



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY

Special Meeting – September 6, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.

Mora County Commission Chambers – 9 Courthouse Drive, Mora, NM

1. Call to Order

Chairman George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 Vivian Trujillo polled the board: **Commissioner George A. Trujillo** – Present; **Commissioner John H. Trujillo** – Present; **Commissioner Veronica M. Serna** – Present. A quorum is present.

4. Approval of Agenda

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon recommended approval of the agenda as presented. **Commissioner John Trujillo** made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **Commissioner Veronica Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes

a. August 20, 2024-Special Meeting

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon recommended approval of the minutes. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

b. August 15, 2024-Regular Meeting

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon recommended approval of the agenda as presented. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

6. Discussion/Action: Submission of NMSFM Fire Grant Council-Fire Grant Applications

Attorney Ernestine Cruz presented the item. The Fire Administrator, Kristopher Romero, informed Mr. Aragon and the Deputy Manager that there was fire grant applications submitted by Mora's Volunteer Fire Departments through the New Mexico State Fire Marshal's office. These applications have been a regular practice for the departments.

There was a previous misunderstanding about the signature requirements for these applications, which led to a delay. Ms. Cruz informed Mr. Romero that the applications should be resubmitted and suggested a more proactive process in the future, involving the Commission's review a month before the deadline.

The current action item for the Commission is to endorse the submission of these fire grant applications.

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon recommended approval based on the information presented. **Commissioner John Trujillo** made a motion to approve as presented. **Commissioner Veronica Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

7. Discussion/Action: Acceptance of Resignation of Joseph Garcia as County Manager (effective August 19, 2024)

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to accept the resignation. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** abstained as she has in the past regarding this matter. *Two in favor. One abstained. Motion carried.*

8. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Interim County Manager

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated I feel that we need to hire an Intern Manager for 90 days, making a contract. I recommend JD Weathers.

Commissioner V. Serna stated a few months ago, we approved a Job Description for a Deputy County Manager. The intent of the Deputy County Manager was to fill the void during the absence of a County Manager. We now have a Deputy County Manager that we've hired. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our constituents. We've already got a Deputy County Manager who could sit in for that. That's part of his Job Description, until a permanent County Manager is hired. I just don't think it's right to incur another additional expense to bring in an Interim County Manager, being that we have this position filled for that purpose.

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated we've been talking about an Assistant Manager. We've been talking about it. Now, we lost our manager, and there's so much work that has to be done and a lot of stuff that's coming up, I feel we need to put one in place. Where they both can work together, because we're falling behind, and we're going to wait another three months before we get another manager. I'm not saying Mr. Aragon don't know what he's doing. I appreciate everything that he's doing and everything, but I feel two is better than one.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated you are exactly right on the Job Description and what we went through hiring a Deputy Manager, but I agree with Mr. Trujillo, there is a lot of work to be done. You got work on roads, work on the courthouse, and since I brought up the courthouse, I want to ask you a question.

Commissioner V. Serna stated ask me a question.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked are you going to give us you're blessing because we're going after that money to fix the courthouse, to finish the courthouse, or are you going to take your group to the Governor and to the Attorney General and feed him a bunch of lies that we're not doing things right in Mora. I need an answer. Give me your blessing, or are you going to continue that? Because that's the holdup right now.

Commissioner V. Serna stated I have never gone to the Governor or anyone else regarding any funding for the complex. As a matter of fact, I have gone out on my own to try to fight to get more money. Where you're getting the story from, or where are you starting these rumors from.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated its not a rumor, I got the facts.

Commissioner V. Serna stated I am willing to work in favor of moving forward with this but don't ask me for my blessing, because I'm not going to bless you with anything.

Commissioner G. Trujillo Mora needs to know that people have been going to Santa Fe. I would mention names, but I probably won't.

Commissioner V. Serna you can mention names if you have facts, because I have not gone to Santa Fe with any of that information, because we've asked for money for the last few years.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated Mr. Weathers, welcome to Mora County. You have my 110%. People need to know who JD Weathers is. Stand up and say a few words.

Commissioner V. Serna stated I believe the article on the New Mexican clearly identified who Mr. Weathers is, and I believe a lot of people have read about it, but Mr. Weathers, you can go ahead and stand up and share that information for the public.

Interim Manager JD Weather stated as your Interim County Manager for 90 days, I just look forward to helping move forward with the projects of the courthouse, the roads, and anything else that covers those items. As far as the employees, I believe the employees do a good job. As far as your article in the Santa Fe New Mexican, I won't, but all charges were dropped so.

Commissioner V. Serna stated but a family was injured by that accident, severely injured. So that is my concern, is that this could be a liability to the County.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated, again, Mr. Weathers welcome to Mora County I feel Mr. Weathers is well versed in all the County issues. Mr. Weathers is well known in Santa Fe when it comes to the political aspect of Capital Outlay monies. Is well known by the Governor. Welcome aboard, Mr. Weathers. I look forward to working with you.

Motion carried on a roll call vote:

Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; **Commissioner V. Serna** – opposed; **Commissioner G. Trujillo** – yes. *Two in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.*

Commissioner V. Serna unfortunately, I feel that Mora County deserves the best, and we haven't been getting that.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked Human Resources Coordinator, DesMarie Romero what the next steps for Mr. Weathers will be.

Mrs. Romero stated we're going to have him sign the employment background MVD release, where we'll have to get an MVD release of his driving record. He'll have to have a valid Driver's License, and Background Check will have to be cleared and drug screening as well.

9. Discussion/Action: Approval of MOU between Mora County and Mora Creative Council for the Fall Festival

Deputy Manager Aragon recommended approval of item number 9.

Attorney Cruz stated It's a form of agreement that largely tracks prior agreements involving use of this space. This is something that has been done in past years. So, in that regard, the agreement would be in harmony with access that's been provided to other entities, to include the Mora creative Council.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

10. Discussion: Other Informational Items

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated we will have a Special Meeting next Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked Deputy Manager Aragon to do an MOU with the school to allow to have meetings for the Commission at the school and ask if Planning & Zoning and other committees can meet there as well.

11. Signing of Approved Documents

The Commission signed the approved documents.

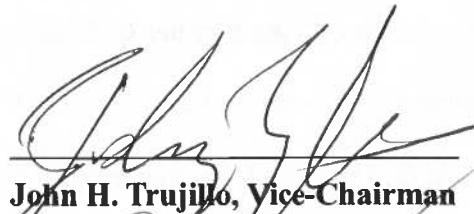
12. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.* The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo, Chairman



John H. Trujillo, Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna, Member

ATTEST:

Carlos J. Arellano, County Clerk