

**COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS, NM
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gillespie called the meeting to order at **6:01** 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

Officer Webb led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

No Presentations

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Interim Police Chief Adams summarized Police and Animal Control activity for the month of April. They just got a drone and are getting a second one. It will be registered with the FAA once it arrives.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet asked if the police department is working with the fire department or anybody else with the drones.

Interim Police Chief Adams stated they are going to have multiple operators. They will have two drones and possibly three to four operators with on call status. He will give the Fire Chief the model they have. It is what Valencia County is using right now, so if one goes down, there are multiples.

Councilor Bruhn commends the Police Department on seeing lots of cars pulled over on 47. Everybody's getting the word out and everybody's slowing down. Councilor Bruhn sees an officer everyday now. For a long time, we didn't see anyone pulled over on 47 and now we see an officer every day.

Fire Chief Schnieder talked about a fire alarm at the new Peralta Community Center went off in the middle of the night. They had some issues with their fire department sprinklers. We don't have a pre-plan for that building because it's been unoccupied for so long. He requests for the Council to prioritize what the plan is to do with that so it the Fire Department knows if it's going to stay in Bosque Farms. We need to get a pre-plan for it. Otherwise, Peralta is going to do that. In that instance, they had to talk to the Peralta Fire Department to figure out how to get access to take care of everything else. He

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gave an update on flow testing that helps with the ISO rating and everything else needed to make sure the system is up and running. He is going to follow up with the treasurer and clerk on purchasing. He would like to actually document what the purchasing policy is or expectations, so that we know for the different kinds of procurements and how to approach each one. He knows they struggle to do it correctly every time. A documented policy or procedure would really help. The last update they have is they had a person going through training to do peer support, he just finished. It was an advanced peer support training course in Las Cruces. The benefit is now they have somebody in the department who can respond as a peer to the firefighters to be able to help them if they have struggled with a situation they went through, life or anything else. He has had the training which can provide that support, which is an initiative started by the county.

Mayor Gillespie made a comment on something that came up. There was a first responder situation in Mountainair that was reported by State Police. It took down eighteen (18) first responders. They are at UNMH at the moment. They are trying to find out what drug they were exposed to. Three people were dead in the building. Strong caution when you're walking into a scene as law enforcement or public safety, you may very much want to wear your gloves because that was a contact touch. State Police are trying to figure out exactly what it was.

Prodigy Andrew Padilla gave an update for Prodigy on: staffing, operational risks, compliance items, and near-term decisions affecting the water and wastewater systems. Critical operational risks are ongoing grinder pump failures, UV system reliability concerns, and the offline sludge disposal facility continue to create service and compliance exposure. Immediate leadership attention is where we need to confirm the WWTP funding deadline and next steps with the engineer, review the Peralta agreement, and consider policy direction on grinder pump ownership and cost responsibility. Prodigy has assigned Robert Santillanes, Level IV Water Operator, to help supervise both Prodigy and Bosque Farms personnel. Prodigy continues to have its weekly meetings with Clerk Martinez; meeting topics now alternate between general operations and construction loans and grants on a biweekly schedule. Peralta's wastewater agreement from 2015 should be revisited. Twenty percent (20%) of the flow that the wastewater treatment treats are coming from Peralta. If they have a leak and they've had some, we're the ones permitted, Bosque Farms is responsible for the reportable overflows in wastewater. That's part of NMED's program. These are all things that need to be in a new agreement and should all be given attention. Although repairs have been made to the UV system, prior violations occurred during the first quarter due to the UV station. At a minimum we should consider putting the SCADA in there, so we know when it fails. The sludge disposal facility is currently offline. Grinder pumps serving the Village of Bosque Farms connections continue to be a major operational challenge for the collection system. The pumps are failing at an estimated rate of ten (10) or more per month. With limited staff and resources, operations must often install or swap out the pumps quickly to prevent sewer backups and reportable spills. He recommends an ordinance change where when we fix a pump, we put it in a brand new one, according to spec, and then it becomes the

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residents. Well two (2) is currently offline. Since this is the higher arsenic well, NMED has been notified and related testing will be suspended until the well is returned to service.

Clerk/Administrator Martinez gave her report. She gave a breakdown of all the projects, purchases and reimbursements. She noted the Notice of Obligations that were submitted for projects. She earned her CPO in October and just submitted her application to the state to be certified CPO for the Village. We have received one hundred fifty-nine (159) IPRA's since the beginning of the year. Thirty-seven (37) request now in May and thirty-five have been closed out. For tonight, we don't have a treasure's report, since we didn't get the reconciliations done on all the credit cards. As soon as it is done, she will get it out. She will get the other Notice of Obligation submitted tomorrow.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet said she has been asking since November for an RFP for legal counsel and since November it hasn't been on an agenda.

Clerk Martinez has been working on getting the scope done for the RFP services, it's a priority.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet thinks it's imperative to ask for this RFP. It has been stated several times that this is a service we pay for through the Municipal League. The Municipal League gave her a breakdown of the charges. She gave a breakdown of the charges for Nan Winters Law Firm, Randy Van Vlek and Mark Jarmie. She is completely shocked at the number. The mayor, judge and everybody else are using Ms. Winter's service as a blank check, and Ms. Winters is using Bosque Farms as a cash cow. We have got to get that RFP. There are things this Village needs to know, the Municipal League is at your service to answer questions. Mayor Pro Tem De Smet has a letter asking all the governing body to sign. It's a formal direction for the Rules of Procedure workshop, the EMS Structure workshop, and the RFP for legal services. We are going to hand it to the clerk, this is not a threat, this is her being completely frustrated at a ninety-seven-thousand-dollar (\$97,000) bill for legal services and two (2) workshops not getting scheduled. She knows the clerk is working all hours of the night. If this doesn't happen, there is something called the writ of mandamus. After this is signed, she would like a copy and if it doesn't happen, she will take this copy to the 13th Judicial District Court and file a writ of mandamus in court. She doesn't have any other recourse for getting these things scheduled. We have got to get that RFP for legal counsel, plus the Rules of Procedure and the EMS workshop.

Clerk/Administrator Martinez said this was something she was just discussing with two of the councilors, she has been working on this and a lot of things. Now that she has additional help, she can help get these scheduled.

Councilor Bruhn called a few of the communities around, the average legal counsel bill is about two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) a month. That is why they are so shocked at this other bill.

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Clerk/Administrator Martinez said they had negotiations and that was a big chunk of the bill.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet said there was a ton of admin stuff. If we had a scope of work, if we had a contract in place, even if it was with Ms. Winters, that would be fine, but there is nothing. Everybody is acting like they have a credit card with no limit and Ms. Winters is using this as a cash cow, it is not fair to the Village residents.

Clerk/Administrator Martinez said she will work on that.

Attorney Winters asked if mayor wanted her to respond.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet answered no. She will do a Point of Order because it's about Attorney Winters.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet said there is a motion on the table to not let Attorney Winters answer question because it is about her. She deferred to the council to say that Attorney Winters may not answer this question because it is about her. She would entertain a second.

Mayor Gillespie stated you cannot make that motion.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet continues to try and make a motion.

Councilor Bruhn seconded the motion.

Attorney Winters stated you cannot make that motion as it is not on the agenda. She will respond to the governing body via email half of the bill was for the unionization of the police department, about twenty five percent (25%) of it was responding to Mayor Pro Tem De Smet and the rest was working with Clerk Martinez. This bill has come down. There were some heavy billings because of the union her law partner Jamie Dawes represented the Village. The meetings take anywhere from five to six hours. They welcome the RFP and the Village will see what the competition looks like.

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

Mayor Gillespie

A. Mayor's Announcement – Intent to Seek Full Public Safety Audit.

Mayor Gillespie explained it is something he believes must happen fairly quickly. It is going to go through and check all regulations, all personnel policies, etc., throughout fire, EMS, police, all of it. Just make sure that we're in concurrence with the state and everybody else. The Municipal League will provide a resource to do it.

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Mayor Pro Tem De Smet what are your intentions for a full public safety audit and through the Municipal League, how much is that going to cost the Village and why did you feel like it is imperative?

Mayor Gillespie doesn't know what the cost may or may not be. His intent he wants to make entirely sure that we are in total alignment with State, County and everybody's regulations.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet asked, police, fire and EMS only? Who else would be involved in that?

Mayor Gillespie replied that is the three (3).

Councilor Bruhn he attended Peralta's council meeting, the Village has been in violation of the MOU for EMS with Peralta for the last couple of years. It was a Mutual Aid Agreement and they are talking about cancelling it.

Councilor Zamora nothing to report.

Councilor Wood went to the library they had their quarterly library meeting, they have their summer program set up. New Mexico Game and Fish are coming, magic shows, tons of things. Their checkouts are progressively getting bigger. The librarian is doing a really good job, has lots of good ideas and lots of good help.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet nothing to report.

7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT – no official action

Mayor Gillespie informed there is no treasurer's report, but there is a brief where you see where the money is. No comments, no action taken.

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

Lee Wharton had questions about where we stand on EMS, P&Z Officer contract, Compliance Officer. She is curious about budget workshops and ARPA funds.

Michael Brogden has been here for many years, what he has seen happen over the last year or so with the EMS, lighting, treasury, attorney fees, is a total embarrassment.

Lillie McNabb we have a chain of command and we should follow it. You might not like that person, but they were appointed or elected. You must respect that position. We cannot work apart; we must work together and put our personal feelings outside that door. She feels we have lost what Bosque Farms was incorporated for. She also reminded about early voting.

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Eric Grantsburg (on Public Comments sheet written as Wally Dollace) commented on the amount of attorney's fees. He asked how much of that had to do with maybe possibly prosecuting a citizen for IPRA requests for engaging in civic activity. He commented that Attorney Winters is familiar with 42 USC 1983.

9. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from Special Meeting held on April 22, 2026
- B. Minutes from Special Meeting held on May 4, 2026

Councilor Bruhn made a motion to approve the minutes from April 22, 2026, Special Meeting and May 4, 2026, Special Meeting as stated. 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.**

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approving submittal of Grant Application. New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Mitigation Grant-Notice of Interest as part of the FEMA approve mitigation plan for building resilient infrastructure and communities. Grant application is for the installation of a backup generator system in the Village of Bosque Farms Fire Station, which also houses the Village of Bosque Farms Police and EMS Departments in the amount of \$250,000.00. Grant requires a 25% match in the amount of \$62,500.00.**
- B. Approving submittal of Grant Application. New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Mitigation Grant-Notice of Interest as part of the FEMA approved mitigation plan for building resilient infrastructure and communities. Grant application is for the installation of a backup generator system in the Village of Bosque Farms Community Center to back up their heating and cooling system to include during extreme heat of cooling location during emergencies in the amount of \$100,000.00. Grant requires a 25% match in the amount of \$25,000.00.**
- C. Approving submittal of Grant Application. New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Mitigation Grant- Notice of Interest as part of the FEMA approved mitigation plan for building resilient infrastructure and communities. Grant application is for the installation of a backup generator system in the Village of Bosque Farms Administrative Offices to back up their environmental and network systems during emergency situations to include having a safe space for heating and cooling system for citizens in the amount of \$100,000.00. Grant requires a 25% match in the amount of \$25,000.00.**

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Mayor Gillespie explained the three grant applications. They are an attempt to get funding for three generators. One for the Fire Station, one for the Community Center and one for the Village Office. We might be one of the only fire stations in the county of Valencia that does not have a generator. The Community Center is a warming and/or cooling location for seniors for the County Plan; it would be beneficial. The third is to keep the Village office up and running.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to pull each item and vote on them separately from the Consent Agenda. 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.**

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet deferred to Councilor Bruhn, the Village Fire Department, EMS, and Police Department and offices are all in the same area is it necessary to have two separate generators or can one power everything.

Councilor Bruhn explained that we should be able to have one generator, then we only have one to service, we can power both buildings out of one generator. He would rather have a bigger generator to run the Fire Station and the Village office than two separate ones.

Councilor Wood asked if the changes would change the grant.

Mayor Gillespie said it would change the volume of money necessary to do it. Mostly the electrical work required to combine the two buildings is going to be expensive. To combine Item A and Item C is fine.

Clerk Martinez assured we can amend these grants.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet doesn't see the necessity for the Community Center but will defer to the rest of the Council.

Mayor Gillespie informed the county looks at the Community Center as a warming/cooling approval location for our seniors. Without power we would have to drag a generator in from someplace to get them back on operation.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to combine Number 1, Item A and C of the consent agenda for one grant application. 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.**

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Mayor Gillespie asked if we might want to do the community center or just drop that application entirely?

Councilor Bruhn replied, if we could get the money and the match we proceed with the application, if we don't get the match we can return the grant.

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. AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING: ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VILLAGE CODE, 9-1-11 BURNING OR BURYING SOLID WASTE, AND, SECTION 11-3 OPEN BURNING.

Attorney Winters gave a summary, this was on the agenda last month, the notice of intent was published in accordance to law to approve tonight. It may have been approved in 2023. It was forwarded to her by Fire Chief Brogdon, he believes this is what may have been passed in 2023. If passed it will be published one more time, then it will be forwarded to 360 for amendment.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet asked if Councilor Zamora's changes about religious burning was in there.

Councilor Zamora said it looks like what he wanted is in there.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve authorizing the adoption of Ordinance No 2026-01 amending Village Code 9-1-11 Burning or Burying Solid Waste and Section 11-3 Open Burning. 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.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING: ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VILLAGE CODE, SECTION 4-1 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve the publication of Notice of Intent to Adopt the following Ordinance No. 2026-02. Councilor Bruhn second 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.**

Attorney Winters advised this is just a notice of intent to publish, if any of the public inquires, we do not have a draft of this ordinance change. The idea behind publishing the notice of intent is to let the public know that there will be red lines or changes to the ordinance. We do not have a copy of those proposed changes.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet said if it is Attorney Winters opinion is that we need to have an EMS workshop first and then post for changes, she will take back her motion and postpone until the next meeting.

B. AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING: ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VILLAGE CODE, APPENDIX, ARTICLE 9.2. PERSONNEL BOARD MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION, REMOVING ONE MEMBER OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to approve authorizing publication of Notice of Intent to adopt the following: Ordinance No. 2026-03. Councilor Bruhn seconded the motion.

Attorney Winters noted the suggested changes to the ordinance. The Village Personnel Board includes a member of the governing body, which presents problems and we ran into one of those in a recent personnel action. She worked with Councilor Zamora on this and talked about getting rid of the member of the governing body on the Personnel Board. There's language now that would make the Personnel Board three members. One member would be appointed by the mayor, one member would be appointed by the governing body, and the third member would be appointed by those two personnel board members. We did put language in here that includes some qualifications for the appointments, preferably somebody with human resources, labor relations, legal, judicial or investigative experience. It was updated a little bit, but mostly the intent was to make sure that governing body was not sitting on the Personnel Board. It is subject to change. Look at it, get feedback, and it can be put on the next agenda for final approval. This will authorize Clerk Martinez to publish Notice of Intent.

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

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C. CLOSED SESSION. Discuss limited personnel matters as permitted under Section 10-5-1(H)(2) and to discuss real estate matters as permitted under 10-15-1(H)(8) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act; personnel related request for special audit; Treasurer; hiring of Police Officer Patrick Hernandez; acquisition of real estate.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to adjourn to closed executive session at 7:33 p.m. 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.**

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to come out of Closed Session and come back into the Regular Meeting at 8:34 pm. 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.**

Attorney Winters stated for the record and for the minutes the matters discussed in closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, in particular as permitted under section 10-5-1(H)(2) to discuss real estate and personnel matters and permitted under 10-15-1(H)(8), again related to personnel related requests for special audit, treasurer, hiring of police officer Patrick Hernandez and acquisition of real estate.

D. Action Item related to Closed Session; personnel related request for special audit.

No action was taken.

E. Discussion and Possible Action Item related to Closed Session; Treasurer.

Mayor Pro Tem De Smet made a motion to immediately post for the Treasurer position for the Village of Bosque Farms. 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.**

F. Action Item related to hiring of police officer, Patrick Hernandez

Councilor Bruhn made a motion to approve hiring of police officer Patrick Hernandez. 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.**

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14. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS GOVERNING BODY
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

Chris Gillespie, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Erica A. Martinez, Clerk/Administrator