

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
September 20, 2022**

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on September 20, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier gave the invocation and Commissioner Todacheene led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Terri D. Fortner
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Steve Lanier
MEMBER	John T. Beckstead- Absent
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Michael Sullivan- via phone
ASSESSOR	Jimmy Voita
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Jim Cox
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Timi Howell
FIRE CHIEF	John Mohler
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	Liza Gomez
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley

VISITORS: 16

Presentation

1. Yard of the Month

Shana Wells, Code Compliance Officer, praised Kevin Smith and Carmen Pacheco-Smith for their attractively groomed property located at 2 Road 3522, Aztec, NM. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Pacheco-Smith have inspired county residents to strive for a clean and beautiful community where natural resources are protected and enhancing the environment. Ms. Wells presented Mrs. Pacheco-Smith with a certificate in recognition of the "Yard of the Month" for September.

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 Lanier to approve the agenda as presented/amended. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Consideration of Approval of Treasurer Check Register of August 2022
2. Consideration of Approval of Finance Check Registers for August 2022
3. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 22-23-16, Participation for County Road 6480, NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Agreement
4. Consideration of Approval of Proposal No. 22-23-01, Architectural Services – San Juan County Industrial Park Renovations Reynolds Ash & Associates of Durango, CO
5. Consideration for Award of Proposal No. 22-23-02, Engineering Services – San Juan County Coal Fired Electricity Generating Facility Demolition and Remediation to Mountain West Consulting, LLC of Surprise, AZ
6. Consideration of Confirming Office of Natural Resources Trustee Gold King Mine Grant Applications via Resolution No. 22-23-13, 22-23-14 and 22-23-15

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

New Business

1. Consideration of Proclamation Declaring September 2022 as National Recovery Month

Greg Allen, Executive Director, San Juan Safe Communities Initiative, read the following proclamation aloud:

SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
A PROCLAMATION
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

WHEREAS, Mental health and substance use disorders affect all communities nationwide, with commitment and support, those impacted can embark on a journey of improved health and overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, The focus of Recovery Month each September is to celebrate all people that make the journey of recovery possible by embracing the tagline, "Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community." Recovery Month spreads the message that people can and do recover every day; and

WHEREAS, The impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our local community, and according to SAMSHA (2019) an estimated 9.5 million adults in the United States suffer from both AMI (any mental illness) and SUD (substance use disorder); and

WHEREAS, Through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health and substance use disorders and encourage people in need of recovery services to seek help; and

WHEREAS, Managing the effects of these conditions helps individuals achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally. The Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve the lives of those affected by mental health and substance use disorders by raising awareness and educating communities about the effective services that are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County of San Juan does hereby proclaim the month of September 2022 as NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH and call upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance, the 32nd anniversary of Recovery Month.

Mr. Allen announced the Recovery Month Celebration will be held in conjunction with Farmington Police Department's National Night Out at Berg Park on October 4th from 4pm to 7pm. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier to approve the Proclamation Declaring September 2022 as National Recovery Month. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

2. **Report from San Juan Regional Medical Center on Safety Net Care Pool Funding for FY2021**

John W. Mayer, Chief Financial Officer for San Juan Regional Medical Center, reported the Safety Net Care Pool Distribution for the calendar year 2021 and highlighted the following information:

- The Safety Net Care Pool Hospital Uncompensated Care Program has two added components, Hospital Access Payments and Targeted Access Payments, which changes the calculation for how funds are distributed.
- TAP is based on utilization, which is determined by Medicaid in-patient and out-patient discharges.
- Funds received by HAP amounted to \$1.149 million; TAP received \$3.73 million; Hospital quality received \$600,000.

Mike Stark, County Manager explained the Safety Net Care Pool Fund was created by the State Legislature in 2014, which provided funding to offset uncompensated care. The program mandates that counties provide matching funds equivalent to 1/12% GRT.

3. **Consideration of Donation of the Huerfano Sub-Station to the Navajo Nation**

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that on March 26, 2009 the County and the Navajo Nation entered into a 10-year lease agreement, which allowed the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to utilize a substation near Huerfano for the purpose of providing enhanced law enforcement protection in the checkerboard area. The Commission agreed on December 3, 2019 to extend the lease an additional 10 years to the Navajo Nation to use the facility as a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to answer emergency calls for police, fire, and ambulance services within the Shiprock Police District and a backup PSAP for the Crownpoint Police District. Mr. Stark and Shane Ferrari, County Sheriff, met with the Navajo Nation Police Department about expanding and modifying the existing facility, along with making the Huefano

sub-station a permanent PSAP location, which would enhance public safety operations and police presence in the checkboard area. County staff proposed to donate the property to the Navajo Nation in exchange for a greater law enforcement presence and service. The donation would alleviate long-term capital upgrades of major building systems and would save the County an estimated cost of \$1,500 annually in building insurance and maintenance. The property value was assessed at \$314,902 by the County Assessor. A 60-day termination of the lease agreement will be provided to the Navajo Nation with a letter indicating a quitclaim deed to the property would be forthcoming. Mr. Ferrari stated the Sheriff's Office is in support for donating the building, indicating it would increase law enforcement presence and would better serve the communities south of Bloomfield and the Navajo Nation. Chief Daryl Noon, Navajo Police Department indicated that the building would be used to develop a sub-station and dispatch center, which would offer a greater law enforcement presence and better response time especially in the Highway 550 corridor. The Commission made comments and asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Donation of the Huerfano Sub-Station to the Navajo Nation. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

4. Homelessness Solutions Draft Strategy Framework

Liza Gomez, Community Health & Social Services Director accredited the Commission for authorizing funds to assess Behavioral Health Services in the community, which resulted in the San Juan County Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Report that identified 5 key gap areas. Homelessness was one of the first issues to be addressed in a comprehensive behavioral health strategic planning process and is categorized as "Housing, Transitional Living, and Safe Alternatives." Jeff Kiely, Kiely Consulting and Staff have conducted over 20 meetings with agencies, providers, and stakeholders. A strategic framework was developed with the assistance of Mr. Kiely and the input provided from the sessions. On April 12, 2022, The Homelessness Solutions Conference was held at the Farmington Civic Center and Chairman Terri Fortner was the keynote speaker. The conference brought a diverse gathering of more than 60 stakeholders into an interactive workshop-style process with breakout groups which provided insightful feedback to the kinds of actions and solutions needed to make an impact on the problem of homelessness in San Juan County. Ms. Gomez indicated that the following initiatives will be taken:

- Convene the Homelessness Solutions Core group. Staff will remain engaged with the Core Group and the specific work groups identified in the role as the coordination partner to maintain momentum and support stakeholders to work collaboratively toward solutions.
- Work will continue with Mental Health Solutions with the professional consortium facilitated by San Juan Safe Communities Initiatives.
- Staff will work closely with Jeff Kiely to facilitate similar group sessions for each of the remaining Gap Area work groups.
- Discussions have been held regarding Behavioral Health Summit addressing all Gap Areas with the tentative target date of early Spring 2023.

5. Consideration to Order County Assessor to Impose 2022 Property Tax Rates

Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer reported that the Board of County Commissioners is required to issue a written order imposing the property tax at the rates set on the taxable value of property allocated in the appropriate governmental units. The order must be issued within five days of receipt of the Department of Finance & Administration's Property Tax Rate Setting Order. The written order must be delivered to the County Assessor immediately. The finance officers of the municipalities, school districts, and San Juan College have been notified regarding the new tax rates for their governmental units. Ms. Martin presented the following information:

- New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and the County Commission issues and delivers its own written order to the County Assessor. No later than October 1st the County Assessor prepares and delivers the property tax schedule to the County Treasurer who mails the tax bills no later than November 1st.
- Tax rates can be set by a combination of taxing authorities, however tax rates set by the taxing authority are subject to change due to the "Yield Control Statute".
- The Yield Control Statute considers growth control factors such as inflation and new construction
- Other than Eddy County at 7.5 mills, San Juan County remains the second lowest in the state at 8.5 mills for the 2022 tax year.
 - Residential mill rates showed an increase of 1.535% from 7.033 to 7.141
 - Non-Residential mill rates remained at 8.5 mills
- No General Obligation Bond debt has been issued by the County in 31 years
- The last property tax increase was in FY2005 in which the mill rate increased from 8 to 8.5 mills to fund the Water Reserve Fund for the San Juan Water Commission

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve to Order County Assessor to Impose 2022 Property Tax Rates. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

6. Boards and Committees Appointment to the Valuation Board

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated there are currently two members, Sam Todd and James Gipson, who serve on the County Valuation Protest Board and per NM Statute 7-38-25, an additional 3 qualified members need to be appointed to the board by the Commission. The board serves the purpose of hearing and deciding protests of determination made by the County Assessors and protested under NM Statute 7-38-24. To have two members present for a protest hearing, one member must have demonstrated experience in the field of valuation of property and the other a qualified elector. County staff recommended the appointment of 3 additional qualified candidates to the Board, Paul Barry, Liz Tafoya, and Alana Ambrose, who are real estate brokers and are willing to serve on the board. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Boards and Committees Appointment to the Valuation Board. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- The Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic will be held at McGee Park September 23rd and 24th and is still in need of volunteers.
- Chairman Fortner and Commissioner Todacheene attended the Four Corners Freight Rail Line Feasibility Study meetings. There were several citizens in attendance as well. More information about the study can be found at 4cornersfreightrail.com.
- Porter Smith, Project Grants Manager was introduced to the Commission and gave a brief history of his background.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

None

Comments / Input From The General Public

Linda Corwin, citizen, stated her concerns discussed at the September 6th regular meeting regarding Ordinances No. 4 and No. 73; have been resolved.

Madelyn Smith, citizen, expressed her concerns regarding the weeds, insects and vermin caused by a neighbor's lack of upkeep of their property. Ms. Smith also indicated that the irrigation water smells like sewage and is unusable.

Amanda Knight, citizen, expressed her concern that Ordinance No. 10 Section 3.6 was not on the agenda to be amended.


Adjourn


Being no further business, Chairman Fortner adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2022


BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Chairman Terri D. Fortner


Chairman Pro-Tem Steve Lanier


John T. Beckstead


Glojean Todacheene


Michael Sullivan




Tanya Shelby, County Clerk