VILLAGE OF ANGEL FIRE
Wildfire Protection Committee Meeting
Monday, February 9th at 1:00PM at Village Hall

I. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Rick Sprott called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge was led by Sprott.

III. **Roll Call.** Voting Members Present at the meeting were: David Hartson, John Goodson, Mike Clemmons, and Rick Sprott.
Staff Members and Council Liaison: Rick Tafoya, Andy Bertges, Burl Smith, and Brinn Colenda.
Members Excused: Scott Jones. Members Absent: Dan Rakes.
Visitors: Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Howe, Councilor Rogers Lanon, Pat McCarthy, and David Sharf.
Voting Members present: 4; a quorum was declared.

IV. **Approval of Agenda.** Hartson moved, Clemmons seconded, passed unanimously.

V. **Approval of Minutes.** Hartson moved, Goodson seconded, passed unanimously

VI. **Old Business**

A. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – **Andy.** Will provide a "checklist" of what is required to update the CWPP to the full committee before the March meeting.

B. Village Forester Hire and Committee Recommendations – **Rick S & Rick T.** Rick Tafoya asked the committee for specific reasons for hiring a forester ASAP. Sprott listed items in the job description that should be a priority. The forester would provide improved building inspections, secure wildfire program grants, provide professional assistance to property owners in dealing with diseased/infected trees and dangerous fuels, and prioritize treatment of areas with the greatest risk to property owners. A forester will relieve the Village Fire Department staff of wildfire duties that take up to 20% of their time and divert department staff from primary duties.

A forester might also assist with disaster recovery. The committee discussed presentations at the Taos Fire Adapted Workshop on October 21 that addressed disaster recovery from wildfires. Communities that preplan for recovery actions and funding are able to restore critical services and forest/watershed recovery much faster than those that do not. In addition, it might be possible to get FEMA funding to help pay for the position and/or training if the job title/description included disaster preparedness and recovery. Chief Bertges said that FEMA actions are currently included in both the CWPP and Village Hazard Mitigation Plan. The committee felt the forester position should address recovery, but not be transformed into an emergency preparedness position.

C. Discussion and committee comments on Ordinance Draft – **Mike.** Hartson asked what the public process was for revising an ordinance. A final committee draft would be recommended to the Village staff and council for their action. If the proposal remains as part of the building code, it would need to go to the Zoning Commission for action prior to the Council. If the Council approves a version in a 1st Reading, a public notice and comment period would follow before a hearing and 2nd reading at a subsequent council meeting. The process is for amending current legislation.

D. Update on Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) permitting/operation – **Rick T.** No change. Sprott said he could assist again in March. The Bureau of Solid Waste requested additional information for the ACI Operating Plan as part of the Bureau's ACI registration process. Tafoya also said State Forestry has indicated it would assist communities with the environmental approval process with NMED.

E. Update on Potential Tree Harvester – **Brinn & Dan.** No new updates. Colenda and Rakes were asked to confer and contact the Butler Company.

F. Recommendations for Feb Council Meeting – **Rick S & Brinn.** Sprott had emailed an outline to committee for review. He will consult with Colenda to finalize for February 10 Council Meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Spring/Early Summer "Open House" – AAFPO Weekend is June 5-7, but there are too many activities to also do an Open House. Members felt the Committee should have educational materials at Membership Meeting on June 6. Sprott to check Chamber and other calendars for dates to hold Open House.

VIII. Additional Comments/Questions from Committee. None

IX. Comments and Questions from Audience Members.

Rogers Lanon: Village must needs to focus on infrastructure so focus on forester and not FEMA. What can Council do to help the committee? He also has concerns about the dependence on Jack Cohen's research. Sprott responded that Cohen's research is published in many peer-reviewed scientific journals and has been the basis for Firewise and many other established programs.

Pat McCarthy: Ordinance committee draft is improvement. The committee's documents (e.g. agendas and minutes) are not appearing on the Village webpage in a timely manner. Sprott said the committee would get caught up as soon as possible.

VII. Adjournment. With no further business, Hartson moved to adjourn, Clemmons seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 9th day of March 2015.

Recorded by Rick Sprott in absence of Scott Jones, Secretary

Rick Sprott, Chairman

ATTEST:

Terry Cordova, Village Clerk