



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY

Special Meeting – October 11, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.

Mora Independent School District Board Room – #10 Ranger Drive, Mora, NM

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman John Trujillo called the meeting to order at 8:36 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 Elena Duran polled the board: **Commissioner George A. Trujillo** – Excused; **Commissioner John H. Trujillo** – Present; **Commissioner Veronica M. Serna** – Present. A quorum is present.

4. Approval of Agenda

Interim County Manager recommended approval of the agenda. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

5. Discussion: Update by Thompson Consulting regarding SB6 Road Projects

Commissioner George Trujillo joined the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

The Commission returned to item five after item 15.

Christine Pulver provided an update on the scope of work amendments for four priority roads for project 678073. Significant cost increases were noted due to revised road dimensions, added culverts, and roadside bar ditches. The scope of work amendments submitted to FEMA were for Quintana Road, Encinal Road, Encinal Catron Road, and Rio de la Casa Road. The estimates for Quintana increased from \$488,000 to \$2.2 million, Encinal from \$1.8 million to \$5.5 million, Encinal Catron road from \$65,000 to \$320,000, Rio de la Casa, from \$331,000 to \$3.8 million. The next step is to address the Request for Information from FEMA on the three additional pre obligated projects, get back to them the information that is missing for those projects, and our goal is to get that in by end of day or sooner.

John Kropog stated that the estimates for the road repairs will be based on the widest point of the road, even though the actual costs may decrease if the road is narrower. He also mentioned that the design phase will determine how the roads will be repaired. The goal is to use the estimates from the road assessment team, which captured significant damage not previously identified. John has been in contact with DHSEM to ensure they understand the amendment request process and to expedite it. Once the repair process starts, the design will be ensured to meet Mora County's current codes. After receiving the estimate from the road assessment team, the work will focus on restoring the roads to their pre-disaster condition. The process can move forward without waiting for FEMA approval, but waiting for approval ensures that the funds are available before starting the work. John suggested that the TCS team meet with the Singleton Road assessment team to ensure everyone agrees on the necessary work.

Attorney Cruz stated I sent two emails on September 27th to Greg and the management team, as well as Jeremy and Ali at DHSEM and the Commissioners. The first email requested a clean copy

of a document for review and signature, while the second email identified eight reimbursable projects. The total amount of these projects is significant, and the management team should follow up with Mr. Gentles to obtain the necessary form. Once received, the form will be reviewed to ensure it aligns with the Commission's approval. Regarding the \$3.5 million request by Gino, a team meeting is scheduled on Monday to discuss the next steps and determine if any contract amendments are needed.

John Kropog stated that there are obligated funds from FEMA for the 14 roads project, but the scope of these funds is limited based on new damage assessments. You can move forward using these funds to start repairs and then pay back the Senate Bill 6 loans once costs are incurred. There are two options for funding the road repairs one is using Category B funds for separate work and using Senate Bill 6 funds for the additional costs of the project. The Senate Bill 6 funds can be obligated, allowing for reimbursement of costs incurred during construction. The decision on which option to use rests with the Commission. It's recommended to use the funds available for the obligated projects to start repairs through the Senate Bill 6 program while waiting for the amendment for the additional scope to be approved.

Attorney Cruz suggested that the Commission should have a weekly meeting with Thompson leading up to their regular meetings. This would allow for more substantive discussions on various issues and provide Thompson with additional insights to address during the regular meetings. An action item regarding the projects can be added to the October 25th meeting agenda. Based upon the calculations, there's an excess of \$600,000 available on those reimbursements. The management team should request to receive that paperwork from Greg, so that we can take a quick look at it, and they can sign off, and that money can start flowing back to the County.

6. Discussion/Action: Approval of Plans and Cost Estimates involving Mora County Courthouse/Complex

Attorney Ernestine Cruz stated Chairman Trujillo, I am going to ask that you consider that item later in the meeting because there's some reconciliation that's taking place right now on the numbers that have been circulated by Sheb and the team at Wayne Lloyd and Associates.

Item 6 was continued after item 5.

Attorney Cruz presented materials received by Sheb regarding the scope and costs of various projects, including the District Courthouse, administrative offices, Sheriff's annex, EMS project, Mora Plaza, and Veterans Memorial. The District Courthouse project scope could be reduced, resulting in a total cost of \$4,851,465. The County's match fund requirement was reduced to \$2,425,733. The Administrative Offices total cost of repairs and renovations is \$5,919,131, including HVAC repairs, exterior repairs, and phase two of the project. The Sheriff's Annex projected cost is \$2,649,763, with an additional \$3.8 million for the communication system. Wayne Lloyd identified other projects ready for bidding in 2024 and 2025, including the first floor of the administrative offices, EMS project, Mora Plaza, and Veterans Memorial. Estimated available funds for the first floor of the administrative offices is around \$4,615,000.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated *for the record* Adelita just asked how much of this she's going to have to be dealing with. I just text her back, and I told her that the architects will take care of the majority of that work, as far as procuring it and putting it out to bid and making sure that they'll be there from the start to the

finish, and they'll be overseeing the project. I just wanted to say that for the record, that she will have that help, and she doesn't have to worry about taking that on all by herself. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

The Commission returned to item 16.

7. Discussion/Action: Budget Adjustment Request

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to *table* item 7. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

8. Discussion/Action: Approval of MOU Between Mora County and North Central New Mexico Economic Development District to Administer Capital Outlay Funds

Interim Manager Weathers stated we met with North Central yesterday. We recommend approval. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

9. Discussion/Action: Approval of MOU between Mora County and North Central New Mexico Economic Development District to Administer EDA Grant

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

10. Discussion/Action: Approval of MOU with MISD for use of Facilities to Conduct Commission and Committee Meetings

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion and stated *for the record*, Mr. Weathers, make sure everyone reads the MOU that's involved with the meetings. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated now that we are moving onto item number 11. I will turn the meeting over to Commissioner George Trujillo.

11. Discussion/Action: Approval of payment to LJ Pacheco for material for Los Hueros and Los Febres Roads in the amount of \$5,249.83

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** abstains. Two in favor. One abstains. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated *for the record* the reason why this one was brought to the Commission was because the requisition was not submitted before the services so, it had to come to the Commission for approval so we could get it paid, because he did provide the service and the materials. I think it was just a misunderstanding early on, and the process wasn't followed appropriately.

12. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Interim County Manager or Deputy County Manager to sign any documents related to Firefighter Recruitment Fund Grant

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** asked if someone could present further information on the item.

Fire Administrator, Kristofer Romero stated I applied for this grant to help benefit the County due to a lot of our volunteers not being able to assist in fire calls as much as needed. It

's a grant to hire 6-7 firefighters to work Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. they are going to be housed throughout the County. They're going to be doing jobs as needed helping any volunteer fire department with whatever needs necessary, and they will be attending all calls. Also, I will be sending them to Academy to get a firefighter, one, firefighter two, training on structure. I want to build this program as much as we can and have paid firefighter here on out. The same process will be followed with any new hire with Mora County. These are full time positions, and they will report to the Mora Fire Department.

Attorney Cruz stated there's a need to review the documents with your team to make sure the nature of the funding and how the particular grant from Mora County was written. Once you have all of that addressed and resolved, I believe the Manager can then present what the plan is. For now, the main priority is allowing the Manager to sign the requisite documents accepting the funds, and then they can start building out the plan for presentation and consideration by this Commission.

Continued discussion took place regarding how the salaries will be paid after the grant money has been fully expended. It was suggested that further discussion take place between the necessary individuals to ensure that a plan is in place before anything occurs regarding the grant.

Attorney Cruz stated the funding is for full time firefighter and emergency medical technician position, the grant agreement that has been provided to County, under the section that reads allocation reads \$1,575,000.00 over three years to be utilized in accordance with the provisions of HB2, to hire full time firefighter and emergency medical technician positions. So that is one of the reasons why the entire team needs to sit down and visit with regard to how these positions are going to be created and ultimately funded, and then, based upon that recommendation that is made by the team, they can then present to the Commission, so the Commission can vote as to how these funds are going to be put to use over that three year period. That's the agreement that's been provided to Mora County by the Department of Finance and Administration. What I don't want to see is that you walk away under the impression that it's only firefighters, because that's not the document that's going to be signed by your County Manager if you approve this action item. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

13. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Mora County to submit application for \$100,000 grant for wood processing to USFS and authorizing Interim County Manager or Deputy County Manager to sign any related documents

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

14. Discussion/Action: Update regarding Pending Procurement related Matters

Attorney Cruz informed the Commission that invitations to bid on propane, pit run, and a semi-truck would be posted today, with a closing date of Tuesday, October 22. Bids will be opened on October 22, and the finance office will present recommendations on awarding the bids at the October 25 Commission meeting. Regarding the pit run ITB, Cruz addressed concerns about whether specifications needed to be identified. She explained that while the County isn't purchasing material with specific specifications, they will need to process the material themselves to meet any necessary requirements for use on County roads.

Deputy Manager Aragon stated I followed up with NMDOT to educate myself as to what the process was and the requirements. There was another disqualification for the bid when it wasn't just the discussion of material, it was that the bid form was not included per requirement under

the Procurement Code. So that also has been addressed. I'm working with Adelita to make sure that we don't make those mistakes again.

15. Discussion/Action: Approval of settlement recommendation by Deputy County Manager Clarence Aragon regarding Karen Vigil matter

Attorney Cruz stated I'm going to preface what I will share with you by making note of the fact that I have not been involved in this matter, nor has Commissioner Veronica Serna because we have been mentioned early on as maybe potential witnesses, and that's why we have not been involved. The former employee is Karen Vigil Weathers, who is the daughter of Interim County Manager Joseph Weathers. As a result, Mr. Joseph Weathers has likewise not been involved in this matter. When the Commission heard from legal counsel assigned by New Mexico Counties, the law firm of Long, Komer and Associates, Mr. Weathers stepped out of closed session and did not participate. In addition to that, because Mr. Weathers cannot participate in this matter and he's been firewalled from the matter, the Commission voted to designate Deputy County Manager, Clarence Aragon as the individual with full settlement authority. Mr. Aragon, along with the Chairman George Trujillo, attended a mediation that took place before the EEOC. It was made clear during the mediation that anything that would be agreed to in the mediation by Mr. Aragon would be subject to and contingent upon Commission approval, and that is what Mr. Aragon is going to be presenting to you.

Deputy Manager Aragon stated as per the outcome in the mediation process that took place, my recommendation is that the County will settle the issue in the amount of \$7,500.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** rescinded the motion as she was mentioned in the complaint.

Commissioner G. Trujillo seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner J. Trujillo – Yes; Commissioner V. Serna – abstain; Commissioner G. Trujillo – Yes.

Two in favor. One abstains. Motion carried.

Attorney Cruz stated Mr. Aragon will work directly with legal counsel from Long, Komer and Associates to make sure that the final components of bringing that settlement to a close are taken care of.

The Commission returned to item five at this time.

16. Discussion: Other Informational Items

Commissioner V. Serna stated I sent a message to Monica Mondragon. Someone asked us if we could address the old Holman Road. It's been pretty treacherous since the flooding events. Monica will relay the message again so the issue can be addressed.

Commissioner J. Trujillo asked if we could get a report on which roads have been bladed and maintained. The Deputy Manager is working with Ms. Mondragon to address the matter.

Attorney Cruz asked the Commission if they can think about other roads that need to be assessed so that information can be provided to Singleton Schriber.

17. Signing of Approved Documents

The Commission signed the approved documents.

18. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.* The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

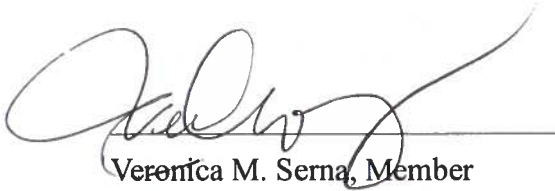
MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo, Chairman

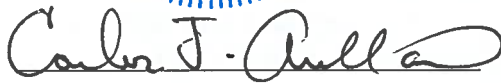


John H. Trujillo, Vice Chairman



Verónica M. Serna, Member

ATTEST:



Carlos J. Arellano, County Clerk