



# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORA COUNTY

Regular Meeting (Rescheduled) – December 24, 2024 – 8:15 a.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 9:00 a.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 County Manager Joseph Weathers** recommended approval of the agenda as presented.

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

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

**5. Public Comment\***

No public comment.

**6. Discussion/Action – Approval of Minutes**

**a. December 9, 2024 – Special Meeting**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval of the minutes. **Commissioner J.**

**Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes as recommended. **Commissioner V.**

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

**b. December 13, 2024 - Special Meeting**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval of the minutes. **Commissioner J.**

**Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes as recommended. **Commissioner V.**

**Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:*

Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner V. Serna – stated I'll *abstain* because I was not present for that meeting; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Two in favor. One abstains. *Motion carried.*

**7. Update by the Mora County Veterans Memorial Committee**

**Mr. Larry Garcia** presented the update. The Veterans Memorial Committee is moving forward with the construction of the memorial. Architect Tom Cordova is finalizing construction documents, which are expected by mid-January. Building permits will be obtained shortly thereafter, followed by advertising and bidding. The committee aims to have the memorial completed by the end of October for a Veterans Day ribbon-cutting ceremony. Due to rising



construction costs, the committee may need to request additional funding from the legislature. The architect is exploring cost-effective materials, such as granite instead of brass, to minimize costs. The committee is also working on policies and procedures for the handling of engraved bricks. The Mora Creative Council, the committee's non-profit fiscal agent, has donated \$80.92 and has a budget of \$679, including a recent donation from an individual who pledged support two years ago. The committee has not approved any expenditures since working with Groundworks architects.

**Attorney Cruz** stated the inquiry that I received from Mr. Garcia was whether I assist in helping to trademark the logo so that the logo will not be utilized by others in the future. There is a process that can be followed that I don't think would be terribly cumbersome. The other issue is that it essentially would become like an in-kind exchange that would sort of be like the fee that you would be paying for use of the logo in assisting in trademarking. I just need to get some guidance from the management team and the Commissioners as to whether that's something that you want me to assist with.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated I would like to see that happen.

## 8. Discussion: Project Status

### a. EMS Facility and Communications Repeaters Alex Tafoya

The report was provided in the packet. Ongoing discussion took place regarding expenditures that were denied and there were questions on what the capital outlay funding covered. The management team will be working with Mr. Tafoya to determine where to go from this point.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated there is already existing capital outlay of \$1 million is that correct? So that can be added to this, and it looks like we may need to do a request to amend the transfer from property acquisition, which we don't need because we own the property. Can someone submit a request to Alex, or have Alex submit the request to transfer that \$60,000 to any of the other funds?

**Attorney Cruz** stated based on Alex's email, there appears to be a communication gap between him and the architects. To improve coordination and address concerns effectively, regular team meetings, even if just once a month, are recommended.

One key issue raised by Mr. Tafoya in his email is the discrepancy between the CDBG funding, which is allocated for specific building types and amounts, and the proposed two-story building design, which exceeds the original scope.

It's important to note that EMS has received supplemental funding through the state legislature, which can be used in conjunction with CDBG funds.

The management team can play a crucial role in coordinating these regular meetings to prevent future confusion and ensure a smooth project progression.

### b. County Complex and District Courthouse

**Attorney Cruz** stated I had an opportunity to visit with Wayne Lloyd and Tom Cordova about a month ago, where they started to outline, a strategic plan in terms of how to move forward with the various projects that are at play. They've asked for is an opportunity to visit the elected officials, in order to gain a better understanding to what their needs are for space, so that they can then start working on some proposed plans. The initial plans that were put together, will remain the same. As an example, the space that was previously dedicated to Public Health would remain the same. With regard to the elected officials, we do know, for instance, that the Clerk's Office has shared specific concerns regarding safekeeping documents. You also want to have your early voting site and space to store election units



adjacent to the clerk's office. Assessor Trujillo has also shared with me some of her needs. As it relates to the EDA grant will likewise be done in collaboration with Felicity to ensure that North Central is engaged and there are no questions regarding the process that needs to be followed so as to ensure that those monies are being utilized the way they need to be. As it relates to the courthouse, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is ready to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement. I did send Commissioner Serna's inquiry regarding the possibility of the County receiving credit for the value of that shell, so that its match is not as significant as what's currently being asked. I did ask Wayne Lloyd to work some numbers as to what the value is of the shell, and I think it's something in the range of \$800,000. I did send that information up to legal counsel for AOC for them to make a determination as to whether that's something that they might be able to build into the match. Secondarily, these funds are also being allocated for renovation.

**9. Discussion: Update from the Forest Service Kenny Alcon**

**Executive Assistant Stephanie Casados** stated Mr. Alcon will not be able to attend the meeting as he is out of the office.

**10. Discussion: 2024 Last Quarter Report Mora Creative Council/Mora Mainstreet Report Mora Creative Council**

**Mora Creative Council Ilka Villareal** presented highlights of the Mora Main Street Councils activities, including community engagement and economic development initiatives. Ms. Villareal emphasizes the importance of continued collaboration with the County to bring revitalization to the community. (see attached report).

**11. Discussion: Progress Update from DHSEM on Status of Recovery for Mora County Dr. Jeremy Klass**

**Mr. Jeremy Klass** stated that he wanted to follow up on the letter sent by Deputy Secretary Ali Rye (see attached). He emphasized the importance of progress and offered assistance. His team met with Clarence, Tina, and the mitigation bureau to discuss mitigation projects and potential 406 mitigation for PA-eligible projects. Regarding the emergency procurement of a contractor via CES, Ms. Cruz and Mr. Klass clarified that costs associated with this interim arrangement are not FEMA reimbursable.

**Attorney Cruz** stated that after careful consideration of emergency procurement options, the management team, in consultation with procurement officer, concluded that a short-term CES-based contract would be the most prudent course of action. While recognizing that CES contracts are not FEMA-reimbursable due to their less competitive nature, they comply with the State Procurement Code. This means the County will initially absorb the expense of the contractor. This approach was chosen to avoid potential issues for the County and to protect the Procurement Officer from potential violations of the Procurement Code and associated penalties.

The County will proceed with an RFP process that will be circulated to DSHEM for review to ensure compliance with FEMA requirements and eligibility for Category C funding.

**12. Presentation of Award to County Clerk Carlos J. Arellano for his 8 Years of Service to Mora County**

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** presented Mr. Arellano with a plaque that read Carlos J. Arellano in appreciation of your dedicated service as County Clerk from 2017 to 2024, presented today by the Mora County Commission. The Commission thanked Mr. Arellano for his service.



**13. Discussion: Elected Official and Department Head Report(s) Page**

**a. Elected Official(s):**

**County Assessor** – No report.

**County Clerk** – No report.

**County Treasurer** - No report.

**Sheriff's Office** – **Sheriff Americk Padilla** stated I will present further down the agenda.

**b. EMS** – **Brenda Casados** – see attached report.

**c. Planning & Zoning** – No Report.

**d. County Manager** – **Joseph Weathers** stated we did experience a YouTuber going by the alias of Grande Johnson. The staff did go through a webinar on how to deal with folks who come into the building. You'll see in the agenda we have a security specialist that we're asking you to approve that position, we're going to be placing that person in the front with a desk. They'll, have a sign in sheet, and he or she will direct folks to whatever area. Now that we have the offices going upstairs, it'll, be an asset. In the County Clerk's and the County Assessor's Office, we will be placing counters to make sure that the public doesn't walk into the entire office. Chairman, you've been part of the meetings with DHSEM, where they've come down, and we went through an evaluation of the roads of Murphy Canyon and Monte Aplanado. With the portables, you requested that they be out by March. We've already cut off the water to the portables and at the end of next week, we will have the server out, then we'll be cutting off the electricity. We'll be starting to disassemble them with the skirting and the stairs in the front. We are expecting today to get the final report from the appraiser, and we'll move forward with the other steps to dispose of those units.

**e. Deputy County Manager** – **Clarence Aragon** stated you had inquired at the last meeting about legislative funding for land purchases. I included in your packet a list of the legislative appropriations that are still available to the County, to include the ones for land purchase. The insurance that was tabled at the last meeting, that response was required of us on the 20th, so I matched the coverages that we had last year, and we also included the land use coverage in the policy. The premium was \$20,000 cheaper than it was last year.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated I have a question for the Manager. We paid \$1000.00 to the Mora Valley Spinning Mill for rental space for multiple days. What was that for?

**Interim Manager Weathers** stated that was for Noches de Familia. That is a program ran by Mora DWI. The program is run through the Spinning Mill. It is in conjunction with the DWI Coordinator who has reached out to the Mora Valley Spinning Mill, Tapetes de Lana to use our space, they have held three events at this point. I believe you have attended events in the past that the individual in Las Vegas used to run it. It's the same program that's just been continually running as long as funds have been available to the DWI program.

**Attorney Cruz** stated as far as I can tell the utilization of Tapetes de Lana by the DWI program predates your employment with the county. Is that correct?

**Interim Manager Weathers** stated yes, that is correct.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated I know that at some point we were talking about the theater for this community to utilize your resources, but since that never transpired, I guess it's not considered a community accessible facility.

**Interim Manager Weathers** stated *for the record* I have signed a conflict of interest of my job as Executive Director of the Mora Valley Spinning Mill and I would tend to not agree with you, Commissioner, the common area, which is issues that we've offered it to several entities that use it. I can't even begin to list, but several of the community members have used





it for private parties, for birthday parties, so it always stays avail to anyone of the community that would like to use the facility.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** asked for the status of the forensic audit that was approved six months ago.

**Mr. Weathers** stated we're working with procurement to procure an auditor for that. We're going to come back and request that the dates of it be from 2022 to present.

**Attorney Cruz** stated as it relates to the theater, the agreement was essentially to provide the funding to enable that space to be utilized by the public. To Mr. Weathers' credit, he never pushed back against the County's failure to proceed in moving forward with that agreement, that could have potentially been an issue that could have resulted in litigation. We worked, this was over a year ago with DFA to try to overcome those obstacles, and they could not be overcome based upon the way within which that agreement was being assessed, and Mr. Weathers did not challenge the County and its failure to volunteer. The intent behind the agreement is that it would be essentially longer-term use for a period of time. But of course, the County was able to secure the requisite funding in order to proceed. As a consequence, that agreement is a void agreement. So, as it relates to the DWI program, Tapetes de Lana does not have an obligation to provide that space to the County free of charge because of that breach of agreement.

- f. **Human Resources & Safety Coordinator/ Risk Manager – DesMarie Romero** see report in packet.
- g. **Road & Solid Waste Department – Road Superintendent John Romero** stated this week I worked on tearing up the millings on CR B042, Murphy Canyon, with a quarter of the road being done. Then moved up to CR042B. I was working with Michael with the Forest Service project joint venture. We got three-quarters done and graveled. A culvert has been installed, and pit run material will be added. Ongoing discussion took place regarding maintenance of the County roads with Mr. Romero expressing challenges due to staff shortages. The department received a \$300,000 grant from the Forest Service, which will include the use of a blade man and blade equipment starting after the new year.

**Attorney Cruz** recommended that Mr. Romero develop a plan for contractors and share it beforehand to ensure clarity and avoid potential confusion regarding the procurement process. The goal is to address any concerns upfront before proceeding with contractor hiring.

**Executive Assistant Casados** read a comment from Zoom which stated "is it possible to order three small, mobile electric battery conveyor systems to have in Ocate, Watrous and Wagon Mound Transfer Station. The way the transfer stations were designed is extremely dangerous. People need to climb the steel stairs about 30 steps. This is extremely dangerous at any time, but especially in the winter. I believe that may be about \$7000 each, and far less expensive versus a lawsuit from someone falling down the stairs instead of prevention. Also, the employees at the transfer stations are also in danger of falling while carrying heavy trash bags up the stairs."

**Attorney Cruz** stated I recommend that the management team send their safety person go out there to assess and then make recommendations on corrective actions.

**Solid Waste Supervisor Robert Lee** continued the conversation regarding the comment that was made regarding dangerous conditions of the transfer stations. Ongoing discussion took place with different ideas of how to correct the safety issue. The management and safety coordinator will meet with Mr. Lee to discuss the options.



- h. IT Manager – Travis Vigil** stated we're looking at updating the County webpage through Civic Plus, it's a little more than we currently pay, but with a lot more features. It is really accessible for the public. It would cost \$3,795 per year with an \$850 set up fee. It would also be able to replace Towncloud which is another feature we currently pay for. Everything we currently have on the webpage can be transferred. We're also looking into a mass notification program which will cost \$3,000.
- i. Fire Administrator** – No report.
- j. DWI – Geraldine Vigil** stated I've been working on spending the reverted funds that we were awarded, and I just recently had our go-cart fixed to set up the DWI course for the high school kids to experience the effects of driving drunk. And I'll also be working with the School Resource Officer, Omar Cortes, to schedule prevention in the schools for this coming year. In coordination with fixing the go cart, I'm purchasing virtual reality goggles with various simulations to give the kids different scenarios of driving drunk and the effects of using drugs, and I'm also in the process of purchasing materials for the elementary kids to start prevention at an early age.
- k. MVD** – No report.
- l. Emergency Manager** – No report.
- m. Maintenance Supervisor – Antonio Maes** stated everything is operational, the elevators, the generator. I am expecting to move the Finance Office to the top floor by next week. We worked on painting the exterior wall. After the new year we will be replacing the window at Solid Waste.
- n. County Commissioner V. Serna** stated the meeting that I attended in Santa Fe on December 9<sup>th</sup>, they did state that one of the bills that is going to propose was that the Senate Bill 6 funding become a revolving account, and they asked if we could please extend our need and our urgency for that to move forward. I think that would allow us to continue, if that fund was replenished with FEMA reimbursements, we could borrow against it again until we got our projects done. So, they asked if we could just encourage all of the people that have access to any senators or representatives to please request that they support it.

**Attorney Cruz** stated I would suggest an action item where the Commission could consider a resolution setting forth legislative priorities. I do think that it would be smart for Mora County to support New Mexico Counties priorities, and what Commissioner Serna just mentioned could be an additional priority that would be identified in that list.

*Note:* Commissioner J. Trujillo took over the meeting while Commissioner G. Trujillo stepped out of the meeting.

#### **14. Discussion/Action - Expenditure Report/Budget Report**

##### **a. Expenditure Report- September, October & November 2024**

**Deputy Manager Aragon** stated we were able to work with Triadic to print out these reports for the Commission's review in the absence of a Finance Director.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated what came of the contract with Tai?

**Attorney Cruz** stated essentially what happened, Mr. Aragon sent an email to the contractor, essentially advising her that two individuals would be the point of contact for her, himself and DesMarie Romero. DesMarie has experience from past employment in a finance office, so she was lending support to Mr. Aragon. That email was sent to the contractor a week and a half before she then sends the email saying, "that directive would result in a gross violation of professional ethics." It was not a directive. In addition to that, I explained in my email to her why it is that Mr. Aragon was making that request. What he was really doing was providing guidance as to who it was that she needed to interact



with in her role as a contractor, she didn't raise concerns with him in subsequent conversations that were being had, and instead, it was this erupt email where she essentially said that she felt very uncomfortable with his directive, and then there was no further explanation or dialog that took place thereafter.

*Note:* Commissioner G. Trujillo continued the meeting.

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

**b. Budget Report- September, October & November 2024**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval as presented. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner V. Serna - abstains; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One abstains. Motion carried.*

**15. Discussion/Action: Resolution Approving 6th and 7th Withdrawals of LGIP Interest involving Senate Bill 6 Account**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval as presented. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner V. Serna - no; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One no. Motion carried.*

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

**Attorney Cruz** stated the resolution for consideration today has not been finalized because it's dependent upon Commission approval, for purposes of context, there has been prior law in place in the State of New Mexico that placed caps on the salaries that could be earned by your elected officials, based upon the size of the county, and essentially, counties could not go any higher than that. There's obviously been some pretty significant concern regarding those caps, and as a consequence, a constitutional amendment appeared on the ballot during the most recent General Election seeking to avoid further caps and instead to empower County Commissioners to be able to set salaries on their own. Attorney Cruz read the resolution (see attached resolution).

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated in my opinion, the people in New Mexico have given us the opportunity to set salaries for County employees, for Mora County. I think our employee's and elected officials are deserving of a good salary. I'm going to make a motion that Commissioner from District 3 make \$54,000 a year and the County Treasurer and County Clerk make \$80,000 a year. I make that as a motion. Is there a second to my motion? **Commissioner J. Trujillo** seconded the motion.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated I realize that we had caps before, but we hadn't even reached the cap prior to this. We didn't budget for this. I don't know how we're going to sustain this. This is going to be recurring; for the Commissioner, that's over a 200% increase. I'm not against increases, but our staff is not fairly compensated as it is, and to raise salaries by this much without going by percentages, we didn't budget for that. I don't know how we are going to get these salaries paid, starting in January. The other thing I wanted to mention is that we were going to consider getting an IPRA system, a onetime expense for the Clerk's Office, and Vivian said there was not even \$60,000 in the budget for that. How is this going to be paid?



**Interim Manager Weathers** stated there were increases in the budget that were going to take effect on January 1st. Moving the salaries up would be \$16,000 for each office, which would be a total of \$32,000. We do have to cover the \$16,000 of the third and fourth quarters. As for the Commissioner, you were paying the previous County Manager, \$150,000, the max. That salary is now set at \$110,000; there's a \$40,000 surplus there. There was a miscalculation made by the previous Finance Director, which gave a raise to each County Commissioner. It was supposed to only be for or District 3 Commissioner, Mr. Trujillo. So, in the budget is \$15,000 for County Commissioner raises. If you take the county manager's lower pay and the pay that was budgeted in for the commissioners, you'll be able to afford it.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated you have Clarence whose now Deputy County Manager, that wasn't there before. You have a Finance Director. I don't know what you're going to bring them in at now. And now you're advertising for a Deputy Finance Director. Is that correct? So, there's extra positions and what I'm getting at is that we're one of the smaller counties, and we're going to be paying our people more than some of the larger counties who get gross receipt tax, who get all of this other revenue that Mora County does not have. I don't know how we can justify that to our taxpayers when we don't generate that much. Ongoing discussion took place regarding where the money for increasing the salaries is going to come from.

**Attorney Cruz** stated no one County's approach is identical to any other County. Every County Commission has been exercising their duly authorized duty to set salaries based upon their own independent analysis and determination as to what they think the best approach is for their particular County. I think that's one of the reasons why your decision today is probably one of the more measured ones, because you didn't jump into this day one, you've been somewhat strategic in waiting to see what other counties have been doing to see if there are trends. And the honest reality is there is no trend. The County Commission and elected official work volume in 2018, 2020, 2022, when you all were sworn in for your respective elections, is fundamentally different than the volume of work that you all carry today as a consequence of the wildfire. I think by increasing, and I'm not speaking to the amount, but I do think an increase is needed, because once you level up your elected official by necessity, you then need to level up the other employees within the county as well, and you find a way to do that.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated I said earlier that our staff deserved an increase more so than what they're getting now. Because they are doing a lot of work, a lot more work than what they used to do. I just want to say that as a Commissioner responsible for a budget that we approve. I don't know that our budget can handle the changes that we're making right now, until the next fiscal year. Now, the next fiscal year, we can make some more adjustments when we see that the money's come in. I mean, every time I turn around, you guys are creating more positions, which is great, and you're going to cover that with the salary savings. The salary savings can only go so far, and I don't know how they can continue covering everything that we're doing with these increases as well. I don't know how we're going to sustain some of these things in the future we're here for. I mean, at least Commissioner J. Trujillo will be here for another four years.

Commissioner G. Trujillo and I, for sure, only here for two more years. He may be here longer, but we have a responsibility to our taxpayers and to burden them with this kind of debt and the thing is, on top of all of this, we don't have anybody that's handling our budget professionally because of the issue that we're in right now. So, I don't even know that we have the budget to handle it. None of you guys can really say that we do.

**Interim Manager Weathers** stated the responsibility to the taxpayers, to the voters of our community, is they voted with over 60% for this amendment. I believe the responsibility is to abide by their will and pass the raise Mr. Chairman.





**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated *all in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner V. Serna – stated I don't have enough information to vote yes, therefore, I am going to vote no; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One no. Motion carried.*

**Attorney Cruz** stated I anticipate that some may raise concerns about a conflict of interest, because, as a Commissioner you're voting for increases, in one instance yourself (referring to Commissioner J. Trujillo), and another instance Chairman, we know that the County Clerk is your sister-in-law, but you all have been obligated to take this action by way of the constitutional amendment. Yes, is there a personal interest that may be at play, certainly, as it relates to Commissioner Trujillo as it relates to your sister-in-law, Chairman, one might be able to say that, yes, that may be at play as well. Ultimately, this is something that's for the betterment of the County. It's for the betterment of your employees, and it's an obligation that every other County Commission within the State of New Mexico has had to deal with and confront as well. No County Commission could have anticipated the financial implications of the constitutional amendment, making it impossible to budget for the resulting salary increases.

**17. Discussion/Action: Approval of creation of new position titled "Security Specialist" and related job description**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval of the job description. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion, and stated again, a budget question, what is this going to cost and where is the funding going to come from? **Manager Weathers** stated we have the position of Administrative Assistant that will not be filled, we will use that money for Security Specialist. It was a part-time, and then we also have a janitor, which we won't be fulfilling that position, the safety of our employees is key, it's a position that we have to create in order to make sure we have no safety concerns for our employees. When we get our Financial Director in, I will give you actual numbers, but we do have the money to cover that security specialist.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated so what is the cost of the security specialist going to be?

**Interim Manager Weathers** stated between \$18 and \$20.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated *all in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo - yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

**18. Discussion/Action – Approval of Job Description for Deputy County Clerk/Records Custodian**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended approval. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion and stated, again, salary? **Vivian Trujillo** stated this is to fill Elena Durans position. Elena will be moving to BOE, Temarah will remain Chief Deputy it is a modified job description for Elena's current position. There will be no additional cost as the position was budgeted for.

**Attorney Cruz** stated I was just going to take note of the fact that the cleaned-up version that was circulated by Mrs. Romero was provided to me yesterday, so I may need to provide some feedback.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated *all in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo - yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

**19. Discussion/Action: Resolution Approving 2025 Calendar for Mora County**

**Attorney Cruz** stated the 4/10 work week that is proposed would start on Friday, May 30, 2025, and would end on the Friday, leading into Labor Day, Friday, August 29, 2025.



**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated I think we should change one day, maybe Veterans Day, it is on a Tuesday this year, and Christmas will be on a Thursday. I think we ought to change that and give the employees Thursday and Friday for Christmas.

**Attorney Cruz** stated for Juneteenth, you can say will be observed on Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated if you wanted to go further, we could say Columbus Day also and do Christmas Eve on a Wednesday and give you guys a five-day weekend, because most people like Christmas Eve and the day after Christmas.

**Attorney Cruz** stated so Indigenous People's Day would be observed on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. You could take a simple voice vote today to say that New Year's Day is going to be observed on Wednesday, January 1, and that the remaining holidays will be memorialized in a resolution which will be considered at your upcoming meeting if it's the pleasure of the Commission and the management team to pull the staff to find out if they like that idea.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated what if we keep the days, except for the Juneteenth day, the way they are. We have the authority to give them half a day off Christmas Eve without having it on the calendar. And then they keep that Indigenous Peoples Day.

The suggestion is to poll the staff.

**Attorney Cruz** stated entertain a motion now to designate Wednesday, January 1, 2025, a holiday with follow up on the holiday calendar take place at the next upcoming meeting.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated you heard the recommendation by the Attorney and Mr. Weathers. Do I hear a motion? **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the recommendation. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo - yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

## **20. Discussion/Action: Approval of Mora County Health Council Coordinator Contract Services Agreement**

**Attorney Cruz** stated upon the draft that's been provided for review and consideration, I do not recommend that you approve that agreement, and instead, I recommend a coordinated team meeting with the Health Council and the management team so that we can get a better handle on what they're trying to accomplish, because the current form of agreement is just simply not workable. You cannot have an independent contractor that does not work for you, so that's an issue that needs to be addressed. And in addition to that, the way the agreement is written, it suggests that you would be funding this position, which, as I understand it, you have not historically done.

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended to table the item.

**Debbie Rivera** stated I'm the one who submitted the agreement. I totally understand that the wording needs to be redone. I guess my question really is who do we need to speak to try to get this redone as quickly as possible, because we're halfway through the fiscal year?

**Attorney Cruz** stated I think if we could set up a Zoom with the management team and you and anyone else that you think would have integral information, we can talk through the various questions and concerns and find a way to get the agreement redrafted for Commission review and consideration. Mr. Weathers can coordinate the meeting, and I will be available if needed.

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



**21. Discussion/Action: Authorizing Procurement Office and Management Team to engage Wilson and Company to serve as a Short-Term Disaster Recovery Consultant through a CES Agreement, and authorizing Management Team to sign any requisite documents to effectuate the same**

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

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated *for the record*, I just want to say that I have worked with Wilson and Company when I was at Luna, and it was a very good experience. They were very efficient and did a good job in renovating our nursing labs and the trades buildings. I believe, Mr. Chairman, you also worked with them when they did some renovations here at the school, and they are very good at what they do. However, I couldn't find anything where they had done any work as far as disaster recovery. I don't know what experience they have with FEMA, or specifically the Stafford Act under PA. This is already week five since we initially did vote on moving forward with the procurement for this, as far as an emergency procurement. We didn't accomplish much in this, but wasn't it eight or nine months that we had Thompson consulting with us? I think that if we were going to move forward with an emergency procurement, you would want to get somebody that has the experience and knowledge on how to move us to that point quickly. I don't know how long it's going to take for them to get through the learning curve. However, I mean, I know you guys had a meeting with them, both you and the Chairman and the Vice-Chair on what was it December 9<sup>th</sup>? I was not privy to that interview so I don't know what decisions were made at that point, and what they shared as far as their experience, so I don't know and what I was able to research, I couldn't find anything.

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated from what I understand is that they have an expert who worked with FEMA before. I'll have Tina explain that. We're five weeks past the deadline, because you guys didn't listen to me. You should have hired them back then. You guys said that it was not legal. We went through DHSEM, and they said go on an emergency procurement and then they said, no, we can't tell you what to do, do what you have to do. So, we're doing what we have to do, five weeks later, because nobody listens to the Chairman. If we don't hire a company, and its expert with FEMA, we can't get nowhere. We've been at it for two years.

**Attorney Cruz** spoke of the meeting with Wilson and Company, attended by Vice President Edward Cordova and former State Engineer John D'Antonio was primarily informational and did not involve any decision-making that would violate the Open Meetings Act. Wilson and Company subsequently identified an in-house individual with FEMA experience. The delay was attributed to the County's cautious approach and the need to adhere to DHSEM's recommendation for emergency procurement. However, the lack of written confirmation from DHSEM regarding this approach raised concerns and necessitated further review to ensure compliance and avoid potential procurement violations

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated I know that they're a good team to work with. I'm just hopeful that they do have experience with FEMA, and I didn't know that. I am very concerned with hearing that FEMA won't be paying.

**Attorney Cruz** stated and with regard to the RFP, it should also be noted that DHSEM has offered to have a member or two of their team participate in the evaluation committee, and I think that the management team would be well advised to have DHSEM be engaged in that process to ensure that you're following the requisite processes that need to be followed.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated at this point, they could prove that they are capable of doing this and give them that benefit when it does become long term. In the meantime, I still don't know how five weeks later it's an emergency.



**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated *all in favor on a roll call vote*: Commissioner V. Serna – no; Commissioner J. Trujillo - yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Two in favor. One no. Motion carried.*

**22. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution Authorizing the County to Submit Application to DFA to Participate in the Local DWI Grant & Distribution Program**

**DWI Coordinator Geraldine Vigil** stated it's time for us to start working on the grant application for fiscal year 25-26 and I'm asking the Commission for approval of the resolution to approve the estimated amount of \$81,500 for the LDWI program distribution. The components that this money will be divided into will be first for prevention, second for compliance monitoring and tracking, and last for coordination, planning and evaluation, and also \$29,000 for the grant, which will be divided for treatment and contractual services such as advertisement. These amounts are just estimations, and the final amount will be decided after the application is completed, reviewed and evaluated by DFA.

**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. *Motion carried.*

**23. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution of Resell of Firearms to Santa Fe Pawn**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended to table the item. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to *table* as recommended. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion.

**Commissioner V. Serna** stated why are we tabling this again?

**Attorney Cruz** stated this is a disposition of property, and if there's a disposition of property, there is a process that needs to be followed. So, we need to ensure that everybody's on the same page. It might be helpful to just have a team meeting, and all of us sit down together make sure that everybody's on the same page with regard to what needs to be done. I had been waiting on some information indicating that the tasers were obsolete. I know the Sheriff's Office has been waiting patiently to see this brought to conclusion and that it needs to be taken care of through a coordinated meeting.

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

**24. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution for MSCO to Donate Tasers to Taos County**

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended to table the item. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to *table* as recommended. **Commissioner G. Trujillo** seconded the motion. Ongoing discussion took place regarding when to re-agenda the item and ensuring proper procedures are followed for disposing of obsolete equipment, such as the proposed donation. The timing for re-agendaing will be determined after a meeting to address these concerns.

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

**25. Discussion/Action: Approval of State of NM Grant # 24-I3019 Americk Padilla, Sheriff**

**Sheriff Padilla** recommended approval of the item, stating that DFA has already granted them approval for the funds. He emphasized the need for a specific line item in the budget to ensure proper accounting.





**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

**26. Discussion/Action: Approval of State of NM Grant # 24-I3020 Americk Padilla, Sheriff**

**Sheriff Padilla** stated again, the grant has been awarded to us. This is so you guys are aware of what's going on, and we create a specific line item for this grant as well.

**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

**27. Discussion/Action: Approval of NM Game & Fish Department Grant # 2024-2025-14 Americk Padilla, Sheriff**

**Sheriff Padilla** stated this is the off-highway vehicle grant which has been awarded to us through the State Forestry Service. This is before you, so you guys are aware of it, and once our new finance director comes into play, we create the line item required for it.

**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

**28. Discussion/Action: Approval of Third Allocation of Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention Stipend Fund Americk Padilla, Sheriff**

**Sheriff Padilla** stated this is going to be our third one that they're going to be allocating to us. There was some miscommunication on the second appropriation of it. Once our new finance director comes in, we'll be able to fix that miscommunication, and we'll be able to get the second appropriation taken care of. This way we can actually start taking care of the third appropriation the way we're supposed to and create a specific GL line item for it.

**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

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

**Attorney Cruz** stated I would request that this item be tabled until we have an opportunity to visit with your incoming finance employee to have a better hand on what those numbers look like.

**Interim Manager Weathers** recommended to table the item. **Commissioner J. Trujillo** made a motion to *table* the item as recommended. **Commissioner V. Serna** seconded the motion. *All in favor on a roll call vote:* Commissioner V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes. Motion carried.

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



December 24, 2024

Regular Meeting Rescheduled

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**Deputy Manager Aragon** stated this would be a vote to ratify the coverages that I explained to you earlier. We maxed out the coverages and the lowest deductibles that we have with a \$20,000 savings. Because of the requirement to have it in by the 20<sup>th</sup>, I had to make that decision.

**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 V. Serna – yes; Commissioner J. Trujillo – yes; Commissioner G. Trujillo – yes.  
*Motion carried.*

**31. Next Regular Meeting –January 17, 2025**

**Commissioner G. Trujillo** stated the next meeting is suggested for January 3, 2025. The next regular meeting will be January 17, 2025.

**32. Discussion: Other Informational Items**

Those in attendance again thanked Mr. Arellano for his service as County Clerk.

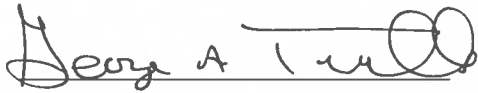
**33. Signing of Approved Documents**

The Commission signed the approved documents.

**34. 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 11:15 a.m.

**MORA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION**



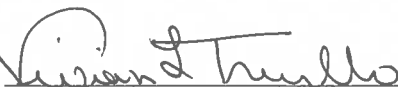
George A. Trujillo, Chairman



John H. Trujillo, Vice-Chairman



Veronica M. Serna, Member

ATTEST: 

Vivian L. Trujillo, County Clerk



