

**MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING**  
**of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**of SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**  
**HELD MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023 AT 10:00 PM**

ZOOM LINK is active. 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](http://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 10:00 AM at the SMC Administration Complex Commission Chamber Suite 201 at 500 W. National Ave., Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chief Deputy Clerk Louanna Ortega 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**

Chief Deputy Clerk Louanna Ortega 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".**

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Max Trujillo asked that item "m" Wildfire Resilience Training Center be heard before item "a".

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

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for approval are RM-05-09-2023, SM-05-16-2023 and SM-05-30-2023.

Motion to approve RM-05-09-2023, SM-05-16-2023 and SM-05-30-2023 minutes made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

## **7. PUBLIC INPUT FORUM**

Mr. Manuel Garcia spoke on fiscal responsibility and minimizing fraud and embezzlement in managing indigent funds. Solid waste past-due bills are being caught up. Taxes from big ranches and other outfits need to be paid on time to increase the county coffers. Assessments are important in building proper tax rates. In regards to the Healthcare Study Group, Mr. Garcia recommends that hospitals and healthcare be non-profit.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **8. REGULAR ORDER**

#### **m. Wildfire Resilience Training Center**

Catherine Mann – Ecological Monitoring Program Manager, Staci Matlock – Communications, Crystal Medina – Collaboration, and Shantini Ramakrishnan – Conservation Program Manager of the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at NMHU with 22 staff members has been conducting fire fuel studies and education in minimizing fire risk. Post fire studies include restoration, erosion control and rebuilding efforts through land-use workshops, watershed and flood-plain restoration. The Resilience Training Center is focused on re-training to maximize burn scar rehabilitation as well as fire training for volunteer units and professional fire crews. Workshops training includes youth for generational continuity.

#### **a. COUNTY MANAGER / DEPUTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Joy Ansley informed the Commission on the following matters:

\*There are various construction building projects throughout the county in addition to the various road projects. Franken Construction is diligent in rehabbing the Addiction Treatment Center and has submitted its first payment request. Michael Long Construction is busy rehabbing the Sherriff's office and has also submitted its first payment request. Magnum Construction has received its Notice to Proceed on the Clerk's Voting Storage Center as the building has been delivered. Project work is to begin soon. \*The schematic plan for the shooting range is complete. The range is funded through a legislative appropriation. Architect costs are within budget and hopefully work can begin on this project in August. \*NM Association of Counties Conference was informative for many who attended. One large concern is Counties being asked to act as Fiscal Agents for numerous non-profits and other NGOs and many counties are adopting policies outlining expectations/legality of such requests, and Manager Ansley recommends SMC consider one as well. \*SMC is hosting the 2024 NMAC

Conference and a planning meeting will be held this week to begin planning the 2024 Conference in Las Vegas, NM. \*FY-2024 interim budget was submitted to NMDFA. Final budget is due 31 July 2023. \*The FY-2024 budget complete, the Finance Department will begin focus on the 2021 Audit and then 2022 Audit.

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

\*Deputy Manager Romero with Kenneth Abeyta, Steven Garcia, Vidal Crespín, Benito Romero and Steven Garcia completed Leadership NM Program Workshop. \*Attended NM Counties conference. \*Continued communication and coordination with Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Operations Manager Clarity Collins. \*Attended the NMDFA Federal Grant Matching Webinar Conference. \*Roger's Mortuary processed two unclaimed corpses. \*Ongoing operations meeting regarding the incoming EagleView software. \*New Maintenance Supervisor starts in July, and interim supervisor Richard Rivera has been doing an amazing job. \*AMR contract negotiations. \*Budget issues discussed with Finance Director Katherine Sanchez. \*Radio station show will be held on Thursday and safety and firework issues will be topics.

#### **b. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**

Road Foreman Johnny Trujillo informed the Commission that blading and culvert reconstruction continues in Pendaries/Rociada area including Sabinoso, Cow Creek and the areas affected by the rains. Commissioner Sena asked about A16B being locked. Commissioner Varela requested information on B41A and the road leading up to the old school-house in San Juan – according to Mr. Trujillo and PW Director Benito Romero this stretch of road is not on the county road log. To create this as a county maintained road, the Commission will need to take actions to add to the road log.

County Fire Chief Andrew Duran informed the Commission that the Sheridan VFD [Sapello, Rociada & Gallinas are assisting] is creating a Youth Fire Program this summer from June 26 through July 1. Tactical Rescue Training and fast-water rescue training missions have been attended by members of County VFDs. The Tecolotito Fire Station is a subordinate station to the Sheridan VFD. Rowe Fire Station exists regardless of the rumors, and a new chief has been appointed.

IT Director Kenneth Abeyta informed the Commission about the broadband initiative brought about by ARPA funding. This funding can be applied to the County Fairgrounds Complex and the Public Works facility.

**c. RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION MEMBERS FOR SMC AND DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES FOR STATEWIDE ELECTIONS CONDUCTED IN 2024 AND 2025**

Chief Deputy Clerk Louanna Ortega asked for approval of appointment of Board Members of the Registration. Tecolote will now be a VCC. All polling locations in SMC are now VCCs.

Motion to approve Resolution 2023-06-19 Appointing the Board of Registration Members for SMC and Designating the Location of Polling Places for all Statewide Elections 2024-25 made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

**d. PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH AMR FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Manager Joy Ansley informed the Commission on specifics with the AMR/SMC ambulance contract for four trucks (three in LV, one in Pecos) asked price was \$1.8M, and final base price of contract came out to \$1.4M. 60/40 split in favor of SMC at 40%. Village of Pecos contribution is set at \$60K/yearly. This contract is for two years.

Motion to approve AMR/SMC Contract for Ambulance Services made by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Second by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Motion carried.

Motion to recess for five minutes made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

**e. AWARD PROPOSAL FOR MEDICAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT SMC DETENTION CENTER**

Warden Antonio Padilla asked for approval of the RFP for Medical/Behavioral Health Services at SMC Detention Center received from Roadrunner Health Services. RHS proposal was in compliance with the parameters outlined in the RFP. Warden Padilla asked for approval to enter into contract negotiations with Roadrunner Health Services.

Motion to approve contract negotiations with Roadrunner Health Services made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

**f. AWARD CONTRACTS FOR EMERGENCY ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Public Works Director Benito Romero asked for approval to award contracts for emergency road maintenance (snow, floods, rock/debris removal). Contracts are to Magnum Construction and Rocky Road Gravel.

Motion to award contracts to Magnum Construction and Rocky Road Gravel for Emergency Road Maintenance made by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Second by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Motion carried.

**g. LODGER'S TAX BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Planning & Zoning Supervisor Amanda Salas asked for recommendations to appoint two members to the Lodger's Tax Board. The Commissioners recommended: John Ossery and Aubrey Martinez.

Motion to approve appointments of John Ossery and Aubrey Martinez to SMC Lodger's Tax Board made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried.

**h. ROWE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONGRESSIONAL DIRECT SPENDING APPROPRIATION**

Chief Andrew Duran asked for approval to finalize the grant received by the Rowe VFD which has a cap of three years for spending. The three years allow the County to secure additional funds to purchase a fire engine. A water tender is on order.

Motion to approve Rowe VFD to receive funds appropriated by Congressional Direct Spending made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Motion carried.

**i. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM FROM SMC TO NORTHERN REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Manager Joy Ansley asked to transfer Fiscal Agent authority from Bernalillo County to Northern Regional Housing Authority for SMCs Section 8 Housing Voucher program. SMC is grateful to Bernalillo County for administering the program these past several years. NRHA has an office in Las Vegas.

Motion to approve the transfer of Section 8 Voucher Program from Bernalillo County to Northern Regional Housing Authority made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

**j. APPOINTMENT OF STUDY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR HEALTH CARE STUDY**

Chairman Harold Garcia indicated interest by the following medical professionals and concerned citizens to be members of this Study Committee on the Health Care Advisory Board: Chairman Harold Garcia, Commissioner Kenneth Medina, Councilman David Romero, Councilwoman Barbara Perea-Casey, Dr. Robert Seigel – Rural Surgical Associates, Anissa Apodaca, Dr. Randall Brown – Sunrise Clinics, Dr. Jesus Tafoya, Matt Probst – Clinical Director of

El Centro, Dr. Michael Lopez, Caleb Ramier – Alta Vista and staff: Jennifer Dominguez-Sanchez and Keith Tucker; Pat Leehan – LV Peace and Justice Ctr., Yolanda Palmer – Nurses Union, fmr Mayor Matt Martinez, Joseph Jauerigiberry, Sherriff Chris Lopez, Edward Sena – Heart Hospital of NM, Dorothy Lopez – concerned citizen, Stella Burciaga – Sports and Physical Therapy, Walter Adams – concerned citizen. The resolution called for 19 members however these 22 professionals and concerned citizens speak to the importance of this study group, and all 22 should be appointed as study group members. Governor Lujan-Grisham’s office asked that Christina Olivas-Campos, CEO of Guadalupe County Hospital be included in the Study Group.

Motion to appoint the above named members to the SMC Health Care Study Group made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: AYES – H. Garcia, M. Sena, J. Varela, M. Trujillo, K. Medina Unanimous Passage**

Motion to appoint Harold Garcia as Chairman of the Health Care Study Group made by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Second by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: AYES – H. Garcia, M. Sena, J. Varela, M. Trujillo, K. Medina Unanimous Passage**

Chairman Garcia asked for approval to appoint Ms. Christina Campos to serve as facilitator of the SMC Health Care Study Group and to authorize payment of consultant fees to Ms. Campos, and appointment of a SMC staff member for administrative support to the Group.

Motion to approve Ms. Campos as Facilitator and staff administrative support made by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried.

**k. REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF \$150,000 ARPA FUNDS FOR FUNDING OF THE PURCHASE AND EQUIPPING OF A MOBILE UNIT TO BE USED FOR AN ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM FOR SMC AND SURROUNDING AREAS SOME OF WHICH MAY INCLUDE VETERINARY SERVICES SUCH AS SPAY AND NEUTER OF CATS AND DOGS**

Chairman Harold Garcia asked for support in finding solutions to reducing stray animals roaming the County which presents a hazard to citizens, livestock, other pets and property. The County and City need to come to an understanding that this is a problem in our county/city that needs to be addressed to curb strays and other animal welfare/control issues in SMC.

Motion to approve funding request for Animal Welfare & Control Issues in SMC made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Motion carried.

**Roll Call: AYES – H. Garcia, M. Sena, J. Varela, M. Trujillo, K. Medina Unanimous Passage**

**I. HUD BUDGET FY24**

Manager Joy Ansley informed the Commission that the FY-2024 budget for HUD is not complete, and asked for a special meeting before June 30, 2023 for approval.

Motion to table item "l" HUD FY-2024 Budget made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

**~~m. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE TRAINING CENTER~~**

**n. EAGLEVIEW MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Deputy Manager Jesus Romero informed the Commission the high-resolution imaging capabilities of EagleView will be a wonderful addition in assisting the Assessor's office in assessments, building and structure count, and code enforcement. The total cost of the software will be \$2.2M over the life of the six year contract. Each payment will be \$367K. Manager Ansley recommended this item be tabled until further investigation of budget concerns and contract specifics can be researched and finalized.

Motion to table EagleView Master Services Agreement made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

**o. HPCC FIRE RECOVERY LOAN AGREEMENT**

Public Works Director Benito Romero informed that two projects have been approved by FEMA for road recovery projects due to burn scar and flooding: Hermits Peak North roads/bridges totaling \$9,456,057; and Pecos area roads totaling \$7,896,534. The two projects total \$17,152,601. Additional Recovery Loan Agreements are forthcoming based on FEMA approval for the various road/bridge damages sustained throughout burn scar-flood zone area. Total estimated road recovery projects will be nearly \$62M.

Motion to approve HPCC Fire Recovery Loan Agreement for Hermit's Peak North and Pecos area roads made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried. E

**p. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATIONAL LAB REGIONAL TAX DISTRIBUTION STUDY FOR LANL**

Chairman Harold Garcia supports this resolution to encourage Los Alamos National Laboratory to extend to surrounding counties subsidies to encourage economic development and science/math programs since the Lab has a multi-billion dollar budget that draws on the resources of not only Los Alamos county but all nearby counties. The purpose of this resolution for the tax distribution study aims to encourage LANL to be integral in building economic and

educational development throughout northern New Mexico, as the resources to sustain LANL are sourced throughout northern New Mexico.

Motion to approve resolution supporting LANL regional tax distribution study made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

**9. BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**

**a. AWARD PROPOSAL FOR AUDIT SERVICES – FY 2024**

Finance Director Katherine Sanchez asked for approval to award audit services for FY-2023 to Pattillo-Brown-Hill CPAs an Albuquerque firm.

Motion to approve Award Proposal to Pattillo-Brown-Hill CPAs for FY-2023 audit made by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Second by Commissioner Martin Sena. Motion carried.

Finance Director Katherine Sanchez also informed the Commission the Accounts Payable Listing April 1-April 30, 2023 and May 1-May 31, 2023 are included in the Meeting Packet and will be recorded.

For clarification on the HUD Budget FY-2024 Natasha Martinez informed the Commission that the transfer of the program requires a 180-day notification. The budget will be complete before the end-of-June and will be presented at a Special Meeting TBD.

Manager Ansley recommended entering Executive Session and recess Regular Session.

Motion to enter Executive Session made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried. Executive Session entered into at 1:03 PM.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION**

Limited Personnel Matters, as permitted by NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)(as amended) of the Open Meetings Act, more specifically personnel matters regarding specific county departments:

Certain Purchases, as permitted by NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(6)(as amended) of the Open Meetings Act, and section 13-1-116 of the Procurement Code:

Attorney-Client Privilege Pertaining to Threatened or Pending Litigation, as permitted by NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7)(as amended) of the Open Meetings Act:

**RESUME REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**



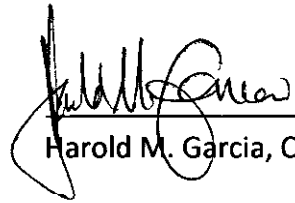
Motion to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Session of the 06-19-2023 meeting made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Kenneth Medina. Motion carried.

No actions taken or discussion were had, and:

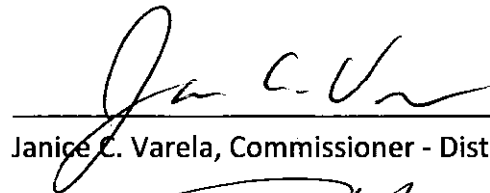
#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023 as the Official Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County New Mexico, of its Regular Meeting held June 19, 2023 at SMC Administration Complex, 500 W. National Avenue Suite 201, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

  
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Harold M. Garcia, Chairman - District 1


  
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Martin Sena, Vice-Chairman - District 4

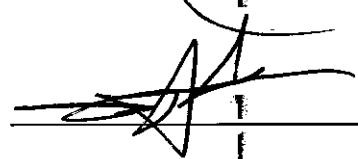
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice C. Varela, Commissioner - District 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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