

San Juan County Commission Regular Meeting September 1, 2020

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on September 1, 2020 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Rhonda Stockert gave the invocation and Mike Stark led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Jack L. Fortner
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Jim Crowley
MEMBER	John T. Beckstead- VIA WEBX
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Michael Sullivan- VIA PHONE
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
ATTORNEY	Doug Echols
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	Ali Rye
CHIEF FINANCIAL AND STRATEGY OFFICER	Jim Cox
DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER	Kim Martin
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
FIRE CHIEF	John Mohler
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER	Devin Neeley

The following attended via phone or via WebX:

CLERK	Tanya Shelby
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK	Alyssa Kuhn
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	Liza Lier
FIRE CHIEF	John Mohler

PRESS: Farmington Daily Times Hannah Grover

VISITORS: 16

Presentation

1. GFOA Awards- Finance Department
 - A. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2019
 - B. Distinguished Budget Presentation Award FY2020

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States & Canada (GFOA) has awarded San Juan County the Certificate of Achievement for

Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2019 and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2020 budget year which makes it the 14th year the County has received the CAFR award and the 12th year for the Budget award. In order to receive these awards, San Juan County must satisfy all applicable accounting and reporting standards as well as nationally recognized presentation guidelines. Upon each submission, the CAFR and Budget are rigorously reviewed by multiple GFOA reviewers who grade the County's performance and determines if the County should receive the award for an additional year. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Only five of the 33 New Mexico counties received the CAFR award and only three of the 33 Counties received the Budget award based on the most recent data available by GFOA. This recognition can be viewed as a positive factor by credit rating agencies, constituents of the County, and State Oversight Agencies. It is through the collective dedication and hard work of all 15 Finance team members that make the County's ongoing financial records accurate, reliable and reported at the highest level.

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to call to order the Indigent Hospital Claims Board Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Indigent Hospital Claims Board Meeting

1. Request for Approval of Health Care Claims
2. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2020.

The Indigent Hospital Claims Board Meeting Minutes are taken separately and are made a part of the permanent minute's folder.

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to adjourn the Indigent Hospital Claims Board Meeting and call to order the Regular Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there were no changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley to approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of FY21 Budget Adjustments-Bar #1
3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding and Addendum to same for New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service /New Mexico State University

A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. **Consideration of Letter of Support for TechSource's U.S. Dept of Energy Grant Application**

Bill Redmond the former US Congressman for 3rd Congressional District in NM, currently serves as the Business Development Manager for TechSource. Mr. Redmond gave a brief history of TechSource which was founded in 1997. TechSource is comprised of over 500 senior level scientists, engineers, and industry leaders from the national laboratories, federal technology programs and the nuclear industry. TechSource is applying for a United States Department of Energy Funding Opportunity to develop and implement coal basin strategies that will enable the basin to realize the full economic potential of producing rare earth elements (REE) and critical minerals (CM) from coal, specifically fly ash. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Beckstead to approve the Letter of Support for TechSource's U.S. Dept of Energy Grant Application. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

2. **Annual Update on San Juan Safe Communities Initiative**

Greg Allen, Safe Communities Executive Director, stated that the mission statement for San Juan Safe Communities is the dedication to create a safer community by enhancing the efforts of community by enhancing the efforts of community groups that are addressing societal issues through prevention, intervention, and suppression. Mr. Allen presented an update to the Commission regarding the current statistics of the two websites developed by San Juan Safe Communities Initiative (www.sjsoci.org and www.umattr.com) and the several entities that they partner with to provide services and resources to the community.

3. **Consideration of Approval for Submission of Emergency Management Performance Grant-COVID Supplemental Grant (EMPG-S), Funding Opportunity, Application and Work Plan**

Ali Rye, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested approval to apply for the 2020 (EMPG-S) Emergency Management Performance Grant - COVID Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00. The EMPG-S funding requires a 50% cost match, the total Sub-grant Agreement award will be \$50,000; note that CARES Act funding can be used as the local share. Unlike the CARES Act Funding, EMPG-S funding can be used for COVID planning activities such as rewriting Emergency Plans to include pandemic responses, and planning for alternative care sites. Chairman Fortner commended Emergency Management for seeking grants and additional funding. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley to approve the Submission of Emergency Management Performance Grant-COVID Supplemental Grant (EMPG-S), Funding Opportunity, Application and Work Plan. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 20-21-15 in Support of a Grant Application to the New Mexico Economic Development Department, Outdoor Recreation Division

Nick Porell, Public Works Director, indicated that San Juan County and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office (FFO) are nearing completion of the initial Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant project for trail improvements in the Glade Run Recreation Area. As part of project, a new parking area was constructed from the Calle Norte Trail north of Farmington City limits on BLM surfaced land. This parking lot has parking for approximately 60 passenger vehicles or some combination of passenger vehicles, truck/trailer for OHV, and equestrian users. As constructed, the parking lot is soft surfaced with road base as paving is not an allowed activity in the RTP program. The San Juan County Commission has passed two prior Resolutions in support of the outdoor recreation economy in San Juan County and statewide. Resolution 16-17-63 was passed on June 6, 2017 in support of a "Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Industry in Farmington and San Juan County" and Resolution 17-18-47 was passed on May 22, 2018 in support of the "Creation of a New Mexico Office of Outdoor Recreation". In consideration of those resolutions, Staff continues to pursue grant opportunities to enhance outdoor recreation projects in San Juan County. The New Mexico Economic Development Department has established the Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD). The first grant opportunity the ORD has published is now accepting applications for the Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure Fund grant program. Staff and the BLM have identified hard surfacing (chip sealing) the parking lot described above as a priority project to enhance accessibility to outdoor recreation. The ORD grant Program has a \$25,000 maximum project value with a required 1:1 local match. In-kind match contributions are acceptable and Staff prepared the following estimate of costs for chip seal of the parking lot as currently constructed:

Materials	\$13,200
Labor/Fringes	\$4,000
Equipment	\$2,600
Project Total	\$19,800

The grant application to ORD would be for \$9,900. The required 1:1 local match would be comprised of in-kind contributions of \$6,600 for labor/equipment as Public Works would complete the construction of the parking lot chip seal. The remaining \$3,300 in local match would be cash contribution from the Public Works 102 budget. Construction would be in Spring 2021 and would last approximately 2-3 days. Grant applications are due September 14, 2020. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 20-21-15 in Support of a Grant Application to the New Mexico Economic Development Department, Outdoor Recreation Division. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Land Use Memorandum of Understanding with New Mexico State University Extension Service Community Garden

Bonnie Hopkins, County Extension Service, requested approval of utilization of the infield of the walking track for an agricultural outreach laboratory by New Mexico State University Extension Service Community Garden. The County would provide the space and water through the ditch adjacent to the walking track. Any fencing or other improvements will be the responsibility of the Extension Office and insurance will be provided by New Mexico State University. Currently the

Extension Service would like to enter onto the premises and start planting ground cover in the infield to help with weed removal. A long-term contract is being developed by the Legal Department. Ms. Hopkins introduced Wes Medlock, New Farmer Network Coordinator, who presented the following:

- The transition of the walking track will serve as a multi-purpose property for agricultural education, training, and specialty crop plots for entry-level farmers
- Goals for development of Growing Forward Farms
 - Create an outdoor demonstration area to increase/improve agricultural education
 - Serve diverse populations
 - Provide a central learning location for several local agricultural partners
 - Increase the number of specialty crop farmers and provide hands-on opportunities for several San Juan County agricultural partners
- Multi-purpose property benefits entry-level farmers and an agricultural demonstration area
- Beginning 2020- collect soil samples, re-establish irrigation, plant cover crop, apply for grants to develop program, and remediate prairie dogs and weeds
- Years 2021 through 2023- establish outdoor learning center, create demonstration areas, print informative signs for program activities, and create scholarship program for new farmers

The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley to approve the Land Use Memorandum of Understanding with New Mexico State University Extension Service Community Garden. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval to Increase the Medical Plan Bi-Weekly Premium and Reallocate the Percentage of Split Paid between the Employee and the County

Melissa Wood, Benefits & Compensation Manager, explained that the San Juan County medical plan is a self-insured, self-funded plan, and the plan is analyzed annually to ensure that it meets industry standards as well as solvency of the plan. Based on this year's analysis, Staff requested an increase to the medical (prescription) plan premiums. Historically, a medical plan cash balance of \$2.0 million has been maintained which has been a sufficient reserve however, FY20 was a high claim year resulting in FY21 beginning with a cash balance of \$1.4 million. If claim expenditures this fiscal year were to match last year, the anticipated end the year estimated cash balance will be \$734,806. County employees were surveyed and presented with ideas for continued solvency of the plan and sixty percent of employees who returned the survey indicated they would prefer to see an increase in premium instead of seeing plan reductions or modifications that shift plan costs to members. As the plan to plan comparison reflects, the County plan has done tremendously well sustaining over the years with plan modifications and a high member participation. Other plan designs, costs, and options have been reviewed and an increase is in the best interest of the plan, the members, and the County. While reviewing the State of NM plan, it was discovered that the County PPO plan is essentially better in every category. Currently, the bi-weekly premiums at a 21/79 split are:

- \$58.43-EE/\$219.80-ER -employee only;
- \$116.80-EE/ \$439.38-ER -employee + child(ren);

- \$122.63-EE/\$461.32-ER -employee + spouse;
- \$153.50-EE/\$577.43-ER -family

Effective 1/1/2021, authorization is requested to increase the total premium by 4% and then reallocate the split to 22/78; this equates to a net 8.95% increase to employee premiums and a net 2.68% increase to employer premiums. Therefore, bi-weekly premiums will be:

- \$63.66-EE/\$225.70-ER -employee only;
- \$127.25-EE/\$451.17-ER -employee+ child(ren);
- \$133.61-EE/\$473.70-ER -employee + spouse;
- \$167.24-EE/\$592.93-ER -family

This change should net approximately \$260,092 to the medical fund over the course of an entire year. Potential estimated additional cost to the FY21 budget is \$68,924 which is six months of the total expected impact of \$137,848. This adjustment will not be budgeted until mid to end of fiscal year due to current premiums already being budgeted in the current budget year. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve to Increase the Medical Plan Bi-Weekly Premium and Reallocate the Percentage of Split Paid between the Employee and the County. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark stated that the Certificate of Property Tax rates has been received and requested that a Special Meeting be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. for approval by the Commission.

Mr. Stark updated the Commission regarding the Covid CARES Act Grant and Business Continuity Grant awarded to the County.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Faye Anderson, Housing Executive Director explained that CARES funding has been awarded to the Housing Authority and the funding will be used to provide care packages to families in the program on September 17, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

John Mohler, Fire Chief, announced that an event will be held on September 11, 2020 beginning at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to mark the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Bloomfield. Fire Chief Mohler also announced that the Insurance Services Offices (ISO) graded three San Juan County Districts: District 6, Lee Acres Area grade improved from a Class 5 to a Class 4 rating and District 2 remained a Class 4 rating.

Commissioner Todacheene announced that September 15th is Grandparents Day.

Comments / Input From The General Public

None

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go into closed executive session to discuss Industrial Park Usage by Third Parties. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously. Chairman Fortner stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

Adjourn

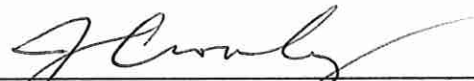
Being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Crowley to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



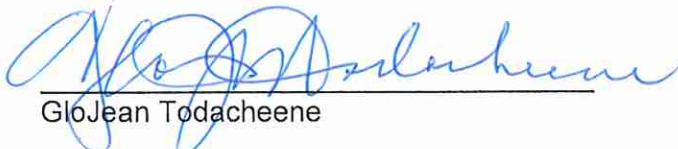
Chairman Jack L. Fortner



Chairman Pro-Tem Jim Crowley



John T. Beckstead



GloJean Todacheene



Michael Sullivan

ATTEST:



Tanya Shelby, County Clerk

