

**MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION
AUGUST 11, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING**

1. Call to Order

Commissioner George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 8:45 am.

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

Commissioner George Trujillo led the audience and Commission in the Pledge. All in attendance recited the Pledge and saluted the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

3. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Garcia polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo – Present (via telephone)

Commissioner Veronica Serna - Present

Majority are present. Quorum has been met.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated for the record that Commissioner J. Trujillo is attending the meeting via telephone. Attorney Tina Cruz stated because of COVID the manner in which meeting is conducted has changed for all entities, whether public or private, and as a consequence of that the Commission's Open Meetings Act Resolution does allow for attendance in the form that Commissioner John Trujillo is attending today.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner V. Serna made motion to approve agenda.

Commissioner J. Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action – Appointment/Hiring of County Manager and Approval of Employment Contract

Attorney Tina Cruz presented, thanked the members of the community that were in attendance along with Mr. Ruben from the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office is always welcome to attend meetings and we will make sure to address any questions and concerns they may have. Attorney Cruz stated Mr. David Montoya has been serving in the capacity of Interim Manager at this point for approximately 9 weeks. The Commission had previously advertised the position of County Manager. To ensure that a wide net was cast the Commission decided to move beyond just advertising in the Las Vegas Optic and advertised for the position in the Santa Fe New Mexican. Because of that the Commission did have a good pool of applicants who were interviewed last week. The Commission did have a very late meeting, because of that they did defer to making a final appointment of that position until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for August 17, 2023. The hire will be made August 17th as it relates to moving beyond the Interim position. In the meantime, of course, Mora County needs to have an Interim County Manager who will continue to move things forward. Over the course of the last 4 or 5 days in the absence of the County Manager the Chairman and Attorney Cruz have been filling in to answer any questions or concerns the staff may have. The truth is you need a County Manager to serve in

that capacity, we cannot have a band aid until that hire is done. Even when you make the decision, with regards to your hire, on August 17th there will be a background check process and a contract negotiation process, all of which will take time. We are looking at a window of 2-4 weeks that we need to have a County Manager here doing the job of the County Manager; supporting staff, answering questions of the public, and more importantly helping the Commission to move forward. Attorney Cruz recommends the Commission decide regarding appointing an Interim County Manager. At this point Mr. David Montoya would be the individual who would seem to naturally fit but she defers to the Commission since this is their decision. Her recommendation is that they make an appointment to the position of Interim County Manager for a period of another 5 weeks, that would take us to September 15th. The essential terms of the prior contract would remain the same with regards to rate of pay, the only revision will reflect that if the Commission enters into a contract for a long-term hire that this Interim position will then expire. Again, Commission you have 3 candidates to consider, your policies and procedures require that you do not pre-select, you're giving all those candidates a fair consideration. If someone else is hired, aside from Mr. Montoya, that Interim contract will expire and the new contract for the permanent hire will commence.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve under the recommendation of Attorney Cruz.

Commissioner G. Trujillo seconds the motion.

Commissioner V. Serna stated, based on Mr. Montoya's aggressive and hostile behavior, she will vote No because it has placed our staff and many of us in a volatile position.

Commissioner V. Serna opposed the motion.

Majority in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Carlos Arellano stated, for the record, he wants everyone to know that these elected officials were elected by the public. We have got to let these commissioners do their job. When we're being accused of wrongdoing it falls on all of us. Give our commission a chance. Maybe you should check with our Finance Department so everyone can see where this money is being spent, that way everyone will be happy. It's all public information, our office is open.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:57 am

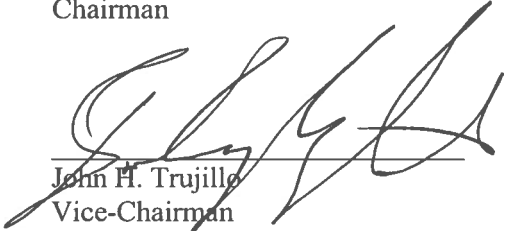
Commissioner J. Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

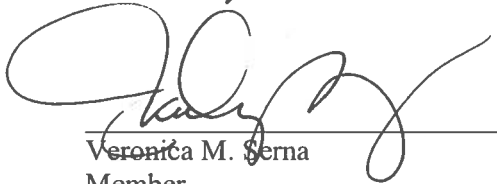
MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo
Chairman



John H. Trujillo
Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna
Member

ATTEST: SEAL



Carlos J. Arellano
County Clerk

