

MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING
of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
of SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
HELD TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 AT 2:00 PM

ZOOM LINK is NOT active due to no internet Service at Pecos Village Hall. At least 72 hours in advance of this meeting, the following agenda was posted and available for public inspection on the San Miguel County Website at www.co.sanmiguel.nm.us and available in hard copy at the office of the San Miguel County Manager.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Harold Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at the Pecos Village Hall at 92 South Main Street, Pecos, New Mexico 87552.

2. ROLL CALL

Clerk Admin Assistant Jacob Gonzales administered Roll Call: Chairman Harold Garcia present; Vice-Chairman Martin Sena present; Commissioner Janice Varela present; Commissioner Max Trujillo present; Commissioner Kenneth Medina present.

A quorum is present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Janice Varela led the chambers in the pledge, and

4. SALUTATION TO THE NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG:

"I salute the flag of the State of New Mexico and the Zia Symbol of perfect friendship among United Cultures".

Commissioner Janice Varela relayed a message from Mayor Telesfor "Ted" Benavidez who welcomes everyone to the Village Hall for the annual Commission meeting held at Pecos. Mayor Benavidez is recovering from surgery for a brain tumor. Chairman Harold Garcia asked for a moment of silence in honor of Cabo Lucero Fire Chief Tim Nix, and Father George Salazar.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Manager Joy Ansley asked to remove item "c" Request to have June's Commission meeting on June 9th. Commissioner Janice Varela asked that item "h" be left fluid for presentation to accommodate arrival of the Pecos High School Teams and Coaches.

Motion to approve Agenda with changes indicated made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for approval are RM-04-11-2023.

Motion to approve minutes of RM-04-11-2023 Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC INPUT FORUM

Ms. Dawn Fischer who lives on Rowe Mesa expressed her concern about fire danger for the area. There is no fire chief at the Rowe Fire Department. Ms. Fischer also expressed concern about the hot mix asphalt plant which uses fire to melt the asphalt. What safety measures have been taken for this plant to minimize fire? There are no water wells in the area. The 16 families who live in the area are concerned for fire damage.

NEW BUSINESS

8. REGULAR ORDER

a. COUNTY MANAGER / DEPUTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Joy Ansley informed the Commission on the following matters:

County is working closely with the Disaster Preparedness Manager Clarity Collins provided to the County by the NC NM Economic Development Board to assist in applying for the grants and funds being administered by NMDFA. In order for the applications to be submitted, FEMA must first obligate the County's projects. \$64 Million in projects still need to be obligated. * When loan proceeds are approved and allocated to the County, the County should consider hiring a construction project manager for the multi-million multiple construction projects heading our way. This position may be funded for a couple of years if Ms. Collins is able to secure funding from other grants/sources. * NMAC Leadership Classes: Jesus Romero, Benito Romero, Kenneth Abeyta, Steven Garcia, and Vidal Crespín. * Sheriff's Office, Clerk's Voting Storage and Addiction Treatment Center – administrative entries to the states Workforce Solutions database; upon completion, the next phase(s) of the projects can begin.

Deputy Manager Jesus Romero informed the Commission on the following matters:

SMC endured its first fire event of the season with the eruption of a fire which was allegedly caused by dry lightning at the O'Connor Ranch off NM Hwy 104. Mr. Romero thanked all the volunteer firefighters who assisted in containing this event. SMC Chief Andrew Duran; **Sapello VFD**, Justin Buhrkul, Manuel Silva, Marcy Silva, Paul Armijo, Aaron Atencio. **Gallinas VFD**, Justin

Martinez, Gary Gallegos, Jasmine Gallegos. **Sheridan VFD**, Daniel Atencio, Gilbert Baca, Marcus Baca, Brandon Lucero, Kyle Kamber, Nicole Montano. **El Pueblo VFD**, Steven Gallegos, JD Yara. **Trementina VFD**, Efraim Estrada, Chris Trujillo, Christen Richardson. **La Placita VFD**, Aiden Leyba, Paul Martinez. **Conchas VFD**, Ross Gurule, Roy Perea, David Brock, Danny Archuleta. 1,150 acres were burned.

* Chairman Harold Garcia added that citizens from Gonzales Ranch called to thank blade operator Mr. Juan Macias for cutting a fire line in the recent brush-fire that occurred in Gonzales Ranch. This action kept many houses safe.

b. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Road Foreman Johnny Trujillo informed the Commission that blading and culvert reconstruction continues in Pendaries/Rociada area. Blading continues in Gonzales Ranch, Leyba area. The department is down one blade operator with Mr. Trujillo filling in when possible, and another out for surgery. Colonias and B49 are on the list for continued work.

~~**c. REQUEST TO HAVE JUNE'S COMMISSION MEETING ON JUNE 9TH**~~

d. GREEN WASTE UPDATE

Manager Joy Ansley informed the Commission that two months (June & October) will be selected for acceptance of clean green waste on every Saturday of the month selected. Upon sufficient accumulation, contractor will be brought in to chip the waste. The dates for clean green waste pick-up will be advertised on radio shows and other media. The waste collection site needs to be manned.

e. RESCIND COVID-19 POLICY

Deputy Manager Jesus Romero asked the SMC covid-19 policy be rescinded as the Public Health Emergency Directive has been removed by the CDC.

Motion to rescind SMC Covid-19 policy made by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina

f. UPPER PECOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION UPDATE*

Mr. Frank "Pancho" Adelo informed the Commission on the projects currently being undertaken by the Association to improve the Upper Pecos Watershed. A cleanup was set-up from Upper Pecos, NM to Pecos, Texas to clean the river and its banks. The Association is thankful there are visible Sheriff's Patrols in the watershed area which helps in reducing waste, fire, and encourages lawful behavior that supports the watershed.

*For Informational Purposes Only

g. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION OF THE UPPER PECOS RIVER WATERSHED THROUGH THE WITHDRAWAL OF MINERAL RIGHTS

Commissioner Janice Varela introduced Mr. Ralph Vigil, NM Acequia Commission Chairman, to present the Commission the Resolution to withdraw mineral rights from the Upper Pecos River Watershed. Comexico LLC has requested development permits for 4,300 acres of mining claims in the watershed area. Administrative Withdrawal of mining rights would prevent new hard rock mining claims on approx. 165K acres of public lands managed by Santa Fe National Forest and 1,600 acres managed by Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Dan Roper with Trout Unlimited spoke on the dangers to maintaining wild fish in the river if toxic run-off is absorbed by the river due to dirty mining practices. Ms. Sally Paez, staff attorney with NM Wild encouraged the passage of withdrawal of mineral rights. Commissioner Janice Varela introduced statements from Bob Wesley and Pat Lahann encouraging support for the resolution. These rights can be withdrawn for a period of 20 years.

Motion to approve Resolution in Support of Administrative Withdrawal of Mineral Rights in the Upper Pecos River Watershed, and encourage Legislative Protection of the Watershed made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: H. Garcia M. Sena J. Varela M. Trujillo K. Medina Unanimous Passage

h. PROCLAMATION DECLARING PECOS PANTHER DAY

Commissioner Janice Varela read the Proclamation honoring the State Champions of Pecos in Track, Cross-Country and Basketball and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of Pecos ISD.

Motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 09th, 2023 as Pecos Panther Day in San Miguel County made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Martin Sena. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: H. Garcia M. Sena J. Varela M. Trujillo K. Medina Unanimous Passage

i. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS

Public Works Director Benito Romero asked for approval to renew annual engineering contracts with Suina Design/Architecture, Bohannon-Huston, and Souder-Miller for one year.

Motion to approve renewal of engineering contracts made by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

j. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LAS VEGAS FOR DETAINEE CONFINEMENT AT SMCDC

Warden Antonio Padilla asked for approval of the MOA with City of Las Vegas to increase daily rate to \$125 per day plus \$20 booking fee. On July 1, 2024 the city will be charged for each arrest brought to SMCDC.

Motion to approve changes to the Memorandum of Agreement with City of Las Vegas for detainee confinement at SMCDC made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

Warden Padilla informed the Commission that an RFP was issued for Medical and Mental Health Care Services at SMCDC on Friday, May 05, 2023. The RFP is requesting additional services than currently offered. The current cost is \$700K/yearly. * Warden Padilla informed that a grant request was submitted for a re-integration center for \$396K. * National Corrections Officers Week is being celebrated at the Detention Center with gifts and food for the hard-working individuals that maintains operations and security at the Detention Center.

k. ROWE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Tim Cunningham Secretary Treasurer of Rowe VFD presented the Commission information on the RVFD grant application. Grant #6 from Congressional Direct Spending grant in the amount of \$338K to purchase a \$450K fire engine. Mr. Cunningham is asking the County to act as Fiscal Agent for RVFD. There is another application for a grant in the amount of \$600K from Senator Heinrich's budget appropriation for the USDA. These grants require a copy of the 2022 Fiscal Year Audit of the County. This audit has not been completed. RVFD currently has \$158K in funds – some of these funds have been encumbered. Propane tanks and water storage tanks is estimated to cost \$400K. The deadline for the grant has been extended to June 02, 2023. RVFD is currently making payments on an outstanding loan. Fire Chief Andrew Duran is reticent on approving this grant as Fiscal Agent due to match percentages required of the County and deadlines for completion of projects. Manager Ansley is curious as to how RVFD is completing Congressional Direct Spending application as the process is cumbersome. Chairman Garcia expressed concern that budgeting issues are not being addressed to the Commission whose function is to administer the budget by statute.

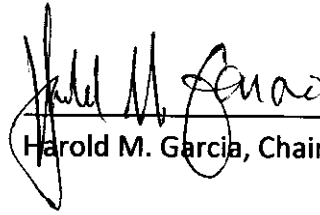
Motion to table the RVFD grant application until further review by the Manager's and Finance Office made by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – H. Garcia M. Sena J. Varela M. Trujillo K. Medina Unanimous Passage

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn RM-05-09-2023 made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried. Adjournment at 3:56 PM.

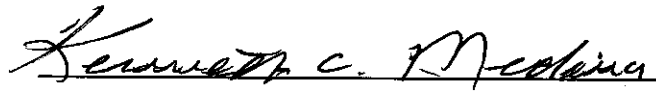
Approved this 19th day of June, 2023 as the Official Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County New Mexico, of its Regular Meeting held May 09, 2023 at 2:00 PM at Pecos Village Hall.

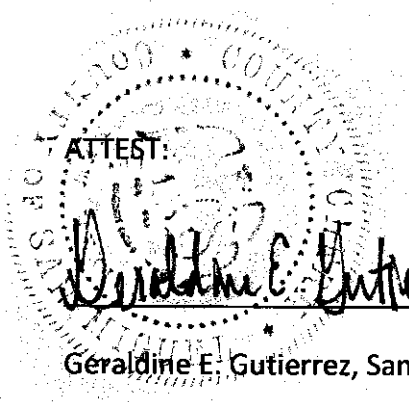

Harold M. Garcia, Chairman - District 1


Martin Sena, Vice-Chairman - District 4

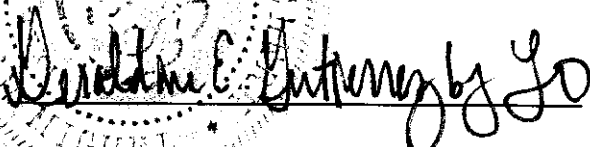

Janice C. Varela, Commissioner - District 2



Max Trujillo, Commissioner - District 3


Kenneth C. Medina, Commissioner District 5



ATTEST:


Geraldine E. Gutierrez, San Miguel County Clerk



Minutes submitted by Jacob P. Gonzales

NOTICE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing(s) or meeting(s), please contact the San Miguel County Managers Office at (505) 425-9333 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the county at the above number if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed