

**San Juan County Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 4, 2021**

Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on May 4, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Lanier gave the invocation and Commission Todacheene led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN                                    | John T. Beckstead- ABSENT   |
| CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM                            | Terri D. Fortner            |
| MEMBER                                      | Steve Lanier                |
| MEMBER                                      | GloJean Todacheene          |
| MEMBER                                      | Michael Sullivan- VIA PHONE |
| COUNTY MANAGER                              | Mike Stark                  |
| DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER                       | Jim Cox                     |
| DEPUTY ATTORNEY                             | Joe Sawyer                  |
| EMERGENCY MANAGER                           | Mike Mestas                 |
| JUVENILE SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR             | Bowen Belt                  |
| EMERGENCY MANAGER                           | Mike Mestas                 |
| PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR                  | Nick Porell                 |
| JUVENILE SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR             | Bowen Belt                  |
| FIRE CHIEF                                  | John Mohler                 |
| DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF                           | David Vega                  |
| COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR | Liza Gomez                  |
| COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR              | Michele Truby-Tillen        |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER             | Devin Neeley                |
| BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR         | Su Hodgman                  |

The following attended via phone or via WebEx:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| CLERK                      | Tanya Shelby      |
| CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER     | Bryan Myers       |
| ATTORNEY                   | Doug Echols       |
| RISK MANAGER               | Cynthia Singleton |
| HOUSING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Faye Anderson     |

VISITORS:

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## **Regular Meeting**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of FY21 Budget Adjustment #12-Resolution No. 20-21-63
3. Renewal of Proposal No. 18-19-15, Medical Direction for Fire & Rescue Services to EMSDOCs, PC of Farmington, NM
4. Renewal of Bid No. 19-20-20, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Surface Treatment Aggregate to 3 local companies: C&E Concrete of Flora Vista, NM, Mesa Sand & Gravel of Farmington, NM and Oldcastle SW Group of Aztec, NM
5. Renewal of Request for Proposal No. 19-20-26, Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents to Amikids, Inc of Cuba, NM
6. Renewal of Bid No. 18-19-14, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Asphalt Emulsions and Associated Products to HollyFrontier Refining & Marketing, LLC of Albuquerque, NM
7. Renewal of Proposal No. 17-18-19, Employee Assistance Program Services to Choices Behavioral Health of Farmington, NM
8. Approval the Award of Bid No. 20-21-14, Price Agreement for the Production of Type II Base Course to C & J Gravel Products, Inc. of Durango, Colorado

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **1. San Juan Water Commission Update**

Jimmy Hodges, San Juan Water Commission Water Resource Specialist, reported the following:

- San Juan Water Commission made the request for release from the Animas/La Plata project (ALP) Lake Nighthorse on behalf of 7 member entities which was for 410 acre-feet for 5 days
- 44 cfs (cubic feet per second) released from the reservoir with 41 cfs going to the Animas River; Colorado reported that there was 5% loss resulting in 38.9 cfs being available at the New Mexico state line
- The Colorado Department of Water Resources informed all stakeholders of data collected on a real time basis by means of Google doc
- The New Mexico State Engineer's Office reported that the full 38.9 cfs are available for diversion

- All gaging stations including United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Colorado/New Mexico ditch diversions were monitored, and no significant diversions were observed

Aaron Chavez, San Juan Water Commission Executive Director, stated that the San Juan Water Commission was created in 1986 through a Joint Powers Agreement. The member entities include the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, San Juan County, and the San Juan County Rural Water User Association. Mr. Chavez gave a brief overview of the functions of the water commission which include: the ALP project, lease/purchase water rights, invasive species issues, water planning (local, regional and state), San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, and resolving water quality/drought issues. The Commission asked various questions.

## **2. Presentation, 2020-2021 Wildfire Risk Reduction CWPP Update**

David Vega, Deputy Fire Chief, explained that the San Juan Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies areas in San Juan County that are at high risk of Wildland Urban Interface Fire (WUI) occurrence and lays out a road map for hazardous fuels reduction projects in those areas. The CWPP was last updated in 2014 and it is recommended that the plan is updated every 5 years. The project was awarded a New Mexico Association of Counties grant for \$10,000.00 with a 10% match. Craig Daugherty, Fire Edge Solutions, will be updating the plan. Mr. Daugherty explained that through funding 8500 acres have been treated, reducing fire fuel. The invasive species that have been removed are russian olive and salt cedar trees which are non-native to the area which also assists in watershed health. Mr. Vega stated that the current drought condition for San Juan County is exceptional drought and there have been three large fires in San Juan County so far this year: Mesa Farm fire- 100 acres on April 5th, Road 4800 fire- 50 acres on April 14th, and Salt Creek fire- 422 acres on May 2nd. The Commission asked various questions.

## **3. Consideration of Approval of Scope of Work for BHIZ Grant FY2022**

Susan Hodgman, Behavioral Health Director presented the following information to the Commission:

Background: Last year San Juan County was invited to apply for the Behavioral Health Investment Zone (BHIZ) grant to address the high incidence of overdose rates, prevalence of alcohol addiction, and suicides. That grant application was awarded to SJC at \$250,000 for FY 2021 with an opportunity for \$500,000 each year for four additional years. The approach was to begin to address the gaps identified in the 2019 Behavioral Health Gap Analysis.

Accomplishments in year one (FY2021): Recruited and trained staff - 2 Peer Mentors, 1 Admin Assistant, 1 Behavioral Health (BH) Deputy; secured and opened the Mental Wellness Resource Center (MWRC); coordination and collaboration with Mental Health, Behavioral Health, and Substance Use Treatment Providers; provided non-Medicaid services such as connections to resources for community members (189 connections for the period of November 2020 to March 30, 2021); coordination of resources with BH Deputy who has become a vital part of the MWRC team.

Summary of Tasks for FY 2022: Continue building capacity for a comprehensive service delivery system; provide non-Medicaid care coordination, advocacy, outreach, coaching, and support services for the non-Medicaid eligible population; develop mitigation strategies and contingency plans; provide enhanced reporting and data sharing to grantor and other agencies.

Ms. Hodgman stated that the goal is to become self-sustaining and services provided Medicaid reimbursable within the next 5 years. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Scope of Work for BHIZ Grant FY2022. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

**4. Consideration of Resolution of Support for County Road 6100 NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Application**

Nick Porell, Public Works Director, explained that during the 2021 legislative session, New Mexico Rule 18-27.6 was established for the Transportation Project Fund (TPF) and an estimated \$40M is available state-wide through the program exclusively to Local Governments for use on transportation projects. The funds will be administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and a call for projects was issued by NMDOT on April 15, 2021. An application has been prepared to submit to NMDOT for \$635,000 through the program for the purpose of securing funding to complete a cold milling and asphalt overlay of County Road 6100 between Mile Post (MP) 0.6 at Farmington City Limits and MP 5.0 at the intersection with County Road 6100. A resolution of support from the Commission and associated commitment to the required 5% local match is required as part of the application. Staff requested approval of Resolution 20-21-64 to proceed with the grant application which is due by May 31, 2021. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Resolution of Support for County Road 6100 NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Application. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

**5. Consideration of Agreement to Transfer YHDP Grant to San Juan Safe Communities Initiative**

Bowen Belt, Juvenile Services Director, requested approval to transfer the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Grant NM to San Juan Safe Communities and enter into agreement with San Juan Safe Communities Initiative on May 14, 2021, to administer the grant as a subrecipient until the formal transfer of the grant is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. San Juan Safe Communities Initiative serves young adults ages 18-24 and has expressed a strong desire to have the grant transferred to their agency to continue the services that have been provided by San Juan County over the past 2 years. The initial application for the grant was submitted by Traci Neff, who will be working with San Juan Safe Communities to administer the grant if approved for transfer. There are currently 8 participants in the program but with the full capacity goal of 11 participants. The County will act as a fiscal agent until the transfer is fully approved. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Agreement to Transfer YHDP Grant to San Juan Safe Communities Initiative. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 20-21-65, Declaring May 2021 "Flood Hazard Awareness Month"**

Michele Truby Tillen, CFM -Community Development Director/Floodplain Administrator, explained that San Juan County is subject to flood events including spring run off on the Animas River, monsoon flash flooding, and arroyo flooding throughout the year. During times of drought and lack of snowpack, citizens may forget that flooding occurs in the area. By educating the community on major flood events in the area that will occur in the future, combined with encouragement to create a family emergency plan for all disasters, protect property from possible damage from flood events, find out what their flood risk is, and purchase flood insurance to assist if damage does occur; will help save lives and reduce property damage. A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 20-21-65, Declaring May 2021 "Flood Hazard Awareness Month". Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

7. **Consideration of Proclamation Declaring May 2nd- May 8th, 2021 as Teacher Appreciation Week**

Commissioner Todacheene stated that teachers have preparation involved in educating students and with the pandemic it has been even more difficult. Ms. Todacheene requested May 2-8, 2021 be proclaimed Teacher Appreciation Week to honor the commitment that teachers have to their students. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Proclamation Declaring May 2nd-May 8th as Teacher Appreciation Week. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

**Report from County Manager**

Mike Stark reported the following to the Commission:

This week is National Correctional Officers Week and Mr. Stark recognized the County employees at the correctional facilities for their services.

Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager received an American Flag from the United States Capital presented to him by Senator Heinrich recognizing Mr. Mestas as a Hometown Hero

Mr. Stark requested an update on Covid-19 from Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager. Mr. Mestas stated that there is a new public health order in effect until May 28 which now includes vaccinations towards the gating criteria. San Juan County currently has a 53% vaccination rate; the Governor is seeking a 60% vaccination rate for the State of New Mexico in order to fully open in June.

Mr. Stark recognized today, May 4 as International Firefighters Day and thanked the San Juan County Fire Department for their services.

**Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

None

**Comments / Input From The General Public**

None

**Closed Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go into closed executive session to discuss New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) Gross Receipt Tax Reimbursement litigation. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously. Upon return, a motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to go back into open meeting. Additionally, Chairman Pro-Tem 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, Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

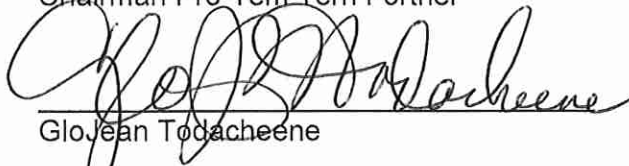
APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY 2021


BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

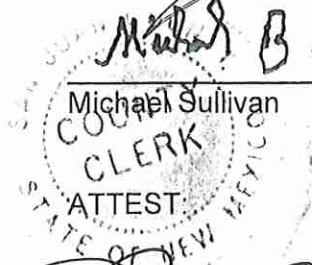
  
Chairman John T. Beckstead

  
Chairman Pro-Tem Terri Fortner

  
Steve Lanier

  
Glojean Todacheene

  
Michael Sullivan



  
Tanya Shelby, County Clerk