



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY

Special Meeting – October 22, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman George Trujillo called the meeting to order at 4:02 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** – Present; **Commissioner John H. Trujillo** – Present; **Commissioner Veronica M. Serna** – Present. A quorum is present.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Discussion: Thompson Consulting's Request for Assistance by Mora County in Providing Responses to Requests for Information to FEMA

Attorney Ernestine Cruz stated the Thompson team and Singleton Schreiber Firm meet twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays to talk about the progress on the amendments, and at a recent meeting last week, it was noted by Thompson that there's a need for the County to respond to what are known as RFIs Requests for Information, the idea was it would be helpful for you all to hear from Thompson regarding what those RFI responses will look like.

Christine Pulver stated the County needs to respond to FEMA's requests for information regarding four unobligated projects. These requests include questions about naming conventions, road and culvert dimensions, and mitigation decisions. The County needs to decide on the type of mitigation to be implemented for each of the four unobligated projects. The first project, 682990, requires a decision on whether to use a culvert or a bridge on B025 Vigil Canyon Road. The decision was to go with a bridge. The second project, 682994, involves culverts on Monte Aplanado and Santo Nino. The County needs to decide on the size of the culverts and the type of mitigation to be implemented. The decision was to go with 36-inch culverts, surface hardening and crown surface a shoulder on both sides of the road. The third project, 683004, requires a decision on the type of mitigation for B011 Coaches Loop. The decision was to go with all three mitigation options with (2) 48 inch 30 foot long squash pipe. B015 Tramperos project is overlapping with DOT project. FEMA needs to reassess scope of work. We need County's recommendation for culvert size and number for the last 1000 feet. The decision was a bridge. The fourth project, 683004, requires a decision on the size and number of road crossing culverts for B023 Agua Negra, A042 Morphy Canyon, and B020 Monte Colorado. FEMA was not

currently recommending mitigation, but those mitigations are up to the County if the County would like to request them. The decision was to go with all of the above on those also.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked if they could remove the chip seal from Morphy Canyon road. Christine will ask FEMA.

Monte Colorado road the request is downsizing the original pipe sizes from 36 inches and 24 inches to (1) 24-inch pipe. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** said no, add another 36 inch to it with head wall and wing wall and apron on the outside of the pipe in concrete on both ends.

6. Discussion/Action: Approval of Recommended Request for Information Responses to FEMA

Attorney Cruz stated I would recommend that you entertain a motion approving the recommended Request for Information responses that have been provided to Christine Pulver subject to the follow-up that would be made following your visit, along with the road superintendent.

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

7. Discussion/Action: Authorizing County Attorney to Pursue Road Department related reimbursement for past work and smoke damage claim through Public Assistance

Attorney Cruz stated as you'll recall your former County Manager, Joseph Garcia, visited the Claims Office to submit a smoke damage claim, there has been follow up by Krystle to find out what the current status is, because one of the communications that was received from Ben Krakauer was that it would have been a better idea for the manager to have submitted that request through Public Assistance versus the claim process. Krystle Berkstresser, with Singleton Schreiber, has been following up with FEMA, and it looks like there just has not been any movement on that smoke damage claim. The best way to get it resuscitated would be to follow up with FEMA on the PA side. It's just submitting the paperwork in a different form. It won't take a lot of effort because the calculations have already been put together by Singleton Schreiber. Singleton Schreiber isn't hired, though, to submit these requests to PA, so the easiest way to get it through that system would be to provide me with the authorization to simply submit the paperwork. So that's the request that's before you. The work's essentially already been done. Singleton Schreiber has circulated the calculation based upon the amended amounts that are being provided for smoke damage based upon square footage, there is a list of all of the properties to include fire departments. The only thing that Krystle asked for is that you all take a look at the list, and I can circulate it to all of you to make sure that no buildings were excluded. If there is a building that's missing, we'll just go ahead and include that in the list, and then it gets processed through PA so that the County receives the entire amount directly, rather than having to process it through the claims process. Singleton Schreiber is in agreement that there's no reason for smoke damage to be charged the 15% attorney's fee, and then the same is true with regard to the reimbursement for work that's been done by the road department. I know that Mr. Maes had helped the road department on a calculation. Singleton Schreiber is willing to have their expert take a look at the numbers, just to make sure that they add up, there's no expense to the County for that. Once that has been finalized the paperwork can be uploaded through the FEMA portal so that the County can make sure that those requests are moving along.

Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated first of all, I think Thompson Consulting, since we've already hired them and they have extensive knowledge and experience in working with Stafford Act and Public Assistance, I personally think that they should be the ones to take care of this. They know how to handle the details better than anyone else here. Secondly, I think that Tina has a lot of work on her plate, again, like I've mentioned before, the employee handbook is yet to be completed, and I think there's still some IPRA's that are outstanding that she needs to review. And thirdly, I'm afraid this could be perceived as a conflict of interest, since she's also subcontracted with Singleton Schriber. *Two in favor. One opposed.* **Commissioner V. Serna** opposed.

Attorney Cruz stated the Commissioner's right, with regard to IPRA, the County has been buried with IPRA's and we're in the process of fashioning the solution so the County can get up from under that task, and we're developing systems so that you can get a handle on it, and now that you have the two managers and people can be assigned on the ground to help make sure that the documents are being compiled; I think that's going to make a big difference. The Commissioner is correct, that's something that needs to be addressed. The personnel handbook is something that you're going to have before you very soon. We've been having management team meetings for the last month. I've been coming down often to help fill in the gaps, to sort of attend to those things that are most pressing. That's an item that DesMarie and I have talked about in terms of the timeline. So, you'll be hearing about that timeline via email soon, so that that can be brought to the close as well. Commissioner, finally, with regard to Thompson Consulting, part of the thought process was that, because this wasn't something that would be much of a heavy lift, much like you heard from the questions that were being asked by Christine earlier, it's just simply uploading the information into the portal that you as a County would not want to have to be incurring the expense associated with Thompson's work. As I said earlier, I would never be so presumptuous to assume that you want me to do anything, which is why I asked for the item to be on the agenda. That way you would be well informed in the decision as to what you wanted to do if you want, I know you already took the vote, but if you would have wanted Thompson to do this, I would happily prepare the addendum to their contract. I, again, I'm not in a conflict here. There's never been a conflict. I know there's been insinuation about conflict. I would never put myself in a conflict. That's not how I approach my professional responsibilities with regard to the work that I do on behalf of Mora County. The purported conflict of interest was something that was addressed multiple times leading up to a Singleton Schriber entering into the subcontract with me. You all approved that subcontract. And more importantly, I think that if you talk to Singleton Schriber, you will find that because of the level of engagement that's been provided, you as a County, are going to have a much stronger claim because of the coordinated effort that's being undertaken. So again, I just want to address those points. I think that Commissioner Serna has a valid concern with regard to IPRA, but we're trying to get a handle on that.

Commissioner V. Serna requested a copy of Tina's contract with Singleton Schriber.

Commissioner V. Serna also stated that this and her previous statement be *for the record*

Attorney Cruz stated I can talk to Brian's firm. We can get something to you, certainly.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked that Attorney Cruz's be reflected in the minutes *for the record*.

8. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing Seventh Withdrawal of SB 6 LGIP Interest

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon stated we are requesting a seventh withdrawal of SB6 LGIP interest money. We currently have \$555,000 this would be in reference to the September interest so we can come up with the GL list of items to be considered for budget adjustments.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated you're going to do budget adjustments to cover expenses that have already been budgeted for? Or is this part of the list that you had submitted? Those should have already been budgeted for, cell phones, Bohannon Houston, I think, is an issue that we address with some of the other monies. IRS penalties that shouldn't have ever happened. Workers Comp, we should have already had that budgeted for. I believe we got money for wood processing, or I think that was addressed with some of the previous withdrawals. **Commissioner V. Serna** opposed. *Two in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.* **Commissioner V. Serna** opposed.

9. Discussion: Other Informational Items

Attorney Cruz stated the County will be issuing amendments to three ITBs for propane, pit run, and dump truck. The amendments will include extended deadlines, which will be posted tomorrow by the procurement officer, Adelita Encinias. Due to the extended deadlines, the County will not be voting on the ITBs until after Election Day. The County Manager and Deputy Manager are discussing cross-training employees to ensure continuity of operations in case of absences. Cross-training will be implemented across various departments and will include tasks such as operating computers, posting agendas, generating checks, and IT support. The cross-training initiative aims to improve flexibility and ensure that County business can continue to move forward even if employees are unavailable.

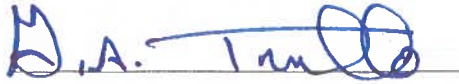
10. Signing of Approved Documents

The Commission signed the approved documents.

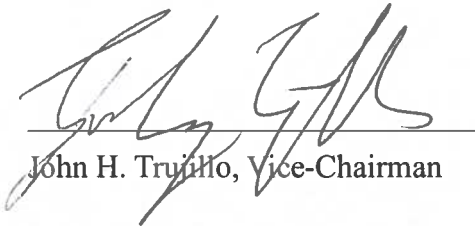
11. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.* The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

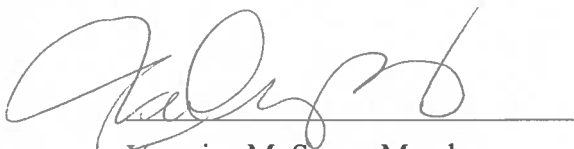
MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo, Chairman



John H. Trujillo, Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna, Member



Carlos J. Arellano

