



## Town of Taos **NEWS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Oscar Rodriguez, Town Manager, [orodriguez@taosgov.com](mailto:orodriguez@taosgov.com) , (575) 751-2002

### **Taos County Cancels Contract with Town of Taos to House Inmates**

**February 24, 2014** - Taos County Manager, Stephen Archuleta, has notified the Town of Taos that effective in 30 days Taos County will terminate its inmate confinement contract with the Town and will no longer admit the Town's detainees at the Taos County Detention Center on weekends (see attached letter). The County's action may force the Town to transport its detainees outside the county.

Mayor Darren Cordova said, "I am disappointed the County is terminating our contract and no longer wants to work with us on this issue. It is disheartening the County would prefer we take our detainees to another county, even after Town leaders and Town and County constituents supported and voted for the GRT increase that allowed for the construction of the new county jail and judicial facility. A major selling point to constituents for the new jail was to keep those inmate fees in our county."

In his notice, Archuleta offered a new contract but only on a case by case basis (also attached). In the current contract, all Town non-juvenile detainees are admitted during the weekend at no cost in exchange for in-kind Town police support on an on-call basis. Taos County charges the Town a daily rate of \$100 per detainee, \$35 more than the rate of surrounding counties. So far this fiscal year, the Town has paid \$35,700 to Taos County for this service. The previous year it paid \$55,900.

-End-

#### **TOWN OF TAOS GOVERNING BODY**

Mayor Darren M. Cordova  
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew T. Gonzales  
Councilmember Rudy C. Abeyta  
Councilmember Frederick A. Peralta  
Councilmember Michael A. Silva

400 Camino de la Placita  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
(575) 751-2002

Town Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Visit us on our website: [www.taosgov.com](http://www.taosgov.com)