

Board of County Commissioners
Emergency Meeting
Friday, November 7, 2024, at 11:00 am
Mora Library NM 518 David Cargo Library

1. Call to order

Commissioner G. Trujillo called the meeting to order (the time was not captured on the recording).

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

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Saluted the Flag of NM.

3. Roll Call

Commissioner George Trujillo – Present

Commissioner John Trujillo – Present

Commissioner Veronica Serna – Present

4. Approval of agenda

Manager Weathers stated I recommend approval of the agenda

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve the recommendation.

Commissioner V. Serna seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discussion: Response to Emergency Conditions Involving the Recent Snow Event

Emergency Manager Eugene Pino stated I just got off the phone with DHSEM. Most of the Northern part of the State is getting a significant amount of snow. No County has declared an emergency yet. I told them that Mora County was about to declare an emergency. So they said, once other Counties started declaring emergencies, the Governor will probably declare a State of Emergency. That's where it's at right now, and what they want to do is just keep track of cost so far that the County is spending, just in case we submit for reimbursement.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated, did you hear that Johnny?

Road Superintendent Johnny Romero I will, of our county equipment or all of it?

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated of your county, and we'll specify money to hire the private contractors.

Commissioner J. Trujillo asked if all three graders are here.

Road Superintendent Johnny Romero stated two graders are here, the other one is in Wagon Mound. And the two loaders and the dozer is working up in Monte Aplanado and that area. It's been out since 8 o'clock this morning. Kevin's running it.

Commissioner G. Trujillo asked Johnny, can you give us an update on where you need help and how the roads are so far?

Road Superintendent Johnny Romero stated I need all of Sierra Bonita. I think a dozer would be ideal for over there because it's so rocky. That would be the best thing to take

up in Sierra Bonita. If we get a cinder truck, we could get cinders spread up there. Lucero, Coyote and all of Rainsville and possibly additional roads.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated when you're saying, if you hire a private contractor, do we need a dozer, a blade, a loader?

Road Superintendent Johnny Romero stated a grader in Lucero, and that would be able to handle it because it's 20 inches.

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated I recommend the graders for all the county roads and the dozer for where it's needed.

Road Superintendent Johnny Romero stated Los Hueros and Ojo Feliz with a grader.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated I think we need to get to the Radio Stations and on the TV, if we have to, and let people know that Mora County is declared a disaster and that we're willing to help people.

Commissioner V. Serna stated this is more for the backend stuff. Last year Ali stated she had sent us an RFI to the then County Manager, Mr. Garcia, and apparently, they never got a response, so I don't know if we ever got reimbursed for last year's disaster.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated we didn't get reimbursed. I advised Mr. Weathers and DesMarie is going to make the call to Ali Rye to see if we can submit that letter now and get reimbursed because that letter was never sent to them. Mr. Weathers is aware of that and is going to reach out to her to see how we can proceed with billing the State if they allow us to do that. Mr. Weathers will be contacting Ali Rye after this meeting, immediately.

Commissioner V. Serna stated the other thing that Ali Rye stated that she told the County last year that they would not be paying the County for this again. This would be a onetime situation unless the County created a plan in the event this occurred again. Mr. Pino, does the Emergency Plan have the details for this, in the event of a disaster with snow?

Emergency Manager Eugene Pino stated it does. The Hazard Mitigation Plan still hasn't been signed off but there are sections in there that does have plans for snow disaster. But I can talk to Jeremy Klass to let him know that we do have a plan in place. Jeremy did say to keep track of all the costs that the County has incurred and if the State does go into a State Emergency, and that will be included in all the costs.

Attorney Tina Cruz stated this is for Mr. Pino. One thing that you should do at this point is reach out to DHSEM to get their rate sheet for the various equipment. That's information that they provided last December when the County dealt with a similar situation. That rate sheet indicates the amount that DHSEM would reimburse the County for the various private contractors.

Emergency Manager Eugene Pino stated that he already has that information and it's the same. It hasn't changed since 2021. I just talked to Jeremy and it's the same as it was last year and the year before.

Commission G. Trujillo stated, Tina, do we have to follow that rate or what if the contractor says, "No, that's too low"?

Attorney Tina Cruz stated you place yourself in a difficult position because essentially what would happen is DHSEM would only pay up to that stated rate and that form was provided to the contractors last year and they understood why it was that there had to be a cap on the amount that would be paid. If you exceed that amount, the Count needs to absorb that additional expense.

Further discussion took place.

6. Discussion/Action: Emergency/Disaster Declaration Pertaining to Snow Event in Mora County

County Attorney Cruz presented the Disaster Declaration Resolution to the Commission, see attached.

County Manager Weathers stated I recommend approval.

Commissioner J. Trujillo made a motion to approve.

Commissioner V Serna seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion/Action: Resolution Authorizing Emergency Procurement with Private Contractors to Engage in Snow Removal to Protect the Public and Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

County Attorney Cruz presented the resolution to the Commission, see attached.

Commissioner J. Trujillo stated due to the snowfall and the amount of snow that we're getting, our first priority is to open all the County Roads and open the driveways. I feel we had issues last year, I feel, if there's an emergency that people need to get out, to go to a doctor or get medication or something like that. I think that's priority to take care of.

And then if the snow is and that none of the residents can get out, then we can address it.

But for now, I feel that the County Roads and emergency issues first.

Further discussion took place.

Commissioner J Trujillo made a motion to approve.

Commissioner V Serna seconded the motion

County Attorney Cruz stated I recommend that the manager speak with Stephanie about posting a notice of potential quorum. Last year, you'll recall that there was a quorum of the Commissioners that would attend the various meetings with the contractors, just to stay informed and to also speak to what was going on based upon constituent reports. I anticipate that you're likely going to have a similar circumstance where you'll be coordinating contractor meetings, and you as Commissioners may be coming together to offer the feedback that you're receiving from constituents. Stephanie should post a notice of potential quorum, essentially indicating that from today until Monday, there may be team meetings to address the emergency conditions, and that as a consequence, Commissioners may come together, if that's the pleasure of the management team and the Commissioners, I can send the language to Stephanie, and then she can post the notice of potential quorum to the website with staff posting the same at the bulletin board today.

Commissioner G. Trujillo stated that's a good idea, Tina, I think it should be posted like every day, because we'll probably be here until Sunday, maybe Monday. Just one notice is okay.

County Attorney Cruz stated I'm proposing just one notice so that you're not having to post it every day. But basically, just saying that from today's date until Monday, it's anticipated that there will be team meetings where the commission will be participating in the team meetings you will not be taking as commissioners' formal action. Instead, you will be participating in these meetings for informational purposes. Your management team and your road superintendent will be making the decisions about what needs to happen

8. Adjournment

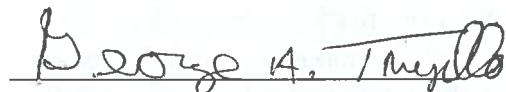
Commissioner G Trujillo motion to adjourn?

Commissioner V Serna made a motion to adjourn.

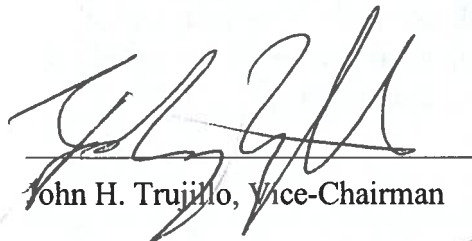
Commissioner J Trujillo seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried. (meeting adjourned at 11:39)

MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION



George A. Trujillo, Chairman



John H. Trujillo, Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna, Member

ATTEST:



Carlos J. Arellano, County Clerk