

## Town seeks three for planning commission

By Matthew van Buren

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The town of Taos is seeking to fill three of seven positions on its Planning and Zoning Commission following several resignations.

Town planner Rudy Perea said commissioners Ted Dimond, Mario Suazo and Pavel Lukes have resigned, and the town is looking to replace them as soon as possible.

“We’re down three Planning and Zoning commissioners,” he said.

Perea said those interested in sitting on the commission, which meets once a month, should be willing to volunteer their time and learn town codes. He said community voices, and especially those of women, would be welcome on the currently all-male commission.

“We need more balance on the commission,” he said. “It would be nice if they had a real estate background, a land use background.”

Perea said those appointed could have a long-lasting impact on Taos, including helping the town finalize updates to its Vision 2020 master plan, giving input regarding ordinances and making other decisions that will “determine how Taos develops in the future.”

“They’re actually coming on board at a good time,” he said.

Perea said applicants must reside within the town limits.

Applicants will be reviewed by the planning department, and the Town Council will ultimately vote on whether to ratify the mayor’s nominees. According to town code, commissioners serve staggered terms of two years apiece. Upon a commissioner’s resignation or other vacancy, an appointment is to be made for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Those interested in sitting on the commission may submit letters of interest, including background information and addresses, to interim planning director Matthew Foster by mail at the Taos Municipal Building, 400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM, 87571 or by email at [mfoster@taosgov.com](mailto:mfoster@taosgov.com). Foster can be reached by phone at (575) 751-2037.