

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION
JANUARY 6, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Serna called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Garcia polled the board:

Commissioner Veronica Serna - Present

Commissioner John Trujillo - Present

Commissioner George Trujillo - Present

Majority are present. Quorum has been met.

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico

Commissioner Serna led the audience and Board in the Pledge. All in attendance recited the Pledge and saluted the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner George Trujillo stated he has three questions. The first question is with item #9, he is wondering why Executive Session is on the agenda and to discuss what, Commissioner Serna stated potential litigation, then Commissioner George Trujillo stated it should be stated on the agenda. He also had a question about item #6, he asked if we are going to elect just the Chair or also the Vice-Chair, Commissioner Serna stated that it will be a complete re-organization. Commissioner George Trujillo then mentioned item #5 Public Comment, and asked if this on every meeting, Commissioner Serna stated this was an update from FEMA. Commissioner Serna stated we do not always know 3 days in advance if there are personnel issues coming up.

Attorney Cruz stated that the following Items need the verbiage to read as follows: #6 to read Election of Commission Leadership 2023 and #9 to read Potential and Pending Litigation and Personnel Matters.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve agenda with changes.

Commissioner George Trujillo seconds the motion with # 9 stating pending litigation and personnel matters.

All in favor, motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Commissioner Serna indicated **Mark Moore** was present for public comment to update us on what's going on with FEMA, he will be reporting what Eric Zebucubic was going to report. Mr. Moore is a representative with NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, acts as a liaison and grant administrator between FEMA PA and the sub-recipients, Mora County. Manage grants awarded as a result of eligible damages from the incident, wildfire, flooding etc. Currently developing approximately a dozen projects. Looking at \$24 million in county loss. Commissioner George Trujillo asked if he has an estimate of what the government owes Mora County. Under the public assistance programs the best estimate is \$24 million. It is a process to develop a plan, which includes updating current codes and standards to prevent further

loss in the future if a similar situation were to happen. Commissioner John Trujillo asked Mr. Moore if there was a deadline to apply for these funds. Mr. Moore stated yes there is a 2 year deadline. Commissioner Serna stated we (Mora County) has been meeting daily with FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers since before the fire ended. They have been inspecting roads and have thorough knowledge of what needs to be addressed. Commissioner George Trujillo asked Mr. Moore who was going to fix our mountain and if has seen every piece of land that has been affected. Mr. Moore stated he has not seen all the damage but is working to make sure Mora County gets all the assistance they need to get back to some kind of normal. Mr. Moore stated it is very important that we meet very specific guidelines in order to continue receiving the grant awarded: Environmental, Procurement, and having qualified Contractors. Scope of work in grant is actually what is done in the field, no deviation in scope of work, any deviation has to be identified and approved. Commissioner John Trujillo stated our local contractors are feeling left out with regards to work being done due to the fire. Mr. Moore stated that Mora County will be involved in the whole process of hiring. Further discussion took place.

Interim Manager Barela indicated **Michael Coo** was on Zoom for public comment, from FEMA reporting from Lincoln County. Mr. Coo is part of the Hazard Mitigation process which is managed through the Department of Homeland Security. As more projects get approved more funding will be awarded. Need to make sure all the vendors are in compliance with all the processes involved in order to continue receiving funds. Further discussion took place.

6. Discussion/Action – Election of Commission Leadership 2023

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to nominate Commissioner George Trujillo for Chairman. Commissioner George Trujillo accepted. Commissioner Serna stated there is no need for a second on this motion.

Commissioner George Trujillo made motion to nominate Commissioner John Trujillo for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner John Trujillo accepted.

All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated he would like to thank the numerous individuals involved in the efforts put forth by everyone in the community during the wildfire and flooding.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated he works for the people, the community is who he answers to. All three commissioners are going to work together to ensure people's needs are taken care in the community. Commissioner Serna stated we are working at improving communication, however, they will put every effort forward to make sure we apply for any assistance we deserve. Mr. John Vigil stated he would like to thank various county officials who offered help during this time. Mrs. Anita LaRan stated she would like to thank Commissioner Veronica Serna for how much she got involved and the relationships she created with the agencies who have come to the table. Further discussion took place.

Commissioner George Trujillo asked about the seeding of the clouds. Attorney Cruz stated she is able to provide an update. SOAR applied to engage in a seeding operation which is supposed to span the eastern side of the state of New Mexico. SOAR needed to provide notice which was published in the Las Vegas Optic. Mora County submitted a timely protest against this seeding operation. The application is pending due to the protest submitted, now the committee needs to entertain all of the arguments against the application. The committee then makes a

recommendation to a higher board for review. Attorney Cruz read her response to the application. Attorney Cruz stated the intended area is less than 50 miles away from the burn scar from our most recent fire, she stated how unpredictable the weather forecast it, especially with regards to wind in this area. The committee will make a recommendation based on the protests submitted.

7. Discussion/Action – Mora County Commission Meeting Schedule – 2023

No discussion took place.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

8. Discussion/Action – RESOLUTION – Open Meetings Act (Resolution # 2023-001)

Attorney Cruz commented, explained what was added. Work sessions and voting if a commissioner is absent was addressed during the rewriting of this act.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

9. Executive Session

Commissioner George Trujillo suggested to have Clerk's Office brought to the table. Interim Manager Ms. Barela stated this practice was changed due to Covid. Commissioner George Trujillo asked Mr. Carlos Arellano if he would like to change this practice starting with the next meeting, Mr. Arellano agreed. Commissioner Serna stated Mr. Joe Gene Pacheco will be present in today's Executive Session.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to convene into executive session at 5:21 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Garcia polled the board:

Commissioner Veronica Serna – Present

Commissioner John Trujillo – Present

Commissioner George Trujillo – Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna rescinds her original motion in order to invite Mr. Pacheco for the initial part of Executive Session.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion

Commissioner George Trujillo made motion to reconvene from executive session at 7:46 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Garcia polled the board:

Commissioner Veronica Serna – Present

Commissioner John Trujillo – Present

Commissioner George Trujillo – Present

Commissioner George Trujillo advised decisions were not made while in executive session, personnel matters and potential & pending litigation were discussed. Stated Mr. Joe Pacheco was invited into executive session to discuss a potential litigation matter.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:47 pm

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

DRAFT

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION

George A. Trujillo
Chairman

John H. Trujillo
Vice-Chairman

Veronica M. Serna
Member

ATTEST:

Carlos J. Arellano
County Clerk