Bosque Farms can reallocate funding designated for premium pay to other eligible categories under the SLFRF program. It is now within the clerk's discretion and goals to have 2 projects related to infrastructure up for proposed spending at the June Meeting. The Clerk's office is pending a final proposal meeting/ agreement with Bixby Electric the repair of the lights along 47 and Esperanza will be the focal point and project 1. Secondly the Village is pending close out amounts with TLC for Cole Green Sewer installation, the Clerk's office will follow up with TLC regarding what is missing to complete the project and follow up with estimates for this project as well. Lastly, after the total of these two projects have been estimated the Clerk's office would still like to utilize some funds from ARPA for the retainment of employees, which is allowed use with the SLFRF program.
- Supervisor evaluations are being processed by the Clerk Administrator, Hourly evaluations are pending review from the Mayor and the Clerk's evaluation will be distributed to the staff May 19th for Council's review in executive session in the June meeting. The delay in this process is due to the hospitalization of the Clerk Administrator.
- The Clerk's office has received two information requests that require email research over previous fiscal years. Our IT is having issues with isolation of emails and data required. The Clerk administrator is currently performing his own data storage and research since IT currently lacks this accessibility.
- The Clerk's office is still performing Outreach for GIS services no nearby agencies such as the county have provided an update, conversation with County Manager may need to be had with Clerk Administrator as the need for addressing properties is growing and county staff have been unsupportive or unresponsive.
- The Clerk's office is hosting weekly meetings with Prodigy Builders, Communication on staff needs and updates are on-going and proving productive for management of operations.

- Kelly Liquors has requested the right to sell another regulated substance such as tobacco at its location. With the current interpretation of Village ordinance, the owner has two options waiting for the renewal of his liquor license in the year of 2026 to add this stipulation to his business or renew manually in the current fiscal but pay a total of \$2000 dollars to renew his current liquor license and the addition of tobacco. The Clerk administrator has attempted to contact the property owner, however, has been unsuccessful but will continue to reach out.
- The investigation of 1290 Truchas Trail will resume this week. The clerk is currently finishing correspondence that he will submit for review with the Village attorney this week and send via certified mail to the property owner so that Code enforcement can begin investigating. The Clerk's office apologizes for this delay; The Clerk Administrator was recently in hospital which delay
- Two new business licenses will need to come before the review of the planning and zoning commission at the upcoming June meeting. An applicant by the name of Carlos B Salcedo Varela would like an appliance sale and repair shop at 600 Bosque farms Blvd. It is the understanding of the Clerk's office that in ordinance this would qualify mechanical repair therefore being a regulated business. The Clerk's office has reached out to the business owner via email however, it has no hearing back regarding application and lease info needed. Once acquired and proper notice is posted this will appear on an agenda. Also, a daycare has been proposed for the old motor pros building, the Clerk administrator has contacted the owner and informed her of the requirements needed to operate such business at that location.
- 6 Permits were filed in the month of April, and they were for the following properties:
- 715 Calle Del Sol is remodeling an existing fence, through conversation and review of the owner's property they own the fence line within their boundaries and can remodel without approval of neighbor.
- 1135 Lillie drive is having an expansion of the master bedroom.
- The 1715 pearl loop is replacing broken down fencing with a new panel.
- 1664 Todd Place is establishing a new barn.
- 635 Foxcroft pulled a permit for installation of solar panels.
- 1955 Shore Drive is replacing fencing on the property.

7. **Mayor & Council Reports**

Council

- i. Councilor Wood stated her thanks to those who came out during the event of the fire and assisted with water and feeding those in need. Councilor Wood stated that she is understanding of the work Bosque Farms is under however she does care about the Village and that everyone is doing what they can.
- ii. Councilor Desmet stated thanks to the members of the community and other nearby entities unite and assist one another.
- iii. Councilor DeSmet stated that she will be hosting a luncheon for first responders and those directly affected by the fire.

Mayor

- iv. The mayor stated his thanks for the first responders who assisted on the scene and stated his heartfelt sorrow for the home that was lost. The mayor went on to thank the desert fox for their assistance.

8. **Council to Review and Take Action on Treasurer's Report**

Deputy Clerk Lopez stated the Treasurer could not be in attendance for tonight's meeting due to a scheduling conflict. However, the report is within the Council's packet should anyone has questioned, the treasurer is available through phone or email regarding the report.

A resident spoke regarding that he feels the treasurer's report lacks the detail that helps the public understand.

Assistant Fire Chief Brogdon stated he would like to see the treasurer's report in the packet for full transparency and is not understanding why it's not available.

Clerk Limon stated that the packet includes items that are ready for presentation. Bank recon at times is performed very late in the agenda creation period that could affect when the report is posted or presented for recap and review.

Chairwoman Eastman asked to speak stating that the Treasurer is not here to present the report line by line tonight however that this information is readily available and can be requested from Village staff. Should members of the public not participate in monthly meetings or request budget information then negligence should not be passed on to staff.

No action was taken on the report

9. **Council to Review and Take Action on Previous Minutes.**

Councilor DeSmet stated she does not feel it appropriate to approve these minutes that are currently presented by the Clerk's office tonight due to them not being listed as Draft minutes – indicated with form of watermark or in the agenda itself.

Clerk Limon stated that all minutes till approved by its respective board or body are considered draft minutes until approved and did not need to be listed as such in accordance to state statute.

Councilor DeSmet requested that the Clerk update the minutes for the next meeting to be listed as draft minutes.

A C T I O N	Motion	All minutes are tabled till the next meeting and listed as draft.		
	Made by:	Wood	Councilor Wood-Yes Councilor Cheromiah- Absent Councilor DeSmet- Yes Councilor Baughman- Absent	
	Second by:	DeSmet		
	Motion carried?	PASSED		

10. **Council to Review and Take action on Resolution 1070-25**
Approval of Budget Adjustments Related to VRECC.

Clerk Limon explained to the members of the Council that this budget adjustment has to do with VRECC performing its own budget adjustment to increase its purchasing ability for this fiscal year. The 911 board has met previously and approved; the Village must now approve its own resolution as we are the fiscal agent for VRECC.

A C T I O N	Motion	Approval of Resolution 1070-25	
	Made by:	DeSmet	Councilor Wood-Yes Councilor Cheromiah-Absent Councilor DeSmet- Yes Councilor Baughman- Absent
	Second by:	Wood	
	Motion carried?	PASSED FAILED	

11. **Council to Review and Take action on Water Rights Agreement with Janet Miller.**

Clerk Limon stated that Mrs. Miller approached him via email regarding the desire to renew her Water Rights agreement prior to the expiration date of her current contract.

Clerk Limon stated that the agreement before Council is one that he and Mrs. Miller negotiated. Clerk Limon performed research in Valencia County and City of Albuquerque water rights and found no history of increases for the past two years in the area.

Councilor DeSmet believes that Mrs. Miller's agreement should increase in costs like other contracts and other water rights agreements that come before the council should investigate an increase as well. Councilor DeSmet in her personal business utilities water rights and feels she experienced an increase annually.

Applicant Janet Miller stated she felt the water rights costs were fair, however, was willing to negotiate a slight increase should the council feel that was appropriate.

Councilor Wood requested numbers that Mrs. Miller would be comfortable with for her increase to which Mrs. Miller said she's just looking for a fair rate and felt that the tenure and rate the Clerk set was good enough, however is still willing to negotiate.

Councilor DeSmet asked for the item be tabled so that rates could be investigated further and a new agreement be brought to the Council in the month of June.

A C T I O N	Motion	Approval of Postponing item until June	
	Made by:	Wood	Councilor Wood-Yes Councilor Cheromiah- Absent Councilor DeSmet- Yes Councilor Baughman- Absent
	Second by:	Baughman	
	Motion carried?	PASSED FAILED	

12. **Council to Review and Take Action on Approval of We Are Winners Group Contract.**

Rheagan presented the We are winners group contract providing summary of program benefits and how it impacts communities and provides additional events for the public to seek assistance with disposal.

Clerk Limon stated that he would like to pair this program with the Village's Clean and Beautiful grant to have more dumpsters and clean up sites and support local ball / music clubs with funding through this agreement.

A C T I O N	Motion	Approval of We are winners Group Contract		
	Made by:	Wood	Councilor Wood- Yes Councilor Cheremiah- Absent Councilor DeSmet-Yes Councilor Baughman-Absent	
	Second by:	DeSmet		
	Motion carried?	PASSED		

13. **Council to Review and Take Action on Approval of Hiring of a Police Officer**

This item was removed during the approval of the agenda.

14. **Council to Review and Take Action on Approval of Hiring of a Water/Wastewater utility Operator**

Councilor DeSmet stated her concerns of hiring another operator with no related experience to the Water/Wastewater background. Councilor DeSmet also stated she believes that it is unfair that Staff can begin work prior to being approved by the Councilor for hire. Councilor DeSmet stated Los Lunas's hire and onboarding process and would like the Village to follow that process.

Clerk Limon stated that the Council is a different branch of Government in compression to himself and Mayor Gillespie's position. The hiring of staff is handled by the Clerk Administrator and is presented to the council as a courtesy. Clerk Limon went on to state the Field Supervisor Joseph Sanchez was apart of the interview process and was fine with the applicants' background and experience. The Water operators are currently in need of any form of help and Clerk Limon felt this hire could assist the staff.

Clerk Limon also recapped that the prodigy is currently the operator of record for the Village, so that certified staff along with the Field supervisor who contains levels in both water and waste can provide guidance and training for the new employee.

A C T I O N	Motion	Approval of Hiring Water/Wastewater employee	
	Made by:	Wood	Councilor Wood- Yes Councilor Cheromiah- Absent Councilor DeSmet-No Councilor Baughman-Absent Mayor Gillespie - Yes
	Second by:	Gillespie	
	Motion carried?	PASSED	
		FAILED	

15. **Council to Review and Discuss matters related to the EMS Department of the Village of Bosque Farms**

Councilor DeSmet stated she and the town of Peralta, and the volunteer fire department have been working on a potential MOU to present to Village Council.

Councilor DeSmet introduced to those in attendance Ashely, the current Deputy Fire Chief of the Town of Peralta.

The MOU is proposed to have Ashely act as the Village of Bosque Farms EMS director and utilize the Village's funding resources to staff and train new members to the department.

Assistant Chief Brogdon stated the MOU could be at a costs of 25k and suggests utilizing the ARPA funding to cover the agreement.

Councilor Wood stated the services would be appreciated but the Village should be mindful of salaries offered via MOUs that could be higher than current staff, it would be a disservice to those currently on staff. Councilor Wood stated she would like to hire on a EMS director and at minimum have 2 EMTs available.

Councilor DeSmet stated that Ashley is already responding to calls via an MOU previously established by a former Fire Chief.

Clerk Limon advised the Council to ensure liability insurance exists in that form of MOU to protect both the town of Peralta and the Village of Bosque Farms.

Mayor requested discussion end at this time and the item be brought forward once an MOU has been drafted.

ADJOURNMENT **9:12PM**

The Governing Body may revise the order of the agenda items considered at this Open Meeting. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, 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 office of the Village Clerk at (505) 991-6611 at least four (4) calendar days prior to the meeting. Public documents including the agenda and minutes can be provided in digital or hardcopy format. The Village of Bosque Farms strictly prohibits any form of unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex, national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation in any program, activity, or service sponsored by the Village. Contact the office of the Village Clerk/administrator for more information.

The proceeding minutes were transmitted to Village Council for the Hearing on July 24, 2025, 2025. The Village Council requested changes be made to the minutes and the Village Council voted to approve them as amended. The requested changes are reflected in the proceeding minutes.

The amendments are:

1. Item 5, change Councilor DeSmet's vote from "Absent" to "Yes", as verified through audio from May 15, 2025, meeting.