

**Emergency Board Meeting**  
**Stagecoach Hills Neighborhood Association**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**  
**6:00 P.M. MST**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Tyler Kollenbroich, President; Gary Hillman, Vice President; Charles Morris, Treasurer; Bonnie Taylor, Secretary.  
Directors: Mary Lane Leslie, Rhonda Vanderhoff. Member/Resident SHNA: Doug Leslie.

**Agenda:** The meeting was called to order in response to an urgent request from Mary Lane and Doug Leslie. The Leslies were asking the Board to submit a letter of support by a January 27 deadline. This letter will accompany an application for a loan (El Prado Water estimates \$950,000) to extend the El Prado Water "Abeyta Settlement" 12" pipeline.

**Background:** Mary Lane presented a letter from the Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova and Taos County Fire Marshall James Hampton brought to them by member/resident Bonnie Golden, because the site Cordova and Hampton chose in Oct 2019 for a new Taos County Fire and Rescue Station and Training Station abuts land the Leslies own (fronting US 64W just 50' off Calle Feliberto), central to the area that would be covered by the new station. The entire area extends from the blinking light (intersection of Hwy 64, 522, 150) to the Gorge Bridge; north and south boundaries for the new fire district are to be determined.

Mary Lane emphasized that SHNA is not assigned to any fire district. When dispatch is called for a fire or EMS, they send whoever responds first. Hondo Mesa-Hondo Seco FD Jaramillo Brothers are no longer responding to the SHNA area, if others have already responded. She reminded the Board that two homes have burned to the ground due to this situation; one was at the far north end of Tune, the other under construction near Terry and Linda Thompson.

Funds for development of the fire station have not been available until the Abeyta Settlement brought money to El Prado Water, Taos County, and Town of Taos. El Prado Water used their funds to install deep wells authorized by the Settlement with Taos Pueblo. EPW installed pipelines for service from their new wells (one north of US 64 W and one south of US 64 W). The pipeline means no big well would be drilled for this new Fire and Rescue Station.

Now there are funds available from the New Mexico State Budget for a rural development program managed by the New Mexico Finance Authority for public safety and infrastructure with the help of El Prado Water and TCFD Fire Chief and others with the background and experience to get this done. Within the last two years, the pipeline was installed and runs to the hydrant in front of Waste Management, across from the airport. With the proposed loan, the pipeline can be extended about 4000' to the site chosen by Cordova and Hampton and would be first step to begin construction for the professionally staffed Taos County Fire and Rescue and Training Station. The application will be submitted February 4, 2025, and the loan should be issued within 6 months.

If all goes well, the Fire Station can be in SHNA ready for operation within a year after approval of the loan and bring relief to all the people living between the blinking light and the Gorge Bridge. (The loan is not tied to federal funds; it would come from state money from NM severance tax coffers.)

**Discussion:** Charles asked if there was a reason not to support the effort to construct a fire station that can serve SHNA. There was no objection to the project. The project appears to benefit the neighborhood. Mary Lane assured the Board that SHNA will not be responsible for the loan. The developer, Audex Capital, LLC (Delaware, operating in Colorado and Florida), will be responsible. Costs for the pipeline extension and hookups will be covered by the loan funds.

**Vote:** Because the Leslies plan to sell two acres to the project and maybe donate a third, Mary Lane recused herself from the vote, still leaving a quorum. Charles made a motion to generate a letter of support from the SHNA Board, Bonnie seconded, and the motion carried. Tyler agreed to write the letter on behalf of the Board. Mary Lane said she would send other letters of support for his reference.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Taylor, Secretary  
Attachment: Letter from Taos County Fire Chief and Fire Marshall



# Taos County Fire - Rescue

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Bob Romero  
District 1

Miguel Romero  
District 2

Darlene Vigil  
District 3

District 4  
Anjanette Brush

Ronald Mascarenas  
District 5

Brent Jaramillo  
County Manager

Michael Cordova  
County Fire/EMS  
Chief

David Varela  
County EMS OPS.  
Chief

James Hampton  
County Fire Marshal/  
Fire OPS.

Mr. John Brooks  
Chief of Programs  
New Mexico Finance Authority  
207 Shelby Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

As the Taos County Fire Chief and the Taos County Fire Marshall, respectively, please accept our letter of support for the water extension to the 3 acres we have selected near the intersection of US 64 W and Calle Feliberto for a new Taos County Fire and Rescue Station which will also serve as a partial training ground for Taos County Firefighters. This is 3 miles from Blueberry Hill Rd and 3 miles from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, and central to 24 square miles of Taos County that lack public health and safety protection.

The area west on US 64 in Taos County beginning at the intersection of US 64 West, NM 522, and NM 150 to the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge is the subject of this need.

Within this area are over 2000 commercial and light industrial businesses and residential areas, including Lower Las Colonias and The Stagecoach Neighborhood Association. This large area is unassigned to any Taos County Fire/Recue volunteer department. In the event of a fire or medical emergency, the Taos County Dispatch sends a response request to multiple volunteer Districts close to that area. The response time is not less than 20 to 30 minutes, a critical time which leaves little hope of saving any home or business. Two homes have been lost in the last few years because of the extended response time.

The first essential step is to obtain sufficient water to adequately supply the new Station and 50,000 gallon holding tanks required for public safety. The extension of the El Prado Water 12" pipeline is the best source for the needed water and meets water conservation directives of Taos County. The EPW pipeline is currently installed approximately 4000-5000 feet from the future site of the planned TCFD/EMS Headquarters.

The undersigned are in firm support of the pending development of the Taos County Fire and Rescue Station and the extension and installation of the El Prado Water to the site.

Please contact us: [mike.cordova@taoscountynm.gov](mailto:mike.cordova@taoscountynm.gov) and [james.hampton@taoscountynm.gov](mailto:james.hampton@taoscountynm.gov) if we can be of further information and assistance.

Very truly yours,

Taos County Fire Chief  
Mike Cordova

Taos County Fire Marshall  
James Hampton

