

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
June 15, 2021**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on June 15, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Mike Stark gave the invocation and Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	John T. Beckstead
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	Steve Lanier
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Michael Sullivan- VIA PHONE
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING ADMINISTRATOR	Jennifer Mitchell
JUVENILE SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	Bowen Belt
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
PRESS: NM Political Report	Hannah Grover
VISITORS:	15

Presentation

1. **Consideration of Proclamation Honoring Jim Dunlap**

Mike Stark, read the following proclamation aloud:

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING JUNE 15, 2021, AS
"JIM DUNLAP DAY" IN
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, Jim Dunlap has been a resident of San Juan County since the mid-1950's;
and

WHEREAS, during his residency in San Juan County Jim Dunlap has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the lives of the citizens of San Juan County including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Serving as a volunteer firefighter for 33 years;
2. Serving as the President or Manager of Lower Valley Water Users Association from 1966 to 1986;
3. Working towards the Animas-La Plata Project since 1966, serving as a representative of the San Juan Water Commission since its inception and further serving as the representative of the San Juan Water Commission on the Board of Directors of the A-LP Association;
4. Serving as the Chairman of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission from 2003 through 2016 and further serving an additional year in 2017;
5. Founder of the San Juan County Rural Water Users Association, a founding member of the New Mexico Rural Water Users Association, a past President of the New Mexico Rural Water Users Association, a long-time National Director of the National Rural Water Users Association, and President of the National Rural Water Users Association from 1996 through 1998;
6. Serving as a Trustee of the Colorado River Water Users Association for numerous years;
7. Serving three terms on the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, from 1975 to 1976, 1977 to 1978, and 1983 to 1984; and
8. Serving as a founding member of the San Juan County Communications Authority Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, few people who have ever served San Juan County have served with the zeal and level of involvement of Jim Dunlap.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, that June 15, 2021 and each June 15 thereafter shall be celebrated as

"Jim Dunlap Day"

in San Juan County, New Mexico.

Mr. Dunlap thanked the Commission for the recognition and stated that the accomplishments have been made with the assistance of many others. The Commission thanked Mr. Dunlap for the many years of service in San Juan County and the community. A motion was made by Steve Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the Proclamation Honoring Jim Dunlap. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there is one change to the agenda. The title for line #7 of the Consent Agenda is changed to Consideration for Award of Proposal No. 20-21-12, Comprehensive Detainee Medical and Mental Health to Wellpath, and Pharmaceutical Care to Contract Pharmacy Services. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the agenda as amended. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of FY21 Budget Adjustment #14-Resolution No. 20-21-69
3. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for May 2021
4. Approval of Finance Check Registers for May 2021
5. Renewal of Proposal No. 18-19-16, Fire Support Services to Fireco, LLC of Aztec, NM
6. Renewal of Request for Proposal No. 19-20-28, Health Screenings to Life Scan Wellness Centers of Tampa, Florida
7. Award of Proposal No. 20-21-12, Comprehensive Detainee Medical and Mental Health to Wellpath, and Pharmaceutical Care to Contract Pharmacy Services
8. Appointment of Alternate Commissioner to the San Juan Water Commission
9. Approval of Resolutions Supporting New Mexico DOT 2021/2022 Local Government Road Fund Award/Participation
10. DWI Grant Agreement #22-D-G-24 with DFA/LGD for Operation of the Local DWI Program

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

New Business

1. **Consideration of Declaration of Drought in San Juan County**

Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, indicated the State of New Mexico executed a State drought declaration on December 9, 2020 and that San Juan County is currently in D4 –

Exceptional Drought Stage. Due to the intensity of drought, the County is beginning to see an impact on water sources and in agricultural areas. San Juan County is susceptible to numerous natural disasters associated with drought; to include agricultural loss, severe wildfires, and flash flooding. It will also take a considerable amount of precipitation, as well as snow melt runoff to return the soil moisture condition and vegetation health to normal levels. On March 11, 2021 the USDA declared a drought disaster in 14 New Mexico Counties; this declaration triggered emergency assistance to local Farmers and Ranchers who must meet eligibility with the Farm Service Agency. Mr. Mestas requested Commission approval of an emergency declaration due to the current drought conditions which upon approval, will activate the recovery aspects of emergency funding for local governments and potential losses. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Declaration of Drought in San Juan County. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

2. Presentation on Behavioral Health Activities in Partnership with SJCSO and BHIZ Grant

Liza Gomez, Community Health & Social Services Director, introduced Deputy David Smith, San Juan County Behavior Health Deputy. Ms. Gomez, on behalf of the Mental Wellness Resource Center commended Deputy Smith and his team at the San Juan County Sheriff's Office (SO) for the important work they are doing to help community members in crisis. Peer Mentors at the Mental Wellness Resource Center and Deputy Smith work as a team to make the connections for the individual's needs for mental/behavioral health and basic services such as housing, food, etc. Deputy Smith serves as the San Juan County Behavior Health Deputy, a grant-funded position under the BHIZ (Behavioral Health Investment Zone) grant. Deputy Smith stated that he and his team responds to calls for individuals in the community experiencing a mental health crisis. In addition, the SO has developed a crisis intervention referral mechanism not only within the SO, but also in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies who are able to refer individuals to Deputy Smith. To date, collaborative partners include Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield Police Departments, and the Bureau of Land Management. Future possible collaborations include New Mexico State Police, New Mexico State Parks, and Navajo Nation Police. The Commission made various comments.

3. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 20-21-68, Acceptance of Roads 6861 and 6863 for County Maintenance

Nick Porell, Public Works Director, stated that the Cal Stock Subdivision is a Type III, 23-lot subdivision located in the Waterflow area of San Juan County and that the subdivision received preliminary plat approval from the San Juan County Commission at the July 7, 2020 meeting. At the meeting, the Commission granted a Paving Variance for the roads within the subdivision and the final plat for the subdivision was approved by the Commission at the September 15, 2020 meeting. Construction of the roadways within the development began in November 2020. Public Works has conducted periodic inspections in accordance with the San Juan County Road Policy. The developer has provided testing results for the roadway construction in accordance with the San Juan County Road Policy; all results received are within the specifications for road construction as outlined in the Road Policy. Road 6863 (0.26 miles) provides access to the subdivision from US Route 64 and Road 6861 (0.13 miles) provides access to lots within the subdivision. The road is gravel surfaced and will be maintained by Public Works as a gravel

road as outlined in the Road Policy for County Maintained roads. Construction of the roadways is complete, and all documentation has been received from the developer for final acceptance of the roads for County Maintained status. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 20-21-68. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve Resolution No. 20-21-68, Acceptance of Roads 6861 and 6863 for County Maintenance. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Resolution No. 20-21-73, Appointment of Board of Registration

Tanya Shelby, County Clerk, explained that 1-4-34(A) NMSA requires that a Board of Registration of 5 members be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in June of each odd numbered year. Members appointed to the Board of Registration shall not during their service be county employees, elected officials, or candidates that are seeking public office. Not more than two members of the board of registration shall be members of the same political party. The term of the Board of Registration shall be from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. Based on the recommendations received from each party chairman, Ms. Shelby proposed the following individuals be appointed to the Board of Registration:

Democrat: MP Schildmeyer and Gloria Lehmer
Alternate: Eli Pavlik

Republican: Sally Bramhall and Sarah Anne Frost
Alternate: Terry Smith

Declined to State: Peter Monette

Ms. Shelby explained that there were no volunteers from the Libertarian party. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 20-21-73, Appointment of Board of Registration. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation of the Sweetwater Pumped Storage Project

Matthew Shapiro, CEO rPlus Hydro LLLP, highlighted the following on the proposed Sweetwater Pumped Storage Project. The project would be located entirely on tribal lands of the Ute Mountain Ute reservation, 9 miles from San Juan Generating Station and 18 miles from Four Corners Generating Station. Mr. Shapiro highlighted the following:

- Sweetwater Pumped Storage is a planned closed-loop pumped-hydro energy storage project
- Tentative sizing is 600 MW generating & pumping capacity, with 4,800 MWh (8 hours) of full-output storage duration
- 43 pumped storage plants operate in the United States today and 10 pumped storage projects in various stages of development; currently there are more than 130 around the world
- rPlus Hydro was formed in 2019 as a partnership between rPlus Energies and pumped storage pioneer Gridflex Energy, for whom pumped storage has been primary focus

since 2009. Funding is provided by the Salt Lake City based K.C. Gardner Company- one of the largest commercial real estate developers in the intermountain west.

- At its proposed size, the project would require 5,000 acre-feet for initial fill with an additional annual requirement for evaporation make-up estimated at about 500 acre-feet per year
- The preliminary permit has been granted by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- The reconnaissance engineering study has been completed with no fatal flaws identified, design concept refined, and preliminary cost estimate generated
- Project construction timeline is 2026-2029 which will provide 300-400 construction jobs for 3-4 years with 18-20 full time employees for the life of the project
- Project benefits include the following: economical, long-duration energy storage to help the region effectively serve peak load needs, preserve grid stability as conventional resources are retired, and effective use of the transmission system, benefiting ratepayers

The commission asked various questions.

6. Compensation Study

Melissa Wood, Benefits and Compensation Manager, indicated that San Juan County contracted with Salary.com to complete a compensation study to evaluate both competitive market pay and internal equity within the organization. Additionally, the Criminal Justice Training Authority and Communications Authority were also evaluated. Ms. Wood reported that the objective was to perform a third-party analysis of base pay and total cash compensation of the positions in the organization using comparable market data. The following information was presented to the Commission:

- Of the 252 positions evaluated, 169 positions were within the market limit and 83 were trailing the market by more than 3%
- There are 352 employees affected by the trailing market position
- Estimated total cost to bring positions to market is \$1,220,946 which includes the adjustment, additional cost of payroll taxes, and benefits
- Compensation study is yearly to ensure that the County is within the market

Ms. Wood provided an option to only increase to Patrol Deputy Sheriff's and Adult Detention Officers positions across the three facilities which would be 206 employees that are paid under market. Chairman Beckstead requested that the public safety positions be evaluated to see how it will affect the upcoming final budget to be presented July 27, 2021. The Commission asked various questions.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following:

- Employee Service Awards will be held at McGee Park on June 17, 2021 at 11:30 am. There will be 68 employees recognized with 765 total years of service to the citizens of San Juan County
- Upcoming parades: Freedom Days, July 4th- line up begins at 7:30 am in the dirt lot at KFC and Connie Mac Parade is July 22nd at 10:00 am
- Vaccination rate in San Juan County: 61.2% residents are fully vaccinated and 74.7% have received one shot- 9th highest in the State for residents vaccinated
- Staff will attend a conference regarding the Cannabis Regulation Act on June 30, 2021
- Update on the 5500 Bridge- in 2 weeks it will be one lane and requested that there be limited traffic and speed during the construction
- Doug Echols, County Attorney, is retiring and his retirement party will be held on June 29, 2021 from 3-5 pm in the Commission Chambers.
- Joe Sawyer, Deputy County Attorney, will be the County Attorney beginning June 30, 2021

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Devin Neeley, Public Relations and Film Manager announced that a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at Totah Theatre on June 24th at 3:00 pm.

Michele Truby-Tillen, Community Development Director, presented a print-out of the Flood Insurance Assessment to the Commission as a required by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Comments / Input From The General Public

Lauren Bernally, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Policy Analyst, stated that Senate Bill 304 allows Counties to recognize the tribal chapter house boundaries and requested to collaborate with the current consultant, Rod Adair on precinct redistricting. Chairman Beckstead requested that Ms. Bernally meet with Tanya Shelby, County Clerk.

Gary and Ellen Hout sent a comment by email regarding their concerns regarding the noise ordinance.

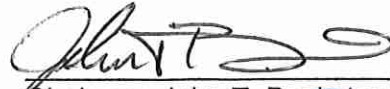
Judy and Lynn Bryson sent a comment by email expressing concerns in regard to Tico Time River RV Resort.

Adjourn


Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF JULY 2021


BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Chairman John T. Beckstead


Chairman Pro-Tem Terri Fortner


Steve Lanier


Glojeah Todacheene


Michael Sullivan




Tanya Shelby, County Clerk