

Regular Meeting Minutes–September 17, 2025

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 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 Patrick Garcia
Trustee Robert Sainz
Trustee Manuel Brusuelas
Trustee Mark Garwood-Absent

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 Sainz made a motion to accept the agenda; Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled Correspondence:

Joan Price-She stated that the comprehensive plan is fantastic, and they did a really great job and she couldn't read it. She stated that they had two weeks as the public to respond to it and she looked at it online and she does want to compliment it hugely, but she would like to say a couple of things that she thinks should be considered. She stated that she will start with one, drought considerations, we are likely to have more droughts for our water supplies and threats to our water supplies and our emergency responses. However droughts come with floods and fires, so she thinks the wording needs to be flood and fire and drought. Droughts are part of extreme, and she has looked very carefully at the usts and state engineer date since 2006 when it was our first 100-year flood, two years later we had our first 208-year flood. Ten years earlier she was working at the casino and had to drive up there during the fire above Mescalero. The Village of Tularosa is part of a watershed; you have that 5-mile consideration between the village intake and the intake. Our first fires in Ruidoso began on this side, the fires on Sierra Blanca leapt over is what they were afraid would happen. This last flood we had she looked at the gauge and it was a third bigger than any other flood we had since 2008. She thinks that we are looking not only for bigger floods, we're looking at fire events that lead to the flood, that's what burns the soil off, that's when we get the flooding and the debris. We have to start looking at the whole watershed for the Rio Tularosa.

Cesar Ramos- Stated that this evening he is going to introduce his under sheriff selected. Her name is Anjesca Mokifa. She stated that she is currently a sworn NM police officer in the state of NM originally born in Poland, worked in EMS, been a dispatcher. Her whole goal is to really be the change that the community needs.

3. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2025-2026-7 to adopt ordinance #284 Comprehensive Plan. Allie Casky presented the plan. Allie stated that she is really excited to present the final comprehensive plan and seeking adoption tonight after a two-week public open review, comments were taken, and the plan was updated accordingly. She just briefly wanted to talk about all the effort that was put into this plan, this is just about a year's worth of planning featuring a lot of the folks in this room tonight. We have been meeting periodically and after hundreds of conversations and dozens of meetings, we have spent so much time in Tularosa that we have made a clear vision statement that reflect what people hope to see in the future of the village as well as outlining the plan for implementation and how the village can play a role in that as well as working with non-profits and other partners to implement elements of the plan that will ultimately improve the village the way many people expressed what they wanted to see. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call: Brusuelas-Aye, Garcia-Aye, Garwood-Aye, Sainz-Aye.

4. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked for approval for Linda Vigil (librarian) to keep her unused vacation hours or be paid out. Rebekah stated that Linda is the only one working at the library and it is hard for her to take time off and close the library so she was unable use all her accrued hours. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Saenz seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

5. Geraldine Martinez, Chief of Police is wanting to discuss the maintenance agreement and cost associated for the Spillman/Flex program for the police department. Item was tabled

6. Kendra King, Que Linda Coordinator asked for budget approval for the 2026 Que Linda grant award. Kendra stated that we did apply for the 2026 round of Que Linda funding and we did receive it in the amount of \$125,000. The fact that we got another year of funding is great for the village and it's just moving us one step forward. The spending is pretty cut and dry and is kind of vague right now and just wants to explain a few things like leaving the staffing just the same as it was. The rest of the money being spent will be on equipment. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

7. Anthony Stogden, Individual asked for a waiver to stay in his RV while he is remodeling his home at 806 Elouise Circle. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

8. Paetin Silva, Individual asked for a waiver to stay in her RV at 501 West Ln. while they remodel their home. Mr. Silva spoke for Paetin and confirmed that they will be done in just a few months. Trustee Brusuelas made a motion; Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

9. Mark Garwood, Trustee asked to look into a grant designated for the removal of salt cedars. Trustee Garwood stated that he had been doing some research along the Rio Grande and the Bosque they've been removing the salt cedars and they can suck up as much as 2000 gallons per tree a day. So what he wants to do is look into a grant available through the department of agriculture right now and we can put in for it in November 15th or May 15th. It will be a no cost to the village grant. He is just asking if we can look closer into it to see what we could do. Mayor Cooksey asked where we would be utilizing this grant. Trustee Garwood stated along the creek by the intake. Mayor Cooksey stated that there will be a problem with the ditch corporation because that land is not ours and we would have to coordinate with them. Trustee Garwood stated that also below the intake we have to get rid of them there too because that affects our water table in Tularosa, the more water we can get out of the water table in Tularosa, as you can see there is a lot of agriculture and the more water we can replace into that water table is gonna help the situation in the future. Trustee Brusuelas stated that this has been done in Pecos and they removed them all to save from losing so much water. Trustee Garwood stated that he believes that grant is like \$60,000 so that is a good amount to help with getting rid of them. Discussion only.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business: None

12. Adjourn: 6:51pm

Deborah Cooksey, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk