

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION
MAY 5, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order

Commissioner George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

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

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

3. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Duran polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna - Present

Majority are present. Quorum has been met.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner George Trujillo suggested adding a discussion item, he stated he attended a meeting pertaining to the wood delivery which he will touch on before they adjourn (added as Item # 10). Attorney Tina Cruz stated typically items need to be noticed on the agenda, since it's for discussion purposes only and there's not going to be action, she doesn't see that as being terribly problematic. **Commissioner Veronica Serna** stated it can be added as an update by the Chair, Attorney Cruz stated that would be fine.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo made motion to approve agenda as amended.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action – Expenditure Report/Budget Report

a. Expenditure Report – March 2023

Ms. Edna Sena presented and stated she recommends to approve. See attached.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

b. Budget Report – March 2023

Ms. Edna Sena presented and stated she recommends to approve. See attached.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo made motion to approve.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

6. Discussion/Action – Resolutions

a. Budget Adjustment Request

Ms. Edna Sena presented and stated she recommends to approve. See attached.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

7. Discussion/Action – Resolution – Recommendation to the Board of Commission to appoint three new board members to North Central Economic Development Board

Commissioner George Trujillo recommended and made a motion that he gets appointed as the commissioner; JD Weathers and Carlos Arellano to fill the other 2 positions; Eldy Cruz will remain as a representative from Wagon Mound.

Commissioner George Trujillo and Commissioner Johnny Trujillo are in favor & Commissioner Veronica Serna is opposed to.

Commissioner George Trujillo made motion to approve.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

A majority of the Commission is in favor, motion carried.

8. Discussion/Action – Recommendation to the Board of County Commission to Approve to proceed with a forensic audit

No action taken, only discussion.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated he placed this item on the agenda because he got some calls about some wrongdoing by the past administration and he met with Auditor Joseph Maestas last week, Chair Trujillo wasn't sure how else to discuss this. Auditor Maestas advised Commissioner George Trujillo how to proceed, the remaining information is confidential. Commissioner Veronica Serna asked if there is a potential for fraud. Commissioner George Trujillo stated according to the complaint he got yes. Attorney Tina Cruz stated that at this point they have not received a written complaint so at this time the complaint is not a public record. If and when that written complaint is submitted, then they can take a vote to move on with a forensic audit at that time. Commissioner Veronica Serna asked Ms. Edna Sena if we have the funding available to proceed with a forensic audit that would run \$70K-\$80K. Ms. Sena stated we would have to budget for it. Commissioner George Trujillo stated we don't have to call it a forensic audit it can be a special audit and he (Auditor Maestas) will help us with the cost if need be. Attorney Cruz stated the nature of the audit is contingent upon the complaint received. If it is restricted to a specific department, then the scope of the audit becomes more confined.

The annual audit contract will be presented in the May Regular Meeting, the audit will start in July. Ms. Sena stated we can go with the same auditor for up to 8 years, she recommends sticking with the same auditor if that is the wish of the Commission. Commissioner George Trujillo stated he would like to think of maybe changing auditors. The current auditor we have has been doing the audits for the last 3 years. Commissioner George Trujillo stated that our audit findings from 2022 will not affect the county receiving the \$100 million loan, Mora was approved \$37 million. We need to send an application as soon as we can. Mr. Carlos Arellano asked what the \$37 million is going to or be used for. Attorney Cruz stated, after reviewing the application online, the DFA is to provide \$0 interest loans to replace or repair public infrastructure damaged by fire, flooding or debris flows caused by or stemming from the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated you are eligible to apply when you get approval from FEMA, they reimburse you for the disaster once they approve it. The state will lend us based on

the scope of work that FEMA has approved. Further discussion took place regarding the process of bidding and awarding of monies being distributed. Mr. Arellano suggested getting a consultant. Commissioner George Trujillo suggested hiring a law firm as a consultant.

9. Discussion/Action – EMS CDBG Grant

No action taken, only discussion.

Commissioner George Trujillo asked Ms. Brenda Casados what happened during their meeting. Ms. Casados stated they had a meeting with Mr. Tafoya who said he would be submitting another request for an extension on that project. Ms. Casados stated they had the property in Cleveland surveyed and to run water to the area they need will cost more than \$100K, Mora Water Association will give them permission, but it will be costly. Ms. Casados stated we need to do something, or EMS Department will lose the funding. Ms. Casados recommended changing the location to behind the Senior Center, there is already electrical and water, they need to move forward. Mrs. Bernadette Chavez found out in the meeting that if the money is not used by August 31, 2023, they will lose the funding for that project. Commissioner George Trujillo asked if they were positive that there was enough room and it would be cleared out. Mrs. Chavez stated that maybe the commissioner could help coordinate that effort with the Road Department to help clear what they can. Commissioner Veronica Serna asked if they knew about an easement that went from the Senior Center to the property in the back, is anyone familiar with that, and Mr. Geno Maes was advising her of that. Commissioner Serna just wants to make sure they are not building over an existing easement. Commissioner Serna stated the architects stated there was ample space to accommodate the EMS Facility. Ms. Casados stated they need to move fast, or they will lose the funding. Mr. JD Weathers stated they should be able to use the funding they have for the purchase of property. Commissioner Serna stated they may not have enough in the budget for property purchase, and they need to take parking into consideration as well. Commissioner George Trujillo stated we are not going to take action until the architect has a chance to look it over. Ms. Edna Sena asked who determines the water table, because we might have to do a test on that piece of property.

10. Discussion – Wood Situation (Item Included through amendment)

Commissioner George Trujillo had a meeting with DOT about the wood. Commissioner George Trujillo stated they want the county to take over the wood distribution; also Michael Benjamin wants the county to insure him in case someone bumps into his equipment or gets hurt in any way while working with the wood on his property. Commissioner George Trujillo also stated that Antonia Roybal-Mack wants to be in charge of the distribution of the wood. He also stated that Michael Benjamin requested a county employee be present at his yard during wood distribution. Commissioner George Trujillo stated we would not be able to provide an employee because the Road Department does not have an extra employee. Commissioner George Trujillo stated the county will not take over the wood distribution, there are 150 cords of wood and there are 1500 people on the list, it turns into a hassle with fights and arguments. Further discussion took place. For the record Commissioner George Trujillo thanked the DOT, Antonia Roybal-Mack, and Michael Benjamin; the people who are processing the wood. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated that Colfax County is doing a thinning project and Mora County could have all the wood we just need to figure out a way to haul it. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated this is something we should ask FEMA for assistance with as well, hiring local loggers and distribute it to locals,

this is all clean wood. Mr. Carlos Arellano stated there is a lot of wood here, but it's burned. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated we need to make sure the people we are distributing it to are using it a not selling it, we need to figure out a way to address this. Commissioner George Trujillo stated he knows the elderly are priority, however, everyone burns wood. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated that everyone who was affected should be included in this distribution. Mr. Carlos Arellano stated that we should ask the National Forest to remove the \$2.00/cord fee to get the wood that's on the side of the road, more people would go for it if there wasn't a fee. Commissioner Veronica Serna stated we would make that request.

11. Executive Session

a. Threatened and pending litigation

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to convene into executive session at 5:41 pm.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Duran polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna - Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to reconvene from executive session at 6:21 pm.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Duran polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna - Present

Commissioner George Trujillo advised decisions were not made while in executive session, threatened and pending litigation were discussed.

12. Signing of Approved Documents

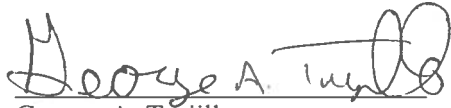
13. Adjournment

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to adjourn meeting at 6:22 pm.

Commissioner Johnny Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

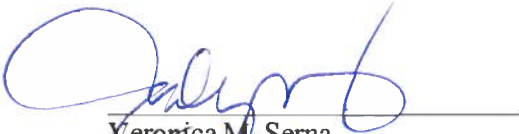
MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



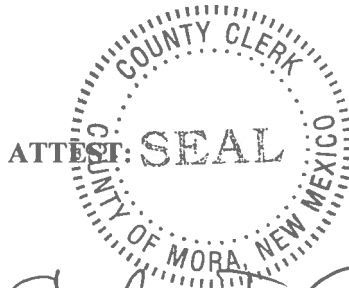
George A. Trujillo
Chair



John H. Trujillo
Vice-Chair



Veronica M. Serna
Member



Carlos J. Arellano
County Clerk

