

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2021**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on October 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chairman Beckstead gave the invocation and Commissioner Lanier 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 COUNTY MANAGER	Jim Cox
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER	Travis Sisco
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porelli
DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Tara Martinez
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Timi Howell
FIRE CHIEF	John Mohler
COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	Liza Gomez
HOUSING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Faye Anderson
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley

VISITORS:

2

Presentation

1. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Awards to Finance Department

Jim Cox, Deputy County Manager, announced that San Juan County has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2020 and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2021 by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States & Canada (GFOA). This is the 15th year the County has

received the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) award and the 13th year for the budget award which represent a significant achievement for San Juan County. In order to receive these awards, the County must satisfy all applicable accounting and reporting standards, as well as the nationally recognized presentation guidelines. Upon each submission, the ACFR and budget is rigorously reviewed by multiple GFOA reviewers who then grade the County's performance. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Only three of the 33 New Mexico counties received the ACFR award and only five 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 the Finance team members that make the County's ongoing financial records accurate, reliable, and reported at the highest level. Mr. Cox presented the awards to the Finance Department.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Approval for Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2021
2. Approval of Resolution No. 21-22-22, Supporting Capital Appropriation Award/Participation for County Road 5500 Improvements
3. Approval of Resolution No. 21-22-23, Supporting Capital Appropriation Award/Participation for 5-Mile Bridge Alternatives Study
4. Approval for Submission of the Annual 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
5. Approval of FY22 Budget Adjustment #2-Resolution No. 21-22-27

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. **Consideration of Approval of Modifications to San Juan County Solid Waste Operational Hours**

Nick Porell, Public Works Director, requested approval of changes to the San Juan County Transfer Station Operational Policy for the Lake Valley Transfer Station. The current operation hours for the Lake Valley Station are Thursday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily customer activity was reviewed from September 2019 to August 2021 with Saturdays being the operational day of highest use. The station serves residents in southern San Juan County within the NM 371

corridor, located on lands leased from the New Mexico Lands Office, and is surrounded by primarily tribal lands. The station is not located on tribal property and is not operated under the agreement between San Juan County and Navajo Nation for solid waste services. Accordingly, San Juan County is not reimbursed by Navajo Nation for operation expenses for the facility. The operations changes proposed at the Lake Valley station are consistent with those approved by the Commission in June 2020 for similar customer volume at the Huerfano and Hilltop stations. Changes in operation hours were not proposed for the Lake Valley station in 2020 as it would have then required a layoff of the station attendant. That attendant has since submitted retirement notice effective October 31, 2021. Since operation changes were made at the Hilltop and Huerfano stations, the observed number of average daily customers for one day weekly operations are 55 and 64 respectively, which is similar to the weekly total average customers for the Lake Valley station of 50 customers. Due to the station being underutilized, Mr. Porell requested operations at the Lake Valley station be reduced to Saturdays only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to better utilize resources within the Solid Waste division of Public Works. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Modifications to San Juan County Solid Waste Operational Hours. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 21-22-25, Participation for County Road 6100 NM DOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Agreement

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) which is available state-wide exclusively to local governments for use on transportation projects. San Juan County was awarded \$635,000 in the 2021 grant cycle. The \$635,000 was secured to complete a cold milling and asphalt overlay of County Road 6100 between Mile Post (MP) 0.6 at Farmington City limits as well as MP 5.0 at the intersection with County Road 6100. A 5% local match is required. NMDOT has provided a cooperative agreement for the project for signature; a resolution of participation from the Commission is required to execute the agreement. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 21-22-25, Participation for County Road 6100 NM DOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Agreement. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

3. Report on Inspection of Detention Center, Approval of Resolution No. 21-22-24

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, stated that in accordance with NMSA 1978, §33-3-4, Inspection of Jails and Detention Centers, the detention center has been inspected by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, Commissioner Todacheene, and Commissioner Lanier. Mr. Sawyer requested approval of Resolution No. 21-22-24 which reports the findings of the inspection and the conditions at the Detention Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Report on Inspection of Detention Center, Resolution No. 21-22-24. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 21-22-28, Establishing Cannabis Variance Procedures, Application Fee and Appointing Variance Hearing Officer

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, communicated that procedures have been drafted to be used

when considering a variance application under Cannabis Regulation Ordinance No. 120. The procedure establishes a fee of \$100 to process the variance and requires that the Commission designate a hearing officer to preside over the variance application hearings. Staff requested that William Birdsall, Esq. and Douglas A. Echols, Esq. be appointed as Variance Hearing Officers since both are former District Judges experienced in administrative law. Staff believes that \$100 is an appropriate amount to charge for processing a variance since staff will be required to hire a hearing officer to consider the variance. Staff requested that the Board adopt the Variance Procedure, appoint Mr. Birdsall and Mr. Echols as hearing officers, and set \$100 as the variance application fee, effective October 5, 2021. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve Resolution No. 21-22-28, Establishing Cannabis Variance Procedures, Application Fee and Appointing Variance Hearing Officer. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

5. Amend the County Medical Plan

Melissa Wood, Compensation & Benefits Manager, explained that as a result of COVID-19, increased plan use, and continued increased medical costs, staff has recommended increasing plan premiums, changing the allocated split, and implementing design modifications. The proposed changes have become necessary due to continued healthcare increases (avg. 2.78% per year) and increased usage from COVID-19 (COVID expenses incurred from the beginning to the end of August totaled \$789,255.07). When reviewing the historical trend, the plan usually experiences one high claim year every five years which would allow a four-year time span to recoup plan reserve balances. Prior to the impact of COVID, the County plan was at the historical high point and when expenses continued into the next year, the plan was unable to start the cash balance rebuild and depleted the plan reserve. As the changes are implemented, Ms. Wood stated that the plan will continue to be reviewed, compared, and modifications will be proposed as necessary. A total of sixteen meetings were held at each department location and at varied interval times to allow for ample participation by the employees. There were 168 employees that attended. Of the three plan options presented, Option C- Premium Increase and Split Reallocation, was chosen with 135 employee votes (80.36%) and the total increase revenue for total for half year increase equals \$96,360; full year equals \$192,720. The plan is effective January 1, 2022, beginning 12/16/2021 the premiums will increase, and the split will be reallocated to 23/77. It is anticipated that during the second half of FY22 the increased premiums will add \$74,198 to the County budget which is 77% of \$96,360 with \$22,162 coming from plan members. The new bi-weekly premiums are as the follows:

Coverage Tier	Employee Rate	Per Pay Difference	Employer Rate	Per Pay Difference
Employee Only	\$68.55	\$4.89	\$229.49	\$3.79
Employee Plus Child(ren)	\$137.03	\$9.78	\$458.74	\$7.57
Employee Plus Spouse	\$143.87	\$10.26	\$481.66	\$7.96
Family	\$180.08	\$12.84	\$602.89	\$9.96
Life & AD&D Only	\$0.77	-\$0.05	\$2.56	-\$0.35
Short Term Disability Only	\$0.86	\$0.33	\$2.90	\$1.02
Both Life/AD&D/ST Dis	\$1.63	\$0.28	\$5.46	\$0.67

The Option C-Plan Design Modifications estimate a total half year savings equals \$117,791; full year equals \$235,582. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve Amend the County Medical Plan. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Resolution No. 21-22-26, Requesting a Change to the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico (PERA) Return to Work Provisions

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that the New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) governs the return-to-work status for PERA retirees. Currently, a retiree hired on or after July 1, 2010 who returns to work for a PERA affiliate will have his/her benefits suspended which prevents a retired member of PERA from collecting both a salary and their retirement benefits at the same time. With the significant public sector staffing shortages being experienced in San Juan County and throughout the State, specifically in public safety positions (Detention and Law Enforcement), the resolution requests the State Legislature to consider a 5-year moratorium on the current statute allowing retired PERA members to return to work and collect simultaneously a retirement and a salary. This would allow those retirees who choose to come back to work either in a part time or full-time capacity to assist in filling the numerous vacant positions while providing valuable mentorship and training to the next generation of public sector employees. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 21-22-26, Requesting a Change to the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico (PERA) Return to Work Provisions. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of Commission Meeting Schedule for November 2021

Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that the County Commission's first Regular meeting in November is scheduled for election day on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Staff requested that this meeting be rescheduled to Tuesday, November 9th at 4:00 p.m. in order to canvass the results of the election. Mr. Stark recommended cancelling the 2nd meeting in November (Nov. 16th) as moving it to the following week would place it on the week of Thanksgiving. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Commission Meeting Schedule for November 2021. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following:

- There were over 300 attendees from across the state at the New Mexico Outdoor Economics Conference held on September 29, 2021 which showcased outdoor recreation in San Juan County.
- Mr. Stark participated with in a panel with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last Friday to address road maintenance issues and challenges in oil and gas communities.
- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham will be introducing the Hydrogen Hub Act to legislation

- Growing Forward Farm will be having their Grand Opening on October 14, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Liza Gomez, Community Health & Social Services Director, updated the Commission regarding a current pilot project called Community Cares Project which is funded by United Way. The program began October 1, 2021 and provides emergency housing, food, and other resources.

Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, reported an increase in Covid cases; Emergency Management will continue to monitor. Mr. Mestas also announced that Household Hazardous Waste day for unincorporated County and Bloomfield residents will be October 16th in the Administration parking lot.

Melissa Wood, Compensation & Benefits Manager, announced that the Wellness Fair will be held October 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Stewart Logan, Safety and Compliance Manager, reported that 156 employees have tested positive for Covid in the last 18 months.

Tanya Shelby, County Clerk, reported that the Regular Local Election Early Voting began October 5th in the Clerk's Office and the alternate sites will open October 16th.

Comments / Input From The General Public

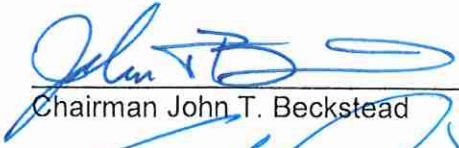
Patrick Eaton, citizen, submitted a letter in support of Tico Time Resort.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2021

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Chairman John T. Beckstead


Chairman Pro-Tem Terri Fortner


Steve Lanier


Glo Jean Todacheene


Michael Sullivan



ATTEST:


Tanya Shelby, County Clerk