

**MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING**

1. Call to Order

Commissioner George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Trujillo polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo – Present

Commissioner John Trujillo - Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna -Present

Majority are present. Quorum has been met.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Interim Manager Sena indicated no one was on Zoom for public comment.

Commissioner George Trujillo indicated six individuals were present for public comment.

Jude Regensberg greeted all present and requested to be allowed 5 minutes of public comment instead the three minute allowed.

Commissioner George Trujillo allowed three and a half minutes this time.

Mr. Regensberg stated that he has followed these meetings for the past six months and has noticed that there has been some harassment allowed towards Commissioner Trujillo by several members of the community demanding him to resign. This kind of behavior has to be addressed and set right just like the animosity between the board, personal agendas have to be set aside and find a way to work together this county has to be put first and personal views have to be left at the door you the board were voted to lead this county forward. His second area is the background checks, he has been coming to these meeting for years and has never heard of background check on past employees, was there a policy change that require these checks. He thanks the board for this allowed time.

James Coleman stated that the reason he is here today to inquire if there is some kind of animal control Ordinance in place within the county. He has had several concerns about this issue from the roaming of lose cattle and the dog attacks in the different communities. He himself has been attacked by a pack of dog in the Rio de La Casa area.

Letitica Coleman stated that she is here today to also complain about the pack of dogs in the Rio de la Casa area she has been attacked and find that there should been some kind of Ordinance or law in place.

Paula Jean stated that she as well is here to complain she has had several of her pets mauled and one killed by these dogs. She would like there to be some way to have their owners held accountable for the damage they do.

Misty Cospay stated that she has lost 50 chicken, 11 sheep to this same pack of dogs and would like to make sure this issue gets resolved asap.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that nothing is enforceable at the moment but she has been working with the sheriff and others to address this issue by a way of an ordinance but there has to be a process the county need to do first.

Commissioner Veronica stated that she has been in contact with San Miguel, and Guadalupe counties to form a partnership on how to process this issue for all three counties to work together to control these kinds of animals.

Lisa Styles stated that she has lived here for 10 years and has seen these dogs attack on people and their pets. She would like this issue be placed as a priority on the board agenda.

William Hudson stated he has lived here for 12 years and has been attacked by this pack and has major concerns for the public especially for the elderly that like to walk in that area.

Commissioner John inquired from the sheriff what right does the public have in case of an attack.

Sheriff Padilla stated it is not for him to directly advise but a person has the right to protect their own life or property by any means if need be.

6. Discussion: Update Mora Veterans Memorial Committee

Larry Garcia spokesperson for the veterans committee welcomes Brad Sena as Interim Manager wishes him well. He is here today to request the board to allow them to designate County Road A001 to the fallen soldiers Juan Archuleta Korean War, Felix Aragon WWII, Leroy Valdez Vietnam War, and Gerald Hovert Vietnam War, he is wondering if the county could adobe the cost the of signs and material, other roads may be request in the future.

Commissioner George stated he would request DOT to make the signs and asked if the county could cover the cost of the material needed, should there be a resolution drafted to proceed.

Larry Garcia stated that the other order of business is inquiring about the RFP to hire an architect and request to meet with county Attorney later on this week. He would also like to request the board allow them to request more capital outlay money from the next session. He stated that the Creative Council is in charge of the fund raising on their behalf, and lastly the Committee has plans with the school Kids to recognize Veteran's Day now in November.

7. Discussion/Action: Memorandum of Agreement between North Central Regional Transit District and Mora County for the Continuation of Contract Transit Services as presented by Delilah Garcia

Ms. Garcia operation director for NCRTD brought Anthony Mortillaro Executive Director, Bryce Gibson Planning & Grants Manager and Yolanda Trujillo Mora County's Driver with her today to request a multi-year agreement with the county for transit service between Mora and Las Vegas. They have been providing service for two years there has been up and down in attendance due to COVID and the Fire. We have applied for funding from both the state and federal grants. She went over the amount needed from Mora County for a year of service, she mentioned that they have provided 640 passenger trips and have received request for more days of service and possible expanding of service area.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she has reviewed the agreement and has several areas that needed some language changed. She has done the changes and will send them the revised agreement and recommend the board approve this agreement with those minor changes.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve on the recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

8. Presentation/Discussion: Firewood Update from the Carson National Forest by Michael Lujan, District Ranger for the Camino Real Ranger District

Michael Lujan stated that he brought Kenneth Alcon today to update the Board on the recovery project for fire wood from the thousand acres that needed to be cleared has been on its final stage that would require the County to provide a space to transport the wood for the community use.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that it is an item on this agenda to be approved for the lease of a 12 acer lot. He inquired about how much wood would be available.

Michael Lujan stated that as of now he can say 4 thousand cords possibly more, this clearing project is to help the protecting of the water sheds in that area.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that the board needs to look into how this wood will be distributed and how the potential employees be trained. More discussion was had on the different ways to work this project into a workable service for the Community.

9. Approval of Proclamation Recognizing September as National Recovery Month as presented by Debbie Rivera and Valentina White, New Mexico Department of Health
Debbie Rivera and Valentina Whites presented the proclamation for September as National Recovery Month. Valentina read the Proclamation.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that the item in the packet is not the one presented today but will recommend the Board Approve the Proclamation as presented.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve upon the recommendation of the Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

10. Presentation/Discussion/Action: Request to approve quote for Triadic Enterprises, Inc. Live Web Site and Web Server Software and Payment Processing

Josephine Montoya Deputy Treasurer had presented this item to the County Attorney for review. She stated that the county should invest into this web site and web server software to allow the Constituents the capability to view and pay their bills, for the treasurer, clerks, assessor's and solid waste department. She explained that is this service may not be feasible to be implement this program until after this tax season but would like for the board to review the quote and request the board to provide the amount need to be paid up front.

Commissioner George Trujillo inquired if she had the finance director review the quote and is if the monies are available.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she has reviewed this quote and would need to meet with Mrs. Montoya to go over some of the details and recommend that the Board table this item until they could review all the material and cost needed to be purchased to get the service installed.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to table this item upon the recommendation of the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

11. Project Update:

a. Special Projects Committee – Paul Cassidy

Paul Cassidy had a prior engagement and will join once it is over.

b. CDBG Projects – Alex Tafoya

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she has reached out to Mr. Tafoya for a report but had not received any thing from him but will encourage him to be present in the next meeting.

12. Department Head/Elected Official Report(s)

a. Elected Official(s)

b. Department Head(s)

a) Planning and Zoning

b) Road Department

c) EMS

c. Interim County Manager Brad Sena

d. Human Resource

e. County Commission

f. Announcements

Interim Manager Sena stated that he would like to thank the board for this opportunity to serve as Interim Manager. He stated that is has been a learning experience and challenge to do both jobs but welcomes the challenge to keep everything afloat.

Human Resources DesMarie Romero went over her report that is in the packet. She went over the Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of October.

P&Z Mr. Sena reported he had reviewed 3 plats and issued numerous addressed verifications, he handed out several new business forms but have not received any of them back, but will make effort to get them back.

Jude Regensberg P&Z vice Chair would like to add that the Committee has requested they become a Commission to help the board without needing wait for the board to approve item in their scope of requirements.

Commissioner George Trujillo stated that he does not think there should be any change to their committee they are a committee to help the board with their recommendation on items.

Road Supervisor John Romero reported that his staff have been working on B022 and B019 by widening the road ways and adding material where needed. His staff has been working hard to catch up on all the county roads making bus route a priority. Other discussion was had on issues the public has brought up.

Clarity Collins stated that David Marshall Montoya has implemented several PO for road equipment that have not been executed and need to be addressed. She went over the equipment list from John Deer that have been look at, she went over the different amount to lease as to purchase, she is willing to draft a resolution for next meeting to get the necessary equipment needed ASAP. We will submit the purchase and get reimbursement from FEMA, or use the

interest from the work done to the disaster areas. More discussion was had on the process of using the monies received or monies that many come in.

Commissioner George called for a 15 minute recess.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to recess for 15 minutes at 10:56 am.

Commissioner Veronica second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to reconvene back into session at 11:15 am.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

Clarity Collins stated that the numbers for the H&H studies have been submitted, and all the roadways will be covered and the state will do a better job moving forward. This will cover the exact GSP list on where the work is needed. Escrow baskets will be provided in the affected areas as needed. More discussion was had as to where they need to be placed by NRC.

EMS report was in the packet and reviewed by County Attorney. She stated that the 911 service for the Wagon Mound area needs to be looked at the respond time for that area is a critical if we have to get there from here. The other area is the writing off of delinquent accounts need to get addressed at this time we are billing according to the NM tier statute and need to get information to see if we would be able to write off those losses. She points out this is an item on the agenda she will go over this in more detail at that time.

Sheriff Padilla stated the usual we are trying to be proactive not reactive. He wants to start with some good news the sheriff association has acknowledged our department as one of the most productive department in the state we have been a great job according to them. In Mora County history has never been a accredited department. Our goals will be to work on policies and make sure we dot our i's cross our t's. Call volume is on the rise and we are currently looking into the reasons. The fall fest is an opportunity to collect unused pills or meds. K-9 unit will be moving forward to be able to use him by next month.

County Clerk Carlos Arellano reported on the early voting for the Regular Local election as to when it starts and ends. He went over the different ballot styles for the different districts.

13. Discussion/Action – Resolution Appointing Two New Members to Planning and Zoning Committee

P&Z Director Brad Sena stated that he has had this positions open for over a month and had two letters of interest from Joseph Garcia and Johnny Espinoza. He recommends the board appoint this two to the Committee.

Rumaldo Pino stated that in the past the term limit for a member was from the DGS that allowed be for either one to two year terms.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that Brad had this item in a resolution form to account the positions and the board and committee should follow these set rules in the latest bi-laws passed for set of terms limits for members.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to approve the recommendation from the Manager.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Mr. Pino reported that they have approved the tax bills to be printed and have them ready to be mailed out November 1, 2023. They placed an in-house hire for the vacant position and had one individual apply and look forward to having her join his team.

He also requested a \$2.50 raise for the vacant position in his office to have all staff on a equal pay rate.

14. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing Process for Resolving Aged Accounts with the Mora County EMS Department

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this item has been a finding in the County's audit and needs to be addressed. This resolution will be the first step of many to help the auditors see the counties moving forward to fix this issue, she went on that this resolution it will help set a plan that will address questions, what timeline will be considered a past due account, who will process the billing, will it be in house or a in state firm. She also stated that these past due accounts will have to be reported in a quarterly fashion to avoid more finding in the future audits. More discussion was had about the options. She recommends the board approve the resolution.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve on the recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

15. Discussion/Action – Expenditure Report/Budget Report

Finance Director Edna Sena reported that the expenditure report is for August 2023 is covering all monthly bills, the most expensive purchase was the Golondrinas fire water tank. Interim Manager Sena recommended the board approve the expenditure report as presented.

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

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Serna reported that the Budget report shows that all departments are within their budgets as expected. Interim Manager Sena recommends that the board approve the budget report as presented.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the budget report on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

16. Discussion/Action – Resolutions by Finance Department

Ms. Sena went over the first set of resolution for budget adjustments for the fire departments and other departments as needed. Interim Managers Sena recommended the board approve the resolutions as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Sena went over the next resolution that covered the law enforcement 2024 recalculations. Interim Manager Sena recommended the board approve the resolution as presented.

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

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

17. Discussion/Action – Minutes

a. August 11, 2023 – Special Meeting

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve the minutes of Aug. 11, 2023 with the correction of spelling of Rubin last name.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

b. August 14, 2023 – Special Meeting

Commissioner George Trujillo made the motion to approve with the corrections by Commissioner Serna on Klass spelling.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

c. August 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Interim Manager recommends the board to approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to approve the minutes on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion,

All in favor, motion carried.

d. August 21, 2023 – Special Meeting

Interim Manager recommends the board approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to approve on the recommendation of the Interim Manager.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

e. August 28, 2023 – Special Meeting

Interim Manager recommends the board to approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo made the motion to approve the minutes on the recommendation of the Interim Manager.

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

f. September 5, 2023 – Special Meeting

Interim Manager recommends the board to approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner John Trujillo second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

18. Discussion/Action – Lease between Mora County and Martin Romero to establish Wood Lot at 61 El Alto Road

Interim Manager Sena made the motion to approve the lease with Martin Romero for Lot 51 El Alto Road.

Commissioner Veronica Sena stated that she has some reservations on the lease. She understood the lease was \$300 a month but sees it is for \$1, 200 she feels that amount to high.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this lease is for a six-month time and reminds the board this could be considered one of the items for future reimbursement from the disaster fund.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve on the recommendation from the Interim Manager.

Commissioner George Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner John Trujillo yes, Commissioner Veronica Serna no, Commissioner George Trujillo yes, majority has it motion carried.

19. Discussion: Update regarding Grant to U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Mora County Courthouse Complex

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this item is an update that requires the matching of funding and need to be directed on how to proceed, the EDA Application needs to be submitted soon. She recommends to table this item.

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

Commissioner Veronica Serna second the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

20. Discussion/Action: Consideration of Amendment to the Budget for the CDBG EMS Project for costs associated with the architect's fee

County Attorney Ms. Cruz recommends the board table this item until Mr. Alex Tafoya can be present to present two options he has discussed with her on to amend the budget for the architect's fee.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to table this item on the recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

21. Discussion/Action: Letter of support by Mora County for the San Miguel County Rural Health Care Delivery Fund grant application

Interim Manager Sena recommends the board to sign the letter of support, this letter is connected to a resolution done in 2021 to support for a facility for the drug and alcohol crisis in our counties.

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

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

22. Discussion/Action: Approval of Request from the Mora Health Council requesting that Mora County act as their Fiscal Agent for the FY 2024 and Directing County Attorney to Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Parties' Signature

Frances Muniz DWI Coordinator stated that this item a continue request for Mora County to act as their fiscal Agent.

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this item reads the board to direct her to draft a MOU for the parties to sign. She recommends the board approve the request and will have the MOU drafted for the next meeting.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve on the recommendation of the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

23. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing Budget Adjustment for ERISA Insurance Coverage

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this item is not ready for the board to approve and will recommend to table this item.

Commissioner Veronica Serna motion to approve on the recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

24. Discussion/Action: Resolution to Apply for Financial Assistance with the New Mexico Economic Development Department (Creative Industries Division)

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she reviewed the Resolution from the Mora Main Street Committee and revised it to have the committee to report to finance and Manager. She recommends the board approve the resolution with set revisions.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve on the recommendation from the County Attorneys' revisions.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

25. Discussion/Action: Approval of Contract Extension for David Montoya, Fire Administrator/Emergency Manager

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that she recommends the board approve this extension of David Montoya contract, he has been more than patient on having this position filled and his wiliness to stay on until such time comes is more than generous. Once the position is filled he may stay on to consult the person.

Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to approve on the recommendation from the County Attorney.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

26. Discussion: Update on land purchase for the benefit of C.H.E.T. Volunteer Fire Department

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this update is for the public to be informed that the purchasing of the land for the CHET Fire Dept. should be complete soon. This process has been in the works since Dec. 2022 and it is finally coming to the end and will belong to the County.

27. Executive Session: Limited Personnel Matters involving (1) the Hiring Process for the County Manager position, to include advertisement, application and interview process (2) the Hiring Process for the Proposed Construction Recovery positions identified on the September 18, 2023 agenda, and (3) Personnel Complaints and Investigations. -AND- Threatened/Pending Litigation: (1) notices of tort claim against Mora County, (2) John Paul Vigil v. Mora County and (3) Isaac Martinez v. Mora County

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to convene into executive session at 1:09 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Trujillo polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - yes

Commissioner John Trujillo - yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna - yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna made the motion to reconvene from executive session at 3:40 pm.

Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Trujillo polled the board:

Commissioner George Trujillo - yes

Commissioner John Trujillo - yes

Commissioner Veronica Serna - yes

Commissioner George Trujillo advised decisions were not made while in executive session, personnel matters and potential & pending litigation were discussed.

28. Discussion: Update regarding County Manager Hiring Process

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that the update on the hiring of County Manager will be advertised in the Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, and Las Vegas Optic until Oct. 13th, packets will be available, the target hiring should be a few weeks after that. Until then Interim Manager Sena will continue to do his best for the County.

29. Discussion/Action: Authorization of Designated Representative to have Full Settlement Authority (subject to later Commission approval) at the upcoming Isaac Martinez v. Mora County Mediation

County Attorney Ms. Cruz stated that this a formality to have someone present at the mediation who has full authority to make decisions if need be. She recommends that Interim Manager be the one with authority.

Commissioner John Trujillo made motion to approve on the recommendation of the County Attorney.

Commissioner Veronica Serna seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Paul Cassidy is present to go over item 11A. He stated that he met with the housing committee earlier and would like to report that a housing study has to be done and it is a lengthy process but will need to be done to see if additional fund is needed to be applied from CDBG. He stated that on the special project committee only one bid was submitted and it was a high amount that would not be feasible will try to work and get the bidder to reconsider or may have to do another RFP.

**30. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2023
With a Special meeting on October 3, 2023 at 4:00 pm**

31. Adjournment

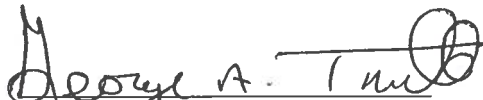
Commissioner Veronica Serna made motion to adjourn meeting at 3:56 pm

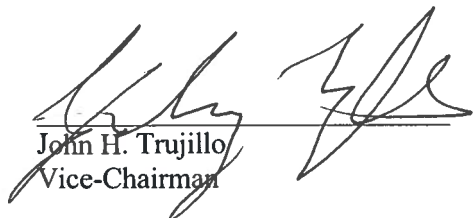
Commissioner John Trujillo seconds the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.



MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION


George A. Trujillo
Chairman


John H. Trujillo
Vice-Chairman

Veronica M. Serna
Member




Carlos J. Arellano
County Clerk