



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY

Special Meeting – December 9, 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 4:00 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

Chief Deputy Clerk Temarah Barela 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 County Manager Joseph Weathers recommended approval of the agenda.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve the agenda as recommended.

Commissioner G. Trujillo seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated *for the record* who is the one that prepares the agenda? Is it you, or is it Tina?

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated I think it's Stephanie, JD and Tina and I review it at the end, finalize it, not finalize it. I just check and see if I like the approved agenda.

Commissioner V. Serna stated my question is, why do we drop so many of the tabled items? From November 27 we dropped item number 10, which was Wilson and Company. We dropped item 14, the Expenditure and Budget report. We dropped item 17, the reselling of the firearms. We dropped item 18 the tasers to Taos. Actually, there were 7, items that were tabled last time, and only three of them show up on the agenda this time.

Interim Manager Weathers stated the firearms and the tasers, we haven't completed the procurement process on those. We're still looking for more information. You do see the vehicles on today, because we've completed the process. You will see on today's agenda that we have an emergency procurement for Willson and Company.

Commissioner V. Serna stated number 14 was expenditure and budget report.

Interim Manager Weathers stated we are not ready to generate those reports.

Commissioner V. Serna stated the reason why I ask is because normally, you drop them from the agenda if they die. If they weren't ready for the agenda, why did we put them in to begin with? It should come back for us to take action.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated from now on we won't table an item anymore, we will strike them from the agenda.

Interim Manager Weathers stated and the reason we didn't is because we don't want to keep tabling items.

Commissioner V. Serna stated well it shouldn't be put on there unless you are ready for it, like the dump truck, it's not like we don't know any better, because we did let that one die, because Adelita did say that there were no bids on that one. It was noted that we let it die. But the rest of them that are tabled should keep coming back. It's complicated for the people to have to keep up with the agendas, because you have to take action on them.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor say aye*. All apposed. *Motion carried*.

5. Discussion/Action – Approval of Minutes

a. November 15, 2024- Special Meeting

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner V. Serna** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes.

b. November 18, 2024- Special Meeting

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated on item seven of the minutes of the 18th, It's approval of the contract for pit run material, I understand that a quorum has to vote either in favor or oppose it. According to the minutes, there was only one vote in favor, and the rest were no votes. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated I thought we had an understanding that if I don't vote, it is a yes vote. If I don't vote no, it's a yes vote. I didn't vote no.

Commissioner V. Serna stated you said the ayes have it. One to zero in favor. I am asking if we could pass something with one vote? Because you said the ayes have it one to zero in favor.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated all in favor of approval of the minutes, recommended by Mr. Weathers say aye.

Commissioner V. Serna stated are you okay with the minutes the way that they are, then?

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated yes.

Ongoing discussion took place regarding the subject.

County Attorney Ernestine Cruz stated I can address that. Commissioner Serna did circulate an email making the inquiry regarding whether one Commissioner who voted would result in a valid contract. And the answer to that question is yes, it's still a valid contract. You have a quorum of the Commission who was in attendance. It was one to zero. I did have an opportunity to reach out to Daniel Ivy Soto, who is known as an expert on parliamentary procedure in the State of New Mexico. I described the circumstances to him, and he was in agreement that that vote is an appropriate vote as reflected on the minutes, and as a consequence, the County does have a valid contract with Mr. Pacheco.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *All in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes.

c. November 27, 2024-Regular Meeting

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes.

6. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing Deposit of \$750,000 Match Fund Award for EDA Grant into LGIP Account with State Treasurer's Office

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval of moving \$750,000 into an interest-bearing account with the State Treasurer's Office. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes.

7. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing County Elected Official Salaries for those Elected during the 2024 General Election

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated I recommend we *table* the item. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated I thought we had gone over this particular one when we were preparing the budget, and I thought we had approved an increase.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated now we have the new amendment that was voted on in November. So, it changes, right?

Attorney Cruz stated during the General Election that took place in November, there was an amendment to the State Constitution. That amendment passed by way of a majority of the voters. As a consequence, County Commissions throughout the State of New Mexico are now authorized to exercise their own discretion and to make determinations of their own purposes of setting salaries for Elected Officials. Significant change in circumstance.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

8. Discussion/Action: Approval of Budget Adjustment Request

Deputy Manager Clarence Aragon stated as described in the document before you, requesting an increase in the Manager's budget of \$186,000. \$45,000 of that is for IT, for finishing of the locks on the offices, the cameras, website, and the rest of it is for pending litigation.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. **Commissioner V. Serna** stated I just want to ask that we get the rest of the supporting documentation for these because we don't know what the budget looks like. That's hard to tell.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – no; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.*

9. Discussion: Update by Management Team regarding Senate Bill 6 Projects, Disaster Recovery, and Recent Meeting with New Mexico's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Department of Finance and Administration

Interim Manager Weathers stated we had a meeting with Homeland Security and Department of Finance last Wednesday. It was a very productive, informative meeting. We went through the problems that we were experiencing due to Thompson Consultants resigning from their positions. What came out of it is, we're going to do, and it's further down the agenda, an emergency procurement to procure a new consultant for the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire roads. We also spoke with DFA on the need for spending our money. I, Clarence and Adelita participated. They are assigning their Procurement Officer to assist Adelita with procurement. We also went through the different categories, which was very informative, very helpful to me and Clarence. And it was a productive meeting.

Attorney Cruz reported a productive meeting with DHSEM, beneficial for the new management team. Significant support was offered to Adelita regarding procurement. The meeting addressed concerns about the County's legal team hindering Public Assistance, clarifying their support. The County will proceed with a disaster recovery team to expedite projects in Senate Bill 6, addressing delays due to proper scoping. DHSEM will attend a meeting in Mora tomorrow to facilitate the swift bidding process for these critical infrastructure projects.

10. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Procurement Office to Proceed with Emergency Procurement (Short Term) and Request for Proposals (Long Term) for Disaster Recovery Consultant Services

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the recommendation. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion.

Commissioner V. Serna stated *for the record*. Mr. Chairman, November 18, item six, a motion was carried for a request for proposals for disaster recovery consultants. That was two weeks ago. So, have we moved forward on that?

Attorney Cruz stated there were questions that came up regarding what process needed to be followed. Mr. Weathers was able to get DHSM to agree to an in-person meeting, it seemed to be prudent to sit down and visit with DHSEM before moving forward with any process to ensure that they fully understood the approach that the County was going to be taking. So that meeting was really a critical meeting for purposes of ensuring that the County was not going to start going down a path that DHSEM would have questions and concerns about. So that's the reason for the brief pause, as Mr. Weathers indicated earlier, and as I indicated, the meeting with DHSEM was very productive as it related to talking through the procurement related questions, and as a consequence, the Commission is now being asked to approve this revamped approach. You will recall, Commissioner Serna, that at prior meetings there had been the discussion about potentially looking toward a CES contract. That was something that was discussed at some length with DHSEM. The County did clarify why Wilson and Company was looked toward as being a potential option. DHSEM's questions were answered as it related to Wilson and Company. After further conversation, it was generally agreed that the management team would much rather make the request of this Commission to proceed with emergency procurement versus CES and then, of course, DHSEM likewise confirmed that it would be advisable to move forward with the long-term process, the long-term retention of a disaster recovery team by way of a request for proposals. So now that the County has received that essential feedback that was needed from DHSEM you have this item before you.

Commissioner V. Serna the other question I have, *for the record*, is how does this qualify for an emergency procurement?

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated this doesn't need further discussion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – no; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.*

11. Discussion/Action: Consideration and Approval of Procurement Officer's Recommendation regarding Retention of CPA Firm to Reconcile Accounts in Finance Department and Authorizing Management Team to Sign Contract Agreement following Review by Legal Counsel

Deputy Manager Aragon stated we're in the process of preparing a CPA firm. We have received a couple of proposals, and we hope to finalize the contract, hopefully by the end of the week, and get a CPA to assist the contractor that we have working on our finances.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

12. Discussion/Action: Consideration and Approval of Procurement Officer's Recommendation to Proceed with Fiscal Agent Agreement Award with North Central NM Economic Development District (EDA Non-Construction Grant) and Authorizing Management Team to Execute Fiscal Agent Agreement upon Review by Legal Counsel

Procurement Officer Adelita Encinias stated we have got two proposals; I reached out to three. We give the recommendation to go with North Central Economic Development. We graded each of their proposals as a team. They came out the highest with everything that we needed them to go over. Being that they've worked with the County before, they're familiar with everything going on. We recommend that we award get to that North Central.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

13. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Procurement Office to Proceed with Procurement Process to retain Owner's Representative Services to oversee upcoming Construction Projects

Interim Manager Weathers stated in the previous meetings that we had, all three of you were in attendance, there was a request that we get an Owner's Representative to oversee the construction projects on the courthouse. This is a motion to proceed with procurement to get an Owner's Representative.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

14. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Procurement Office to Proceed with Procurement involving US Forest Service Grant pertaining to Luna Canyon

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated I was out in the field with Johnny Romero. We visited with Michael Lujan and three other individuals from the Forest Service. The grant is to fix that road. The County will be fixing that road, putting material and installing culverts and labor. When talking to Michael Lujan, I suggested that Johnny could hire contractors to haul the material from our pit to Luna Canyon. I don't want Johnny to tie up all of his employees if they are needed here. **Road Superintendent Johnny Romero** stated it's a good project and it cost the County nothing other than to furnish the equipment and manpower, and they cover the cost of the culverts and material. We have the graders and the blades, and we have everything else, but we do not have enough trucking to make progress on that project. It is a total of four miles of County Road from 121 all the way to the Forest Service line. Ongoing discussion took place regarding the project.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:*

Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

15. Discussion/Action: Resolution Designating Match Funds for Mora County's District Courthouse

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

16. Discussion/Action: Resolution Approving 8th Withdrawal of LGIP Interest involving Senate Bill 6 Account

Deputy Manager Aragon stated this resolution is authorizing the Treasurer's Office to withdraw the money from the State Treasury so that we can ultimately disperse the money through the budget adjustment request. The monies that we're requesting be infused into the budget have to be transferred from the State Treasury to the County first. That's what this resolution will do. **Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – no; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.*

17. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution to Transfer Ford Explorer to the Village of Wagon Mound

Interim Manager Weathers stated the Sheriff and Mrs. Encinias our procurement officer have done their due diligence and prepared this resolution. We are prepared to do the intergovernmental transfer of the Ford Explorer from the Sheriff's Office to the Village of Wagon Mound. We recommend approval.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. **Attorney Cruz** stated I would just add that the Sheriff's Office and Ms. Encinias need to confirm that they received the letter from DFA, and they also send this to the Office of the State Auditor for review before the transfer takes place. It's a proposed donation until you receive the confirmation, as is noted in the resolution, you cannot be transferring the property until then.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

18. Discussion/Action: Approval of Lease Agreement for Roybal Tower

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. **Attorney Cruz** stated it is an increase year over year. The prior agreement, I believe, indicated a 6% increase every year. It's now a 10% because it's a shorter lease. The hope is that the Sheriff's Office will be able to make some progress on the County's communications tower. You will have the extension for two years. It will commence on March one of 2025.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated *all in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

19. Discussion/Action: Consideration and approval of 2025 ML & LE Deductible and Coverage Options through New Mexico Counties

Attorney Cruz stated the County received correspondence from New Mexico Counties on November 22, 2024, outlining deductible options for renewing their Multi-Line (ML) and Law Enforcement (LE) insurance. Due to rising law enforcement claim costs, both nationally and in New Mexico, New Mexico Counties has increased its reinsurance contributions. Reinsurance helps cover a portion of the insurance costs, but the increasing claims are driving up this expense. The correspondence includes deductible options for ML coverage, which includes general liability, automobile, and employment-related claims. Deductibles range from \$5,000 to \$100,000, with lower deductibles resulting in higher premiums. Options are also provided for First Party Property and First Party Auto, along with specific deductibles for LE coverage. The correspondence also introduces a new coverage option: Land Use. This optional endorsement provides coverage for claims related to land use and requires the county's approval. Another optional coverage is Medical Malpractice, relevant if the county employs medical professionals such as paramedics.

Finally, the document outlines additional pass-through coverages available for Cyber Liability, Equipment Breakdown, and Flood of Buildings, requiring the county to sign off on each option that are set forth in three-page document that was provided for consideration. I would say manager because there are options that are listed here that the Commission entertain a motion authorizing the management team to select the coverage options following further consultation with New Mexico Counties, I did see an email from Mr. Aragon to New Mexico Counties asking for a meeting to get some additional information regarding the coverage options, and I understand that meeting will be happening Thursday.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to *table*. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

20. Discussion/Action: Approval of Scope of Work for Grant # A23H2035 (Aging and Long-Term Services Department Award for Mora County Senior Center)

Interim Manager Weathers stated there was \$100,000 grant awarded to the Mora County Senior Center from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. The scope of work will include new flooring in the building. It will be vinyl plus carpet. It's in horrible shape. They'll also want to get the building painted. There'll be some tenant improvement on some of the walls. There were some problems with mice, and then they also want a new door, front and back. So, we're going to prioritize the flooring, the doors and the paintings.

Interim Manager Weathers recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner Veronica Serna – yes; Commissioner John Trujillo – yes; Commissioner George Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

21. Discussion: Mora County Day during the 2025 Legislative Session

Interim Manager Weathers stated we have reserved February 20th as Mora County Day; we are preparing the resolutions for both the Senate and the Legislative floor. We will do similar to what we did last year with the chicharrónes and stuff, but we'll also have a reception at 225 West San Francisco for the Legislators and members of the community from Mora, that will be mostly paid for through donations.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated I think we should have another discussion on the 20th meeting so we can finalize the plan. Maybe the Commissioners have any ideas they can bring them to the table.

22. Discussion: Other Informational Items

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked if there was an update on the land purchase. **Mr. Aragon** stated, not as of yet. Ongoing discussion took place regarding the land purchase from years ago.

Interim Manger Weathers stated we need to schedule a meeting, and it will have to be Friday morning for the Capital Outlay, ICIP.

Ongoing discussion took place regarding the scheduling of a meeting to discuss ICIP and the conflict of a Planning and Zoning meeting and a training session on how to conduct meetings.

Tina will be providing this training for Planning and Zoning.

23. Signing of Approved Documents

The Commission signed the approved documents.

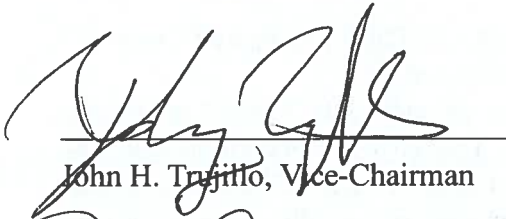
24. Adjournment

Commissioner V. Serna made a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.* The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo, Chairman



John H. Trujillo, Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna, Member

Carlos J. Arellano, County Clerk

