

## **Regular Meeting Minutes–January 21, 2026**

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:00 P. M. in the Court Conference Room of the Public Safety Facility located at 609 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa, New Mexico.

**Present:** Mayor Deborah Cooksey  
Trustee Manuel Brusuelas  
Trustee Mark Garwood  
Trustee Christopher Rupp  
Trustee Casey Otero

Also present was Rebekah Bryant Village Clerk

At 6:00 P. M. Mayor Deborah Cooksey called the meeting to order asking that all rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

**1.** Trustee Brusuelas made a motion to accept the agenda; Trustee Rupp seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

**2.** Roll Call of New Council by the village clerk.  
Manuel Brusuelas-present Mark Garwood-present Christopher Rupp-present Casey Otero-present. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**3.** Mayor Deborah Cooksey appointed the following positions: village clerk-Rebekah Garcia, Chief of Police- Geraldine Martinez, village attorney-Nann Winters. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried

**4.** Deborah Cooksey, Mayor asked to approve the appointment of mayor pro-tem. Mayor Cooksey appointed Manuel Brusuelas. Trustee Garwood made a motion; Trustee Rupp seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**5.** Unscheduled correspondence: none

**6.** Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2025-2026-12 Open Meetings Act. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Otero seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.  
Roll call was taken: Brusuelas-present, Otero-present, Garwood-present, Rupp-present.

**7.** Valarie Delgado, Finance Officer asked to approve the Resolution #2025-2026-

13 to add funds to various departments including the library for state aide grant funds also the New Mexico Rural Library grant. The clean and beautiful grant. ACO donations to animal control. Fire protection grant funds. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Otero seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call was taken: Brusuelas-present, Otero-present, Garwood-present, Rupp-present.

**8.** Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2025-2026-14 to request an amendment to the co-operative agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for an extension of time for HW2L200648 project to terminate on June 30, 2027, to complete the Chris Dr., Darby Ln. and Lucille Ln.-pavement rehabilitation within the control of the Village of Tularosa, Otero County, New Mexico. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Rupp seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call was taken: Brusuelas-present, Otero-present, Garwood-present, Rupp-present.

**9.** Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2025-2026-14 to enter into an agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for execution of the Que Linda program grant in the amount of \$125,000 for a formal local beautification. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Otero seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call was taken: Brusuelas-present, Otero-present, Garwood-present, Rupp-present.

**10.** Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Village of Tularosa and the White Sands Drug & Alcohol Compliance. Trustee Otero made a motion; Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**11.** Linda Vigil, Librarian asked to approve the appointment of Michael Finkbeiner to the position of part-time library assistant at a pay rate of \$12.00hr. Trustee Rupp made a motion; Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**12.** Anna Vigil, Senior Center Director asked to approve the appointment of Matthew Mirabal to the position of part-time program aide at a pay rate of \$15.00hr. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Otero seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**13.** Geraldine Martinez, Chief of Police asked to approve a pay raise in the amount of \$1.50 for Dean Lester. Chief explained that Mr. Lester is taking on an additional role as Code enforcement officer and would like to compensate him for that position. Trustee Rupp made a motion; Trustee Otero seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**14.** Larry Berry, Judge asked for the village to approve funding for the replacement of carpet and ceiling panels in the courthouse office. Mayor stated that he will need to get some quotes for the replacement and then can ask for the additional funds during budget hearings. No motion was made.

**15.** Rusty Helton, planning and zoning asked for approval of a building site permit for Thomas Estrada of 400 Bosque. Mr. Helton was represented by Kimberly Skaggs also a part of planning and zoning. She was sworn in by village clerk Rebekah Bryant. Trustee Rupp made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**16.** Rusty Helton, planning and zoning asked for approval of a building site permit for Billie Telles of 615 Hunter Ave. Mr. Helton was represented by Kimberly Skaggs also a part of planning and zoning. Trustee Otero made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**17.** Rusty Helton, planning and zoning asked for approval of a building site permit for Nathan Graves of 805 Clayton Ln. Mr. Helton was represented by Kimberly Skaggs also a part of planning and zoning. Trustee Rupp made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

**18. Old Business:** Mayor Cooksey stated that they have put up extra lights at the Veterans Park so the dispatch can see better and working on getting some of the trees cut. Also for the summertime they are working on getting the machine to be put in the park to deter people from being there after hours.

Trustee Otero stated that she has videos from the little league park and it's getting pretty bad over there and they are getting ready to start the season soon. There are individuals there at all hours of the day and night and asked for extra patrol if possible.

Mayor Cooksey stated that they are diligently working on it but these people are going to go somewhere else and find another place/park to hang out in. She also stated that they have had several meetings with Mescalero and there is basically nothing they can do so we will just have to stay on it.

Trustee Brusuelas stated that Trustee Garwood went and put markers on all the street lights for PNM and was wondering about West 8<sup>th</sup> St. and several streets

over there that do not have lights and was wondering if they had gotten marked. Trustee Garwood stated that they only did the annexation part, but PNM told them that if they have any other request for lighting to just let them know.

Trustee Garwood was asking about the tree issue on determining what trees belong to us and which ones are the Ditch Corp. He stated that we really need to establish who owns what trees so we can properly maintain them.

Trustee Brusuelas asked what we are going to do with all the excess vehicles we have and if we can fix that bucket truck that way we can maintain the trees. Mayor Cooksey stated that there is an auction site that is through the municipal league that we can utilize to auction off the vehicles.

Trustee Brusuelas stated that he would figure out what trees belong to who so that way we will know what we can cut and maintain. Mayor Cooksey stated that at the Ditch Corp. meeting they were talking about cleaning the ditches and they stated what they owned like the property at the water plant and they own the ditches they belong to them, and if that's truly the case then the trees that are growing out of the ditches belong to them and she pointed that out and they did agree that they did belong to them until she said that when they fall that they are responsible to cut them. If it is not on the roadside or not growing on our side than it is not our trees but if it is growing inside the ditch they belong to the Ditch Corp. She doesn't think the village should be responsible for that but we will. Trustee Garwood asked if there is legal documentation stating that because we can argue with them all day long but until we get documentation that shows what belongs to the village from the property line of the personal property to the private property of the person to the edge of the street, we have to establish that as a council on legal documentation map that is done by a plat survey in his opinion. Mayor asked if they are ready to spend a lot of money on that and Trustee Garwood stated that they approved it already.

**19. New Business:** Trustee Brusuelas asked if there is any way the trustees can get ipads so they can be aware of everything like grants and anything that happens with the village so that they do not have to use their personal stuff for village business. Trustee Otero stated that she would like to see the budget and what is being spent and that would be a very useful tool for that. Trustee Rupp stated that maybe make it with their monthly packet an updated budget print out to show what is being spent in the budget. Rebekah stated that she would have Valarie print one out for their packets.

Trustee Otero asked if there was somebody who maintains the website as there are a few things that are outdated. She also stated that she has received some calls regarding signs that are full of graffiti. Rebekah stated that she would put in a work order to have them cleaned or replaced.

**20.** Adjourn: 7:27pm

---

Deborah Cooksey, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

---

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk