

OFFICIAL MINUTES

VILLAGE OF MELROSE

P.O. Box 235

Melrose, New Mexico 88124

The Village Council met in regular session on, August 10, 2026 at 5:30pm at Melrose Village Hall.

Mayor Alan Daugherty called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Ronald Moore, Richard Swopes, Jeremy Burnett, James Mitchell

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jennifer Swopes – Clerk/Treasurer/CPO, Brian Fulkrod – Public Works Director, Phyllis Broeder – Water Clerk/MVD, Amanda Vineyard – Asst. Clerk/Deputy Water Clerk

Opening Prayer by Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Jim Mitchell

Guests: Mark Latham and Viki Lee

Melrose Fire Department Report: Jeremy Burnett had nothing new to report.

Approval of July 27 , 2026 Minutes

Motion: Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore

Second: Councilman James Mitchell

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Jeremy Burnett - Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore- Aye

Councilman Richard Swopes – Aye

Councilman James Mitchell - Aye

Motion carried: 4-0

Motion: Councilman James Mitchell

Second: Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Jeremy Burnett – Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore – Aye

Councilman James Mitchell – Aye

Councilman Richard Swopes – Aye

Motion Carried – 4-0

Public Comment – 5 minute maximum per speaker.

Viki Lee – Nothing

Mark Latham – the Melrose 250 Celebration Committee has decided to keep running their group and Facebook page. The name will be changed to Melrose Events. Jessica and Holly from American Heritage Bank will be the admins for the Facebook Page. This will not be a platform for negativity, Negative posts and comments will be removed immediately. Residents of Melrose can utilize this page for yard sales and other community events. They will probably do something for July 4th next year but it will not be on the level of this years celebration.

Employee Reports:

Brian Fulkrod of Public Works reports that Old Timers Day in his opinion was good. There were a couple of holes discovered at the park. One he believes may have been a tree at some point and the other was a collapsed sprinkler cover. Catching up on other tasks now that Old Timers Day has concluded. The tree at the Whistle Stop and the tree at the Senior Center will be trimmed this week. Looking forward to training later this month that will provide him with the knowledge needed to oversee construction projects. He will be attending the NM Infrastructure Finance Convention in November with Jennifer and Amanda. Hope to leave with the ability to get an asset management system in place.

Jennifer Swopes of Finance reported that we received a call from over the weekend from Colton of Legacy Church in Clovis. Every year on 911 they bless a fire department with a thermal imaging camera. This year, they have chosen to donate one to the Melrose Fire Department. Kenny has been given his information. Adding to Fire Department news, today, I received a letter from the State Fire Marshall. This letter has provided FY2026-27 state funding information. The Melrose Fire Department will receive \$479,181.00. That is an increase of \$143,859 over last fiscal year.

The Senior Center freezer is still a problem that I'm actively dealing with. Last week I spoke with Mark Melhoff, the State Controller. He told me what I was pretty sure I already knew; I cannot buy another freezer and pay for it in advance. It is against State Law. I have contacted Amy Latham and informed her of the situation. I informed her that I will need two quotes for building modifications. We are going to have to make this freezer work. She will need the hole in the building and the concrete pad enlarged. As of today, I have not received any quotes.

All reimbursements on the big park grant have been received and final report submitted.

Trees in the park – We cannot buy trees with grant money to use within the community. We are applying for a “trails plus grant” that will fund the installation of walking trails in Baxter Park. This grant will also fund the installation of exercise equipment around the walking trails. I am researching other options for trees in our community.

She will start Finance I class on Friday and will be attending the NMML annual conference in Las Cruces at the end of the month.

At the end of last month while she and Deaun were reconciling the books for the 4th quarter report for DFA, there were items that were incorrectly coded leaving \$841.26 in LEPF funds that did not get spent. This money will be refunded to the State.

Health Insurance has increased with the new FY. On average covered employees will see an increase of roughly \$30 monthly.

Christmas decorations – There is currently \$2,397.41 in the Christmas fund. Pole mounted decorations average \$800 - \$2,500 each. I have looked at banners instead of lights. There are definitely more affordable. Average cost \$31 - \$150 plus hardware.

Phyllis Broeder – DMV is running steady. Always busier at the beginning and end of the month

Council Reports

Councilman Jeremy Burnett – Nothing to report.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore – Inquired about the electricity on the large gazebo at Baxter Park is not working. Added that the park looked good for Old Timers Day.

Councilman James Mitchell – Agreed with Ronald Moore, the park looked good for Old Timers Day.

Councilman Richard Swopes – He missed Old Timers Day, but heard good things about the event..

Mayors Report

The mayor reports that he estimates community participation n Old Timers Day to be roughly 300 people. We had a couple of food trucks and a few vendors. Community Bridges were here and visited with several members of the community. There was a Pickle Ball Tournament that ran 3 days. This year an escape room was added and he welcomes suggestions for additions to next year's celebration.

Melrose will receive an award for NMML at the end of the month. “Most Improved” Award in the small

municipality classification.

The COPs Hiring grant application has been submitted.

Mayor Daugherty said that he was contacted by youth from the High School in regards to trash cans on Main Street and the need for more. He asked Brian about trash cans and Brian replied that there are 2 trash cans on Main Street and that he can add more.

Prior to new stage installation there was a water fountain on the North end of the park that had been donated by the Rotary Club and another dedication to Jim Riddling. Mayor Daugherty asked if these plaques could be installed on the stage.

Mayor Daugherty has had requests to use the baseball field for softball tournaments. This will require public works to get it mowed. The mayor did explain to the residents that there will be a lot of stickers in that ball field and that if they needed a place in the short-term that they could use the ball field at the school.

NMED will be moving to the next stage in the city hall inspections for lead paint, black mold and asbestos.

This inspection is slated to cost \$17k. Nothing will be charged to the Village for this inspection.

The Brownfield project – local assessment of the village buildings. Survey all buildings in the Village and then create a map with details of each property. An Engineering company will come in to do the assessment. WE hope that they will utilize our people and hire locally for this project.

Western Gateway Pipeline Project – This pipeline will run from Borger Texas to El Paso Texas. It will cut across Curry County between here and CAFB. They are seeking advice and input from the community. The mayor will be attending a meeting August 19th.

Mayor Daugherty will be speaking at Governors Economic Development Conference. He will be speaking on local communities and assets to improve the community. Utilizing the youth of our community and the schools for community clean-ups and projects. He hope that participation In this and the conference can help some of our youth when applying for the Daniels Scholarship.

Old Sump – Mayor Daugherty has a rancher that is interested in buying or leasing the old dump south of town. We cannot sell the land because it was a dump in the past. Leasing the land to the rancher is the next possibility. If legally allowed to do to, the lease would have to clearly state that the land was a dump and therefore may have hole and other dangers. The Village of Melrose would be free and clear of any and all damages caused to livestock on this tract of land. This lease would need to be reviewed by an attorney.

Topics for next Agenda

Grazing Lease

Being no further business the mayor will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilman James Mitchell

Second: Councilman Richard Swopes

Roll Call

Councilman James Mitchell- Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Moore - Aye

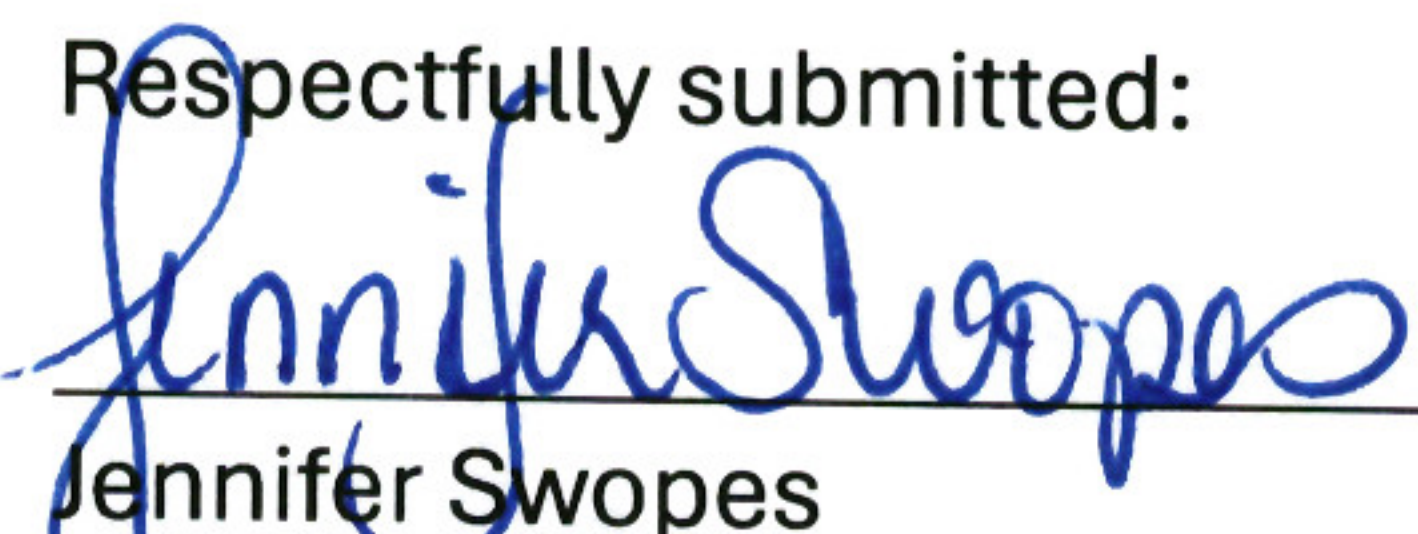
Councilman Richard Swopes- Aye

Councilman Jeremy Burnett - Aye

Motion Carried: 4-0

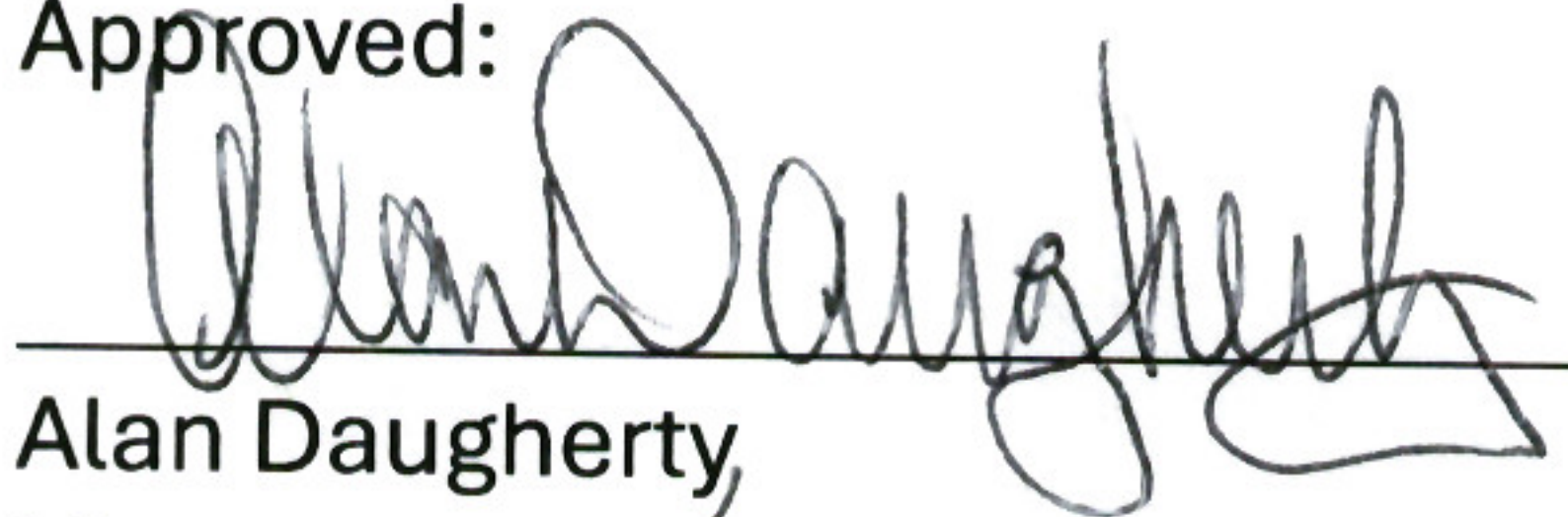
Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Jennifer Swopes
Clerk/Treasurer/CPO

Approved:



Alan Daugherty
Mayor
Date: 8/26

