



Board of County Commissioners of Mora County

Special Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chairman George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

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

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Saluted the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

3. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Danae Pino polled the board:

Commissioner George A. Trujillo – present

Commissioner John H. Trujillo – present

Commissioner Veronica M. Serna – present

4. Approval of Agenda

Manager Joseph Garcia recommended a motion of approval of the agenda.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion of approval.

Commissioner V. Serna seconded the motion. *All in favor.*

5. Discussion: Presentation of Fire Mural by Colorado College

Naomi Wood stated I am a Professor at Colorado College in Colorado Springs and founder of CC Mobile Arts Truck. A part of the work that we do is highlighting local artists and connecting local communities to issues that are important in the local neighborhoods instead of going outside of our local boundaries so much. We've had ongoing partnerships in our local community within

the past two years. Then having an ongoing partnership with the World College in Las Vegas. This past February, we had the opportunity for many different pieces to come together. We'll talk about that also, to do some collaborative work between our community, Mora County and then there was a visiting artist from Brazil who works a lot on natural disasters and the connection between nature and spirituality. We were able to work on this collaborative mural and specifically with a really generous; Veronica took us around to a lot of the burn scar. We were able to hear stories, not only from Veronica but also from other first responders, the Sheriff and other firefighters and have been still moved by those visits and knowing that this is all the land is connecting all of us from Las Vegas, to Mora County to Colorado Springs, we're all part of the same circuit. So we're happy to be here today to present you with a mural that was completed in February.

Nancy Rios stated I'm the co-director of CC Mobile Arts. I just want to take a minute to thank you all for allowing us to share this with you and, invite us back into your into your town and to hear a bit about how we did this work. As Naomi mentioned, right, working with local communities is really, really important to the work that we do and using art to connect us and using art to draw out what are the issues that are happening in our communities. So we were fortunate that we had this UWC connection that we've been working with for the last couple of years. At the time, I was teaching a course called community activism. In that course, I had a student who, Christiana Garcia, and she, you know, she was kind of going to the meetings and heard about this opportunity that we were working on, which was doing the UWC Annual Conference. This year's annual conference was fire and water. So Christiana mentioned that her mother, right, Vanessa Garcia, who started an organization New Mexico Fire Relief Fund and put us in contact with her, right, and so I really want to make sure that you know, these people and the generosity of these people who, you know, shared their stories trusted us with their stories and kind of trusted us and seeing where this kind of went right and developed. So through that we met, Veronica, and we just continue to sort of develop this idea how we might be able to activate these histories work with Ani, who is from Brazil, and work with the students at UWC.

Student from UWC stated the World College up in Las Vegas, I'm an alumni of that school and I'm also fortunate to be an alumni of Colorado College and part of this program as well. So my hope was to sort of connect all of these locations, we're all along the same corridor highway, we are in community with one another. Really thinking about the loss of these fires in 2022, but also the immense resilience and care in this community has sort of like led within the wake of these fires. And Commissioner, Veronica, thank you so much for allowing us to come here and hear the stories of yourself, also the first responders, the Sheriff who were here. I was just remembering there were all of these outside fire squads that came in to help fight the fires, but who kind of stood back whereas the local firefighters and residents really went in because, you know, you know, who's living there, you know, so we're remembering and recalling these stories and hoping to do this community justice by this art project, we recognize, you know, we are outsiders in many, many ways. The generosity that folks in Mora have shown to us and sharing these stories with us and being a part of this process has been incredibly meaningful and sort of, you know, thinking about all of us in the mountain of Colorado has affected by similar issues. So how can we use art as a vehicle to connect and to think together and feel together?

Nancy Wood stated, so at UWC over one day, a conference we had about 100 plus students who were in the direction of the artist on Anizantella who had gone through and done a tour of the burn scar and started to you know, kind of really is sort of a meditative practice and so it was just a really wonderful to watch this kind of unfold and to watch the way that Ani, the care that she allowed students to kind of connect with some of these stories but also once the conference was over, right on a sort of still staying with it kind of putting the finishing touches to give the work sort of complete it in the way that she felt this was honoring right the experience the stories that she had been told.

The mural is shown and further explained.

Nancy Wood stated there are many details here that we will resonate with, especially folks who share their stories like the four lives that were lost and the words that we kept hearing like perseverance and unity and community that was really what was sustained throughout all of the distinct, different, stressful and tragic moments but this the perseverance and community pieces and then also this the different seasons, right, thinking about, right, of course now we're in summer and when we came it was February. We were arriving in the caveat of growth being slow. So I think part of what Ani was trying to capture because we were in this region together with Veronica for a couple of hours. We seen lots of different moments and thinking about the dream space. So we're in the present moment kind of here and in the dream, which is written as the students dream that some of it is like this fish and that's a different dream. But it is a part of abundance, right, and the abundance comes from dreaming, and the dreams that that allow you to keep persevering. So some of those elements on Anya painted of the New Mexico flag, having lived here for a while, for some time, and thinking about the way that nature also keeps moving, and we are animals, we are humans, right, that are part of nature. So we're also the humans throughout planting the seeds, right, that was part of what Ani really wanted to show, this middle section was the seed planting the caring for the land, as it heals itself to and with the helping hands of the humans that are that are still inhabiting. Then a lot of the stories Anya was mentioning, local folks going towards the fire because you know where people were living. So that idea of these, you see some figures here going towards right into the fire, which is not like a sacrificial thing, but it's the knowing of the place in the deep care that, that hopefully this piece of art also keeps being a place that of course, nobody ever forgets, but there are like a collective holding like, yeah, that's all part of our history. Those are our community members who were bravely confronting this, this tragic moment, but with community in mind and perseverance and other pieces.

6. Discussion/Action: Memorandum of Understanding between Mora County and Mora Chamber of Commerce involving Mora Fiestas

Shane Regensburg stated I'm the president of the Mora Chamber of Commerce. I have other Chamber members here as well. So next weekend is the Mora Fiestas, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 19, 20th and 21st. Friday, we start about four 'clock. Live music starts around six, there's a mass at the Catholic Church at five and then we end that night at 11 o'clock. So we tried to get a big band each night and it worked out pretty well for us. So before I just want to say thank you to the county for letting us do the Fiestas in the county property. Last year, we took over the fiestas as a Chamber of Commerce. It was the three of us that did it. It's a lot of work, and it's very rewarding. We're a nonprofit where there's the chamber of the county, but the payback is for the residents and all the smiling faces and happy families, happy kids, stuff

like that. So it was a really good event last year, very minimal to no bad stuff happening, I guess no fights and stuff like that. So that's good. Saturday, July 20 our parade's at 10am. So we'll have music by the DJ, we have a DJ in between in case a band does not show up or just have music playing until the live music starts. That night ends at 11pm. Again, we have a lot of local bands, we're very early. As we're calling bands I was like man, we're really fortunate in our community to have a lot of local talent. Some of them are, you know, nationally known or at least state known. So it was really cool. So we do have a rodeo that's through the American Legion. Fares is working on that, that's a separate just at the same time. So that worked out this year, the time of the rodeo is one to four o'clock pm and that's at the American Legion on Saturday and Sunday. Didn't get too much bands during that time because I don't want to take away from the rodeo. Not everyone goes to the rodeo but we still have happenings going over here. There's also a corn hole tournament that barber Jeremy, he did last year and worked out well. It'll be on the courthouse, the sidewalk over there. They had a really good turnout last year actually. So it was really good. So then there are other little events. The Sheriff's will be having their pie in face contest. Then Sunday, the last day of the event, we start twelve noon, and we end at 9pm that night, last year we ended at 10. One thing that we kind of didn't really factor in again was our first year was the cleanup. Then we also have the rodeo as well but the live music starts around 5pm. We have some new artists this year too. So there's a few singers that I've never heard of, so I'm kind of excited to hear them and see them but that is the event for next weekend. The logistics, what takes time and that's kind of what probably what we need to talk about a bit more if there's any clarification on that. Like is that the county has been really; guys have been very hospitable talked with Johnny at the transfer station, he's bringing in some, some big open top trash cans for that. So you know, I know the county is not charging us for that, that's part of the county's contribution to the events. Last year that was an opportunity for community, some feedback from community members, business owners, business managers, etc. Again, that's one thing that we didn't look into, but we just worried about our form. I'm sure the community will help because it's throughout the town. It's not just here in the courthouse. We've got the porta potties coming in, you know, I mean, all the logistics are coming to so I've talked with Americk and his crew a few times, about, like their plan, they have a lot of agencies coming in to help with that as well. We anticipate a lot the day that Las Vegas cancel their fiestas. I think the next day, we literally got about 15 emails and texts, so northern New Mexico, this part were last minute people. So we have about six to seven confirmed booths. But we've emailed over 40 emails. So I've asked for them. So I'm sure we're going to get a lot of last minute booths. So and again, the ones that we've never had before a lot of banks, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, you know, Boys and Girls Club, stuff like that a lot of informational booths. So that's pretty cool. So it's not just going to be selling stuff, that's going to be informational and that's fine. The more the merrier when it comes to that. So we are not doing the car show this year that did not work out. We did it last year behind the Senior Center. That's going to be where the porta potties is going to be placed that because last year we walked into the event was not a pleasant sight. So that's a bad event and then some of the bands can park back there to get their equipment down. The stage will be set up behind the senior citizen center angled towards those portable the Conex boxes more for the sun purpose. So they don't get blinded by the sun when it snaps over there. I know we've got chairs and tables that the county has or someone has purchased that we are able to use so we'll work out the logistics on that next week. But everything else is pretty much lined up. We'll have stuff for the kids you know bouncing houses things like that. So there's a fee for, you know, small fee for stuff like that. So, but if there's any questions or clarifications, we definitely can answer that. Friday and Saturday, I did talk to Lorenzo out of the FEMA office yesterday,

they are closed, and they're going to be telecommuting and teleworking, whatever they call it. So they will be closed Friday and Saturday, but the judge I know, they're still in session that day, and I just talked to Joey, so they're going to see if they can park closer to their Sheriff's Office, just so we can maybe if we need that space for vendors kind of more toward not the FEMA office, but like toward that parking space, whatever. So we don't have that tattoo guy here this year so we'll have that space for vendors as well. But I know the FEMA office is closed I did touch base with Lorenzo.

Attorney Ernestina Cruz stated I think, obviously, the Mora County Chamber of Commerce has to be credited for your terrific work on behalf of the community. In my term, service as county attorney, this would be the third fiestas that I've been involved with in terms of drafting the agreement. The first being 2021. Of course, in 2022, you were unable to have your fiestas, then you returned in 2023 so this will be the third in 2024. So my recommendation Chairman, is that the Commission approve the county entering into the form of agreement that needs to be entered into with the chamber. I know Mr. Regensburg when you reached out to me, you had some questions and concerns regarding some of the language to be integrated into that agreement, I'd like to get back on the phone with you and report back to the manager regarding what the agreement needs to look like. I think it'll largely track past agreements but every year you need to refresh language. So we can go ahead and work on that so that it's in effect before the Fiestas commence. I think the one thing to maybe keep in mind for future fiestas is to identify the dates early in the year so that you can provide those dates to the judge so the judge cannot schedule hearings on that Friday. You can make a gentle request saying oh, you know, fiestas are going to be held on these dates we know that Fridays have sometimes been a conflict. We wanted to give you advance warning as you're planning out your court docket so that you don't have as an example, at trial. And on that kind of day where it's very difficult to deal with parking. I think that was the issue last year, right? There was a trial that was scheduled at the end that complicated things a bit with regard to some of your questions and concerns related to the logistics. Give some more thought to those logistics and you and I can visit on Monday by phone if you're available. We'll be very clear in the agreement so that you don't have any complications and the county can be sure to work with you so that you're not pressed up against deadlines that are difficult to meet.

Commissioner V. Serna stated security is taken care of with our law enforcement?

Shane Regensburg stated Americk has reached out to neighboring agencies and he's covered to cover the rodeo and then whatever other events happen in town.

Commissioner V. Serna stated since the event is isolated just to the county property will our insurance cover that?

Attorney Cruz stated each year since I've drafted the agreement, one of the requirements has been that whoever is entering into the agreement provides policy limits up to the Tort Claims Act cap with what the county identified as the named insured and that will be a requirement that likewise will be included.

Shane Regensburg stated we doubled it last year, I think we're up to like \$4 million insurance policy.

Attorney Cruz stated well exceeds the cap but sometimes if you have multiple occurrences, there's no downside to having additional insurability right so that's something that will occur. Going back to your earlier point, Commissioner about security. The sheriff's office has coordinated with other law

enforcement agencies in the past to have them come in. They get cross commissioned so that he does the same right for the Red River Memorial Day, motorcycle rally, I think he sent two or three deputies from Mora County to assist. So then when you make the request, they're sure to send somebody out to help as well. So that's just something that happens within that profession. A personal point of privilege Chairman if I may. So in 2021 when I learned that the Sheriff, who was then Amos Espinosa, was inviting all these other enforcement agencies to come in and based upon my past experience as a civil defense attorney who represented law enforcement, I wanted to be supportive of the Sheriff's office. So, I let Sheriff Espinoza know that my office would be happy to feed whoever was here, they could just go over to Hatcher's and pick up a hamburger and my office would take care of the expense for at least one meal. Now that the event is built out in the way that you have, or you need more law enforcement at different locations. Last year, I spoke with the sheriff and said, I'll buy you food, so I went to Sam's Club and purchased the food that they needed for the weekend. Well I'll be doing the same, my office will be doing the same again this year. So, that they can feed the law enforcement on site as they need to, or multiple meals throughout the event. You all as a county government have a contract with me, which is an investment in the work that I do and I, of course, want to return an investment back into Mora County in that way. So I just wanted to let you know that I'm supporting the Sheriff's office again in that way. Thank you.

Ella Arellano stated just for everybody to know the rodeo had been canceled for years because of COVID and the fire, so it took us a whole year to get it back because they had gone to other places and that's why we had to kind of move the fiestas up to a different weekend. Because they're already booked for the last weekend in July.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated can you try to get a carnival for the kids?

Sandra Lucero stated we've tried, we've started calling since last year as well. We'll start after this one.

Manager Garcia made recommendation of approval.

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion of approval.

Commissioner J. Trujillo seconded the motion. *All in favor.*

7. Discussion/Action: Mora Main Street FY 2025 Agreement

Attorney Cruz stated so it was not on the agenda for the last meeting, but it was a request that was made by Ilka Villareal. There'll be a more conversation on this. The manager's asked that I confer with New Mexico's Economic Development Department to get some more information regarding these programs and how they work, and whether perhaps this is something that could be integrated in your future hiring of an Economic Development Director. So we're in the process of that outreach with the NM Economic Development Department.

8. Discussion/Action: Senate Bill 6 Road Projects Phase I Plan

Manager Garcia stated Mr. Chairman we met today with DHSEM, which is Department of State Homeland Security with the consultation firm Thompson Consulting and with the expert from Singleton Schreiber. So we met and we came up with a really good plan. The fact is that the initial plan that was submitted as far as using and utilizing Senate Bill 6 funds, was not done correctly so that we're

having to redo that. That's it in a nutshell. So we're redoing that to include, for example, culverts for every entrance, there wasn't any included, the amounts of material weren't up to par, the amounts of material. We're going through that and Gregory Gentiles from the state DHSEM is going to put a letter together, submitted to FEMA, and explain to them why the funds have not been used yet. They know what was lacking, and that's what they're going to include. So it was, I think it was extremely productive. So we can move things along. It had to be done because it was not done right the first time.

Commissioner V. Serna stated when we get to the Padillaville road can we find out for sure what's going on with that easement to the Forest Service because our road ends up some point before that and I think there's still about three residents beyond that.

Attorney Cruz stated you can also enter into an agreement with the Forest Service to maintain that portion of the road. The road I live on, is a forest road. But the county has been provided the authority to maintain it for the residents that live there. So it's technically owned by the Forest Service and the county has been provided in agreement through the forest service, allowing them to maintain.

Manager Garcia recommended approval.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion.

Commissioner V. Serna seconded the motion.

Commissioner V. Serna stated did you discuss anything with anyone about potentially obtaining 0% loan funding because I think that Senate Bill 6 money fund may not be adequate to cover the increase.

Manager Garcia stated Mr. Gentiles is; he has all the information, he's going to go back for us and just tell them it's not enough money.

Jashe Alcon stated he had concerns and questions about how choices were made on who works on the roads as well as the process of these decisions.

Attorney Cruz states, the county retained legal counsel who then decides independently on the experts following the process for the purpose of the county's claim. The county's in the preliminary stages of what these roads are going to ultimately look like. Right, which is why this phase one was discussed earlier in the way that it was, which is the entire team has been put together to identify what the next steps are going to be ensuring that there's proper funding, making then a determination as to what that buildup might be so that there is opportunity for the public to be informed about what's going to happen next.

Speaker Unknown stated I was just wondering when and how we will be informed about what the plan is?

Attorney Cruz stated by the end of July. I would also recommend that you continue to monitor the agendas, because there is a comment that's now happening more broadly regarding the next steps, right for the initial stages. Some of this conversation was happening in closed session because it involved the claim. Now, the commission has been very clear that, the commission has already decided Senate Bill six funded roads are going to be handled primarily by Thomson Consulting. There was an RFP that was issued, there was notice on that RFP, and there's been agenda items for the hiring of Thompson and then when Thompson was formally hired, I believe, earlier this year, they then had to get familiarized with the

county's portal, which meant they needed to understand what had previously been submitted to FEMA, for the roads to get filled out and to be repaired essentially. So Thompson has now gotten up to speed on what those projects look like based upon the previous events submitted and there's still some moving parts that are taking place to make sure that as the commission mentioned earlier, there's proper funding.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor. All opposed. The motion passed unanimously.*

9. Discussion/Action: Approval of Professional Services Contract with Extreme Power Electric FY2024

Item 9, 10 and 11 have been discussed in the last meeting, therefore these items were to be struck off the agenda of July 11, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to strike item 9, 10, and 11.

Commissioner J. Trujillo seconded the motion.

Commission G. Trujillo stated, *All in favor. All opposed. The motion passed unanimously.*

10. Discussion/Action: Approval of Professional Services Contract with Extreme Power Electric FY 2025

Item 10 was struck off the agenda due to previous discussion.

11. Discussion/Action: Approval of Professional Services Contract with VDV Electric FY2025

Item 11 was struck off the agenda due to previous discussion.

12. Discussion: Other Informational Items

Manager Garcia stated we had Albuquerque Heating and Air Conditioning here today addressing the situation with the air conditioning units at the Magistrate or at courthouse for the main complex. So the company may still be out there. And our insurance, I approved them coming out to give us a bid on everything that's needed. So we're taking care of that.

Commissioner V. Serna stated I just also wanted to mention one of the constituents asked that I give thanks to the road department for the work that they did on the Solis Canyon Road. Whatever the work they did do because they got hit by rain again, it did keep the water I guess but it avoided the mess that they had been contending with for the last few years. So thank you to the Road Department and Mr. John Romero.

13. Signing of Approved Documents

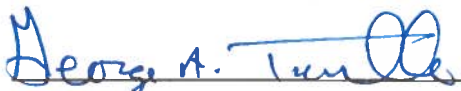
14. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna moved to adjourn.

Commissioner J. Trujillo seconded the motion. *All in favor.*

Meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

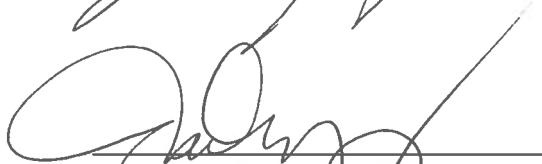
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