

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2023**

Chairman Lanier called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on December 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Todacheene gave the invocation and Commissioner McDaniel led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Steve Lanier
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	John T. Beckstead
MEMBER	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
ASSESSOR	Jimmy Voita
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Hill
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
JUVENILE SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	Bowen Belt
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
CHIEF IS OFFICER	Keith Lund
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	Stewart Logan
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
PROJECT MANAGER	Porter Smith
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	6

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for November 2023
2. Approval of Finance Check Registers for November 2023
3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2023
4. Approval of FY24 Budget Adjustment #6 – Resolution No. 23-24-37
5. Approval of the Award of Bid No. 23-24-11, Price Agreement for Parking Lot Asphalt Services to Prestigious Paving of Gallup, NM and XL Concrete Company, Inc. of Farmington, NM
6. Approval of the Request for Acceptance of Non-County Maintained Roads to County Maintained Roads-Coyote Ridge Subdivision, Phase I
7. Approval of the Contract with Otero County for Non-Guaranteed Bed Space to House Juvenile Detainees

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

New Business

1. **Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 23-24-35, Shiprock Solar, LLC, Industrial Revenue Bonds**

Peter Kelton, Rodey Law Firm representing San Juan County, indicated that the approval Resolution 23-24-35 will allow the County to publish and mail notices to taxing jurisdictions for the consideration of an ordinance approving the Shiprock solar project; as well as prompt a start date for the Shiprock Solar team to secure gross receipt compensating tax incentives for purchase of tangible personal property in connection with the project. An application was submitted by Shiprock Solar LLC requesting the County to issue up to \$1 billion in Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the development of a solar generation and storage facility located near Shiprock, to include the acquisition of certain rights to land and the construction, equipping, and installation of the project. The project is planned to be separated into two series: support for the electric federation portion and the battery storage portion. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 23-24-35, Shiprock Solar, LLC, Industrial Revenue Bonds. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Update from Four Corners Economic Development**

Jeremiah Hayes, Four Corners Economic Development Executive Committee Chairman, updated the Commission on the following:

- From 2010, the population in San Juan County declined 7.4% and the workforce declined 5.0% (9.8% from 10yr high in October 2014)

- Based on data received, priorities include the following:
 - Build/expand workforce training responsive to local business needs
 - Beautify and market San Juan County
 - Provide local business owners access to business education
 - Develop and expand critical infrastructure
 - Expand the energy economy
 - Continue Outdoor Rec Investments
 - Increase remote worker attraction
 - Grow Healthcare industry
- Four Corners Economic Development (4CED) purpose and vision is to see economic prosperity for all and help businesses to thrive.
- The Federal Government granted 4CED funding for rural broadband expansion
- Current projects include catalyzing business-attractive infrastructure, freight rail and expanding energy economy

Scott Bird, Four Corners Economic Development Interim CEO, briefed the Commission on the budget, increased revenue, and thanked them for their support. The Commission expressed their gratitude for the services that 4CED provides to the community.

3. Consideration of Staffing Changes for San Juan County Fire & Rescue

David Vega, Fire Chief, explained that at the October 17th Commission meeting, the County Commission approved additional firefighter positions (full time, part time, and reclassifications) to meet the current operational needs of the department. One of the reclassified positions involves moving a current Division Chief to an FLSA Response Division Chief working a 48/96 schedule. Currently, the Division Chief of Recruitment has responsibilities for handling and troubleshooting basic Information Systems desktop support as well as hardware issues across all 27 fire stations in the San Juan County Fire and Rescue network. The replacement of this skill set does not exist within the Fire Department, and it would be most prudent that these functions are handled by the Information Systems (IS) Department going forward. Keith Lund, Chief IS Officer, stated that IS will be adding the fire stations to the network as funding and staffing permits. As a result, both Fire and IS are recommending a budget adjustment for a full-time IS Generalist I to replace the duties of the reassigned Division Chief. This funding would be available via current general fund recurring revenues and the position would reside in the IS Department. Assuming a hire date of February 1st, the cost to fill this need for the remainder of the fiscal year would be \$29,182. On an ongoing basis, the total recurring expense is estimated at \$76,144 per year. The Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead asked if there were any foreseeable issues in the transition. Mr. Lund indicated that there should not be any issues in adding to the network. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead to approve the Staffing Changes for San Juan County Fire & Rescue. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 23-24-36, Grant Application to the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Department (ORD)

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, indicated that the State of New Mexico's Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) is currently accepting applications for the 2023 Outdoor Marketing

Grant. This grant provides funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00 for print brochures, maps, event sponsorship, website development, and guidebooks. In the event of a successful application, a 2:1 match in funds is required. However, there is no matching requirement should San Juan County qualify as a rural community. Rural is defined as any part of the state other than Los Alamos County, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Farmington, Las Cruces, Roswell, Santa Fe, and within a 10-mile radius around those cities. Given the rural character of San Juan County, staff recognized the pivotal role of a guidebook in propelling this grant application forward. Over the past two years, county staff discovered gravel cycling guides at the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Conference. Capitalizing on the rapid growth of gravel cycling as a prominent sport within the cycling community, San Juan County is particularly well-suited for gravel cycling, thanks to its abundant network of oil field roads. The projected expenses for a gravel guidebook vary between \$55,000.00 and \$75,000.00. If the County's Outdoor Marketing grant application is successful, the County will see a reduction in expenses from \$25,000.00 to \$45,000.00. San Juan County staff is actively pursuing the creation of the guidebook at the most cost-effective option available. The Commission asked various questions regarding the trails and distribution of the guidebooks. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to approve Resolution No. 23-24-36, Grant Application to the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Department (ORD). Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following:

- The first Commission Meeting in 2024 is January 2nd.
- Memorial for the Unclaimed will be held from 6-7 p.m. on December 20, 2023, at the Artifacts Gallery in Farmington
- An Active Shooter Drill will be held on December 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., in the San Juan County Administrative Building
- Daniel Hill, Parks & Facilities Administrator, is retiring on December 28 and recognized him for the 15 years of service he has provided to the County and community.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Stewart Logan, Safety & Compliance Manager, stated that the 911 Communications Center has a designated dispatcher to receive 911 calls in conjunction with the Active Shooter Drill.

Daniel Hill acknowledged his wife, Heidi Hill, for her support and the Parks & Facility staff for their dedication to the community.

Roberta Padilla, Chief Human Resources Officer, announced that the County has been recognized as a Platinum Level Family Friendly Business for 2024. Ms. Padilla introduced Ashley Pulte, Senior HR Generalist. Ms. Pulte stated that the criterion for the award is flexible work scheduling, job sharing, pay equity, diversity/inclusion, and community investment.

Tanya Shelby, County Clerk, reported that Clerk's Office was required by statute to conduct a recount of three specific races from the Regular Local Election and that there were no

discrepancies and no change in the results. Ms. Shelby reported that San Juan County was drawn to conduct an audit of seven precincts within the County. On December 7th the audit was conducted and there were no discrepancies.

Comments / Input From The General Public

None

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go into closed executive session to discuss threatened or pending litigation in which the County may become a participant – Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc. v. State of New Mexico, Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H) (7). Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

Adjourn

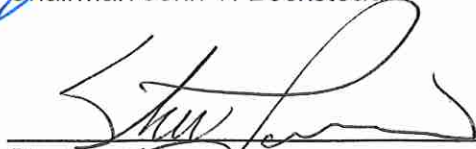
Being no further business, Chairman Lanier adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 30TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Chairman John T. Beckstead


Chairman Pro-Tem Terri D. Fortner


Steve Lanier


GloJean Todacheene


Gary McDaniel




Tanya Shelby, County Clerk