

**San Juan County Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 5, 2023**

Chairman Lanier called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on September 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Fortner gave the invocation and Commissioner Todacheene led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Steve Lanier
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	John T. Beckstead - ABSENT
MEMBER	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Hill
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ADULT DETENTION CENTER DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Thomas Paul
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	Stewart Logan
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PROJECT MANAGER	Porter Smith
VISITORS:	14

**Presentation**

1. **Presentation on New Mexico Grown Golden Chile Award to Lower Valley and Blanco Senior Centers**

Denise King, Aging Network Division Director, New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (NALTSD) and Ophelia Steppe, New Mexico State Nutritionist, announced that the Lower Valley and Blanco Senior Centers are recipients of the 2023 New Mexico Grown Golden Chile Award. On September 13th at 1:30 p.m. via a virtual presentation, a celebration will be held to honor the providers who support the New Mexico Grown Coalition. Ms. King

recognized Michelle Murray, San Juan County Senior Services Manager of the Blanco and Lower Valley Senior Centers and her staff, City of Farmington, Farmington Senior Center, City of Aztec, Aztec Senior Center, and the City of Bloomfield for their participation in the New Mexico Grown Program. Patience Williams, Program Manager for Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities, stated that San Juan County was chosen to introduce a pilot program first in the schools, then the senior centers and has been the model for the state. Ms. Williams acknowledged Barbara Tedrow from A Gold Star Academy, a second-year recipient of the Gold Chile Award, for their dedication and innovation to the program. Chairman Lanier expressed his appreciation to the participating organizations and Commissioner Fortner commended Barbara Tedrow for her accomplishments with A Gold Star Academy.

## **Regular Meeting**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2023
2. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2023
3. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from August 31, 2023
4. Approval of FY24 Budget Adjustment #1A – Resolution No. 23-24-12
5. Approval of FY24 Budget Adjustment #1 - Resolution No. 23-24-13
6. Approval of Contract with Colfax County for Non-Guaranteed Bed Space to House Juvenile Detainees
7. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with City of Farmington for Senior Center Funding

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

### **New Business**

1. **Consideration of Proclamation Declaring September 17th-23rd to be Constitution Week 2023**

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has requested that San Juan County issue a proclamation declaring the week of September 17th-23rd to be Constitution Week, 2023. Mr. Stark read the following proclamation allowed:

**SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO  
PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 17-23 AS  
CONSTITUTION WEEK 2023**

**WHEREAS**, September 17, 2023, marks the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

**WHEREAS** it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

**WHEREAS** Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2023 to be.

**CONSTITUTION WEEK**

in San Juan County and urges all citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Proclamation Declaring September 17th-23rd to be Constitution Week 2023. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Consideration of Approval for Use of Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention Funds (LERRF)**

Cordell Tanner, Undersheriff, explained that last year San Juan County was awarded \$3.15M from the Law Enforcement Retention and Recruitment Fund (LERRF) to be distributed over the next 3 years where \$1.8M was received in the first year, \$900K was received this year, and \$4.50K the final year. Last year the funds were used for sign-on bonuses with a one-year or three-year contract for new hires, and to cover the salaries of newly hired deputies. In the last nine months, the Sheriff's Department has seen the lowest loss of certified deputies in recent years due to the retention bonuses. Sheriff Shane Ferrari stated that in 2022 there were 24 vacancies but in 2023 that number has decreased to 12 vacancies with the added incentives provided by LERRF. With this year's funding, \$8,000 in contractual retention bonuses will be issued for current certified deputies and sign-on bonuses will remain at \$15,000 for new-hire deputies. Retention bonuses will not be issued until the current retention contract has expired and those under the current 3-year sign-on contract will not be eligible for the retention bonus. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Use of Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention Funds (LERRF). Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consideration of Award of Bid No. 23-24-01, Construction Services for the San Juan County Industrial Park Improvements Project to Jaynes Corporation of Farmington, NM**

Diana Chapman, Chief Procurement Officer, indicated that on July 16, 2023, the Central Purchasing Department issued 100 invitations to various contractors for sealed bids for construction services at the San Juan County Industrial Park improvements. On August 24, 2023, three bids were received/opened and reviewed by Staff and Elizabeth Boone with Reynolds Ash & Associates. Staff recommended Bid 23-24-01 be awarded to Jaynes Corporation of Farmington, NM as the overall lowest bidder, while meeting specifications and requirements. The award will be for \$1,360,688.73, which includes Alternate No. 1: Replace remote thermal unit (RTU) with a larger Unit, Alternate No. 2: Replace high-bay lighting, Alternate No. 3: Automatic door opener, and Alternate No. 4: Replace water heaters. Mike Stark, County Manager, explained that funding from the Economic Assistance Grant received from the Federal Government last year in the amount of \$1.6 million and a required \$700,000 match from the County will be used for the project. Chairman Steve Lanier asked what the timeline for completion would be. Mr. Stark stated it would take around 7 months to complete. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Bid No. 23-24-01, Construction Services for the San Juan County Industrial Park Improvements Project to Jaynes Corporation of Farmington, NM. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Report from County Manager**

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- Property tax rates for 2023 were received Friday and the New Mexico Department of Finance has indicated the Commission must certify the rates by September 22nd
- Recognized the 600 employees and 15 departments of San Juan County for their services to the public in honor of Labor Day
- Daniel Hill, Parks and Facilities Administrator, will be retiring in Mid-December and thanked him for his 15 years of service
- Introduced Steve Dansie as Daniel Hill's successor after his retirement

**Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

Daniel Hill, Parks and Facilities Administrator, stated it has been an honor and a privilege to be the Administrator for Park and Facilities at McGee Park and thanked everyone for their support during his time in the position.

Chairman Lanier thanked Daniel Hill for his service and dedication to San Juan County.

Commissioner Fortner thanked Daniel Hill maintenance of McGee Park and thanked all agencies who provide their services out at Navajo Lake.

Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, expressed that Daniel Hill will be missed by everyone in Emergency Management. Mr. Mestas indicated that there was a breach of the Bloomfield Irrigation Ditch and his team will be monitoring the breach closely.

Commissioner Todacheene, recognized Nick Porell and the Public Works Department for the services they offer to the public and also note that Sunday, September 10th is Grandparents Day.

### **Comments / Input From The General Public**

None

### **Closed Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go into closed executive session to discuss:

1. Discussion of Possible Acquisition of Real Property for the Totah Subdivision Water & Wastewater Project, Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H)(7)
2. Continued Discussion of Threatened or Pending Litigation in which county is a participant – Navajo Nation Redistricting Lawsuit, Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H)(7)

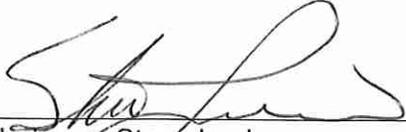
Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Fortner stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

### **Adjourn**

Being no further business, Chairman Lanier adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



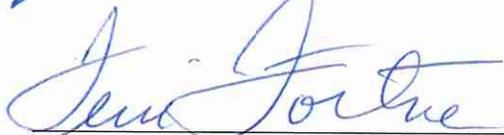
Chairman Steve Lanier



Chairman Pro-Tem John T. Beckstead



GloJean Todacheene



Terri D. Fortner



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Tanya Shelby, County Clerk

