

**Mora County Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Meeting**  
**June 20, 2023**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Commissioner George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner George Trujillo led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and salute to the state flag.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

Deputy Clerk Mrs. Trujillo polled the board:  
Commissioner George Trujillo – Present  
Commissioner John Trujillo – Present  
Commissioner Veronica Serna – Present  
All are present and accounted for quorum is met.

**4. APPROVA OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to amend the agenda by moving item #6 after this item # 4, State Treasurer Laura Montoya needs to leave as soon as possible for other business, and item #11 after item #6 for State Representative Hon. Joesph Sanchez to speak as well.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz requested that items # 15, 16, 26, and 32 be tabled due to the need for more information to be gathered.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that Executive should be done after amended item #5.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the amended agenda.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**5. DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (LGIP) Hon. Laura Montoya, NM STATE TREASURER, RECOVERY EFFORT UPDATE:**

Hon. Ms. Montoya greeted the Board and those who attended the meeting. She went over the pros of joining LGIP with the monies that will be coming in from the recovery of Hermits Peak Calf Canyon fire. She went over the fast turnaround time of getting the fund when the County would need it to rebuild roads and other recovery uses. She stated the once the County Treasurer fills out the proper documents, they could start the process.

Mr. Ortiz from 1<sup>st</sup> Community Bank stated that they would like to come to the table as well to keep the recovery monies in their bank to assure the monies are kept locally and the turnaround time of receiving monies to the County would be just as fast as the LGIP if not quicker.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that this item needs to be discussed in executive before any motion could be done one way or the other.

6. **DISCUSSION/ACTION – HON. JOSEPH SANCHEZ, STATE REPRESENTATIVE – PRESENTATION WITH A RESOLUTION LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LAB (LANL) GRT STUDY: HON. JOSEPH SANCHEZ STATED that this item will be a bill he will be presenting to the legislators to ensure that GRT from Los Alamos county be shared with the surrounding counties since more than 60% of its workforce comes from those areas and should be shared evenly.**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she has revised the resolution to reflect Mora County log and information.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the amended resolution.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation as per amended agenda.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion with a roll call vote at 9:25 am.

Deputy Clerk Mrs. Trujillo polled the Board.

Commissioner George Trujillo – yes

Commissioner John Trujillo – yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes

All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to reconvene back in to session with no action taken while in executive session at 10:33 am.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion with a roll call vote.

Deputy Clerk Mrs. Trujillo polled the Board.

Commissioner George Trujillo – yes

Commissioner John Trujillo – yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that a three-minute allowed time will be followed on public comment.

Julian Olivas – left.

Toby Lovato went over a handout he handed the board with information they gathered about the Interim Manager David M Montoya. He stated that he feels the board should reconsider the placement of Mr. Montoya due to his shady past.

Nicolas Martinez stated that he is a concerned citizen that would like more transparency within our country. He stated that he has concerns about the direction its current Board is headed and would like them to work for the county's best interest not self-interest. He stated that moving the executive session before the public comment is a ploy to deter the public from participating.

Jake Regensberg stated that he has been coming to these meetings for many years and would like them to get a better p.a. system, one that allows both the zoom world and audience to hear both the board and presenters clearly. He brought up the grant for the ambulance building where has that money gone and what happened to the funds that the fiestas committee raised in the past where did that money go.

John Paul Vigil stated that he would like all Road Logs to be brought back to the Clerk's office to be kept as official records.

Cristina Cordova stated that she would like to comment after item #12.

JD Weathers stated that he thinks the interim Manager is doing a good job and would like him to be hired as full-time manager. He stated that he would like the board and staff to be united and work together as a team for the better of the county.

Jim Morse inquired about the status of the Watrous Community Center will it be ready for the annual Watrous day on August 19, 2023. From what he was told there were a few minor adjustments needed.

Commissioner Serna stated that a certificate of occupancy is needed and a hood for the kitchen. So it should be available.

Larry Garcia from the Veterans Committee stated that he could email any updates once they have anything to report. He went over several activities they will be attending. The first one is the Flag raising on 7/4/23 that will retire any flags that need to be destroyed in a proper manner, second, they will be involved in the annual fiestas. He stated that the MOU was signed by the Creative Council on item #14 with no bids received yet.

**9. DISCUSSION- MANAGER MONTOYA, RECOVERY EFFORT UPDATE:**

Interim Manager Montoya stated that within the last three weeks of him being here he has secured \$30 million dollars from the recovery monies that are to start coming in with he has reached out the State Treasurer to enter the LGIP to ensure that this monies are secure and transparent as to how it will be spent. He stated that he is in the process of hiring a CPA, Nestor Romero with 30 years' experience that has worked

with several counties to oversee the monies spent by FEMA. This CPA will be here in the county.

Ricardo Dow-Anaya stated that he was sent by the General Attorney Office to overlook the county meeting due to reported discrepancies. He wants to extend a helping hand if needed.

**10. DISCUSSION- MANAGER MONTOYA, EL ALTO SCHOOL BUS PROJECT AND TRAMPEROS ROAD UPDATE:**

Interim Manager Montoya stated that his update on this item is one bid was submitted and awarded but that company stated they wouldn't be able to start until mid-august, I spoke to them and got them to agree to start the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, which is great that way we will be able to receive the other monies to fix roads from FEMA Recovery and stay in compliance with DOT contract.

**11. DISCUSSION/ACTION – MANAGER MONTOYA, FEMA CLAIMS OFFICE UPDATE:**

Interim Manager Montoya stated that no one from the FEMA Claims Office is present so he recommends to table this item.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table this item as to the Interim Manager recommendation.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**12. DISCUSSION – JR LOGAN & JAMES DURAN – PRESENTATION FIREWOOD OPERATION TO INCLUDE WOOD SORTING YARD:**

Interim Manager Montoya made the motion to table item to gather information and have these individuals to be present.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table this item on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**13. DISCUSSION/ACTION – JOHN THAL, THAL RANCH, WATROUS, NM – OPPOSITION OF APPLICATION FOR DRILLING OF COMMERCIAL WELL TO DIVERT WATER IN GOLONDRINAS FOR CANNABIS OPERATION:**

John Thal owner of Thal Ranch stated he is present today requesting the Board oppose the commercial well in Golondrinas. Mr. Espinoza has applied to drill a commercial well back in December 2022 that was held up due to several protest from the community that rely on the water level for their homes. This well would divert the water supply to a two-acre cannabis operation this well would be drilled 20 feet from state highway 121 and community ditch. Which in his opinion would hinder the water level for the homes and the cannabis operation may attract dangerous individuals to

the area in turn would need the sheriff department to patrol more often to keep not only the residents but the operation safe.

Cristina Cordova, a resident from Golondrinas is present to agree with Mr. Thal on this request. She has lived there for many years and is concerned this operation will disrupt the way of living and should be researched as to what kind of security Mr. Espinoza would install and how he would be held accountable if anything should go wrong.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that the proper license needs to be obtained from the local P&Z. She stated that the board may send a letter to support the protest to the State Water Board, but they cannot submit a letter of protest.

Ricardo Dow-Anaya stated that this kind of thing is happening throughout the state and that his office is willing to help research the proper process to this matter.

**14. DISCUSSION/ACTION -JOSEPH GRIEGO – APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN MORA CREATIVE COUNCIL AND MORA COUNTY:**

Ilka Villeralle, Executive Director of the Main Street Project explains that this program promote the economy and preserve the historic buildings. She stated that they have several projects in the work the fall fest, four summer camps for the youth, the Veterans memorial, and a kiosk for the David Cargo library.

Commissioner Trujillo requested a quarterly report on the monies used.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz requested that the board table this item for her to review the contract and make any revisions if needed. This would also allow them to present a quarterly report as requested.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table this item according to the Recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**15. DISCUSSION/ACTION – JOSEPH GRIEGO – APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF MOU BETWEEN MORA CREATIVE COUNCIL AND MORA COUNTY FOR THE “FALL FESTIVAL” ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023:**

Mr. Griego was not present, and the MOU should be reviewed by the County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommended table this item until next meeting.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table on the Attorney recommendation.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**16. DISCUSSION/ACTION – MANAGER MONTOYA, PROCEED WITH CONTRACT (LLOYD & ASSOCIATION) FOR EMS PROJECT:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz had recommended to table this item on item #4. She stated that some amended language needs to be made.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table on the Attorney's recommendation.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**17. DISCUSSION – CHET VFD -STATUS OF SANCHEZ PROPERTY ACQUISITION:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that the owner of said property has passed away and the new owners need to review the sale and decide to continue. She recommends tabling this item.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to be table on the recommendation of the Attorney.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**18. DISCUSSION /ACTION – JOSEPH LOPEZ, GOLONDRINAS VFD -APPROVAL TO PURCHASE WATER TANK FOR GOLONDRINAS VFD STATE FIRE GRANT:**

Interim Manager Montoya stated that this item is for Golondrinas VFD to purchase a water tank with the State Fire Grant and recommends for the Board to approve as presented.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve this item on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**19. DISCUSSION/ACTION – BID AWARD SUBMISSION LETTER FOR CHET VFD FOR COMMUNICATION REPEATERS:**

County Attorney stated that this item has been on the past agendas and should be strike from an action being made.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to strike this item on the recommendation of the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**20. DISCUSSION/ACTION – DANIEL CASADOS, DWI COORDINATOR – PRESENTATION OF FY2024 MORA VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommends that this item be tabled for additional review.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table on the recommendation from Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**21. DISCUSSION/ACTION – DANIEL CASADOS, DWI COORDINATOR – DWI COMPLIANCE OFFICER CONTRACT:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommends that this item be tabled for additional review. Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table on the recommendation from Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**22. DISCUSSION/ACTION - DANIEL CASADOS, DWI COORDINATOR – FRANK MARGOIS- “BE ABOVE THE INFLUENCE “ – PRESENTATION:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommends that this item be tabled for additional review. Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table on the recommendation from Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**23. DISCUSSION/ ACTION – BRAD SENA, P&Z DIRECTOR – RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT A VOTING MEMBER TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Sena recommends Carlos Arellano as a voting member of the P&Z committee.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that upon the last time this item was brought up it was voted down because the statute that recommends an elected official should not become a voting member of a committee that would influence a Board one way or other. She recommends P&Z should find someone else before the next meeting.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table this item until the next meetings on the recommendation of the Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**24. DISCUSSION/ACTION – BRAD SENA, P&Z DIRECTOR – RECOMMENDATION ON BEHALF OF PLANNING AND ZONING TO OPPOSE THE COMMERCIAL WELL IN MONTE APLANDO AND GOLODRINAS:**

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that the P&Z committee is having a study on the recharging of the wells in the area and should wait until it is complete to have a better idea as to how these commercial wells may affect the water levels, the board would then have a idea as to how to oppose these wells.

Interim Manager Montoya recommends the Board table this item for now.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table this item on the recommendation of the Interim Manager.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**25. DISCUSSION/ACTION – NM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SHARED FACILITY AGREEMENT (LEASE RENEWAL):**

Tim Hagaman stated that if a renewal contract for the use of office space provided by the County. He stated that he provides services for the citizens to start business and other resources he has access to.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommends that she review this contract being that is a contract first drafted three to four years ago.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table on the recommendation from Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**26. DISCUSSION/ACTION – IDA VASQUEZ, MORA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER – OPERATION AGREEMENT FOR FY 2024.**

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that Mrs. Vasquez was not present and recommended to table until next meeting.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to table on the recommendation from Chairman Trujillo.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**27. DISCUSSION/ACTION – COUNTY MANAGER, SIERRA BONITA/RINCON VFD SIGNING OF LOAN DOCUMENTS:**

County Attorney recommends this item be table at the approval of agenda due the fact the language is not reflecting the resolution not documents signing.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to table this item on the recommendation of Attorney Ms. Cruz.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**28. DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES**

**A. May 10, 2023 -Emergency Meeting**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2023, with the changing of approved personnel to sign documents.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.



**B. May 26, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2023 as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor.

**C. June 2, 2023 – Emergency Meeting**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the June 2, 2023 as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**D. June 5, 2023 – Work Session**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the June 5, 2023 as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**29. DEPARTMENT HEAD/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT(S)**

Sheriff Americk Padilla reported that his department has been assisting other counties with some duties that create great relations to allow them to ask for assistance for our future festivities, our Fiestas, Bean Day, and Watrous day. His office has been in the process to get our K-9 program up and running. He has been in contact with the Mora Schools about the school resource officer approved. They had a check point with Taos County which had a few citations given out.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to take a ten-minute break at 1:02 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to reconvene back into session at 1:13 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Trujillo Deputy Clerk reported that the office will be attending a training in Ruidoso NM July 11<sup>th</sup> until July 14<sup>th</sup> they requested permission to close the office for those few days.

Ms. Weathers-Vigil Human Resource reported that this morning's outbreak about certain individual personal information to be exposed was totally uncalled for and should have been stopped immediately. She stated that an employee exit sheet should be filled out once an employee resigns before they're given the last paycheck. She has

been checking all the employees' file information to have been updated and in proper order.

Interim County Manager Mr. Montoya stated that he is upset about this morning's comments on his personal information and other aspect of his life was uncalled for. He went over the process he is going to implement to make sure the monies coming in for the recovery will be transparent.

Mr. John Romero Road/Solid Waste Supervisor reported that his department has been installing culverts, spreading millings, fixing cattle guards in the necessary areas He stated that there a few lease agreements for some equipment that will need to be looked at. The Commissioner inquired about the fixing of several roads as to when they should be done examples Monte Aplanado, Canada de Carro and Murphy canyon. Mr. Romero stated that with his department being short-handed they will work on these step by step or road by road.

Mrs. Josephine Montoya Treasurer Deputy Clerk stated that there collecting monies from the taxes and solid waste. She stated that she would like to remind the different departments that a deposit Slip should be done when their department are expecting reimbursements, that way they will be able to place the funds in the right line items.

**30. DISCUSSION/ACTION – EDNA SENA, FINANCE DIRECTOR – EXPENDITURE BUDGET REPORT(S)**

**A. EXPENDITURE REPORT - MAY 2023**

Ms. Sena went over the expenditure list for May 2023 in the amount of \$495,619.36. Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the expenditure report as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**B. Budget Report – May 2023**

Ms. Sena stated that all department are in the right range for this time of the year except Detention is in the red but should return to the black once the funds are funneled through.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the Budget Report as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**31. DISCUSSION/ACTION EDNA SENA, FINANCE DIRECTOR – RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Sena went over the resolution for the reimbursement of the wildland fire for the fire departments.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the resolution as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.  
All in favor, motion carried.

**32. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to convene into executive session to discuss pending litigation, and personnel matters.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion with a roll call vote at 1:50 pm

Deputy Clerk Mrs. Trujillo polled the Board:

Commissioner George Trujillo – Yes

Commissioner John Trujillo – Yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna – Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to reconvene back into session at 3:32 pm with no action taken while in executive session.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion with a roll call vote.

Deputy Clerk Mrs. Trujillo polled the Board:

Commissioner George Trujillo – Yes

Commissioner John Trujillo – Yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna – Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**33. DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION RATIFYING DAVID M. MONTOYA'S SIGNATURE:**

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommended this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Veronica Trujillo made the motion to table this item on the recommendation of the Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**34. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – JULY 20, 2023**

**35. SIGNING OF APPROVED DOCUMENTS**

**36. ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to adjourn at 3:34 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION**

**Special Meeting**

**June 20, 2023**



**George A. Trujillo**

**Chairman**




**John H. Trujillo**

**Vice-Chairman**



**Veronica Serna**

**Member**

**ATTEST: SEAL**  \_\_\_\_\_  
**County Clerk**

