

**San Juan County Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 2, 2024**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on April 2, 2024, at 4:06 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Lanier gave the invocation and Chairman Beckstead 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	Gary McDaniel
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
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	Steven Dansie
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	14

**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 Lanier to approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2024
2. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2024
3. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2024
4. Approval of FY2024 Budget Adjustment #11-Resolution No. 23-24-58

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

### **New Business**

#### **1. Consideration of Appointment for District 3 House Seat**

Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that District 3 State Representative T. Ryan Lane submitted a letter of resignation effective March 14, 2024, creating a vacancy until a newly elected State Representative takes office on January 1, 2025. New Mexico Statute 2-7F-4 Section B states that if a vacancy occurs in the office of representative and if the district is contained within a single county, the Commission may appoint a representative to fill the vacancy. The next general election will be held on November 5, 2024; the person appointed will be the Interim Representative through December 31, 2024. At the Special Commission meeting on March 20th, the Commission requested letters of interest, as well as supporting documentation by 5:30 p.m. on April 1st. Staff received a letter of interest from two applicants, Kelly J. Berhost and William (Bill) A. Hall. Chairman Beckstead presented the opportunity for the applicants to introduce themselves to the Commission in the order the applications were received. Ms. Berhost was not in attendance. Mr. Hall gave a brief overview of his experience and indicated that he is an unopposed candidate for State Representative District 3 in the upcoming election. Commissioner Lanier, Commissioner Todacheene, and Gary McDaniel recognized Ms. Berhost for her contributions to the community as a business owner and citizen. Tanya Shelby, County Clerk, verified that both applicants are registered voters in State Representative District 3. Chairman Beckstead asked for a roll-call vote in favor or against applicant, Kelly J. Berhost. Commissioner McDaniel voted against, Commissioner Todacheene voted for, Commissioner Lanier voted against, Chairman Beckstead voted against, and Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner voted against. Chairman Beckstead indicated the roll-call vote reflected 1 in favor of, and 4 against Kelly J. Berhost. Chairman Beckstead asked for a roll-call vote in favor or against applicant, William A. Hall. Commissioner McDaniel voted for, Commissioner Todacheene voted against, Commissioner Lanier voted for, Chairman Beckstead voted for, and Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner voted for. Chairman Beckstead indicated the roll-call vote reflected 4 in favor of, and 1 against William A. Hall. Upon roll-call vote 4 to 1, William A. Hall will serve as Interim State Representative District 3.

#### **2. Consideration of MOU between San Juan County and New Mexico Tech for the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management**

William Ampomah, New Mexico Tech Research Engineer, announced that New Mexico Tech is applying for the U.S. Department of Energy's DE-FOA-0003014 funding opportunity titled "Regional Initiative for Technical Assistance Partnerships (RITAP) to Advance Deployment of Basin-scale Carbon Transport and Storage and Community Engagement." The funding will be

used to operate the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management to accelerate the deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects in the San Juan Basin in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner. New Mexico Tech will engage a multidisciplinary team with expertise in education, community engagement, carbon storage resource assessment, project management, monitoring, reporting and verification for CCS projects, CO<sub>2</sub> pressure management/optimization, legal, regulatory, CO<sub>2</sub> transportation, and safety. Under the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management, New Mexico Tech will provide technical assistance to project developers and San Juan communities. Mr. Ampomah requested San Juan County to be a party to a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the goals of the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management, and in which those who sign the MOU commit to:

1. Engage with the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management, seeking technical assistance and community engagement support, and supporting the goals outlined in the project proposal, and
2. Participate in the San Juan Carbon Management Conference, an annual conference about carbon management in the San Juan, by attending the conference and contributing to discussions aimed at advancing the deployment of basin-scale carbon transport and storage.

The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the MOU between San Juan County and New Mexico Tech for the San Juan Technical Assistance Partnership for Carbon Management. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Update of the Four Corners Regional Airport**

Michael Lewis, City of Farmington Airport Manager presented the following update on the Four Corners Regional Airport:

- New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) reports that airline services contribute nearly \$23 million annually to the local economy by providing 24-hour services to air ambulance/medical transfer flights, all branches of the military, Federal Express/UPS and provides hangars and services to the general aviation community.
- According to the latest New Mexico Airport System Plan Farmington ranked second in number of General Aviation Operations with 11.5%. The total operations have grown from 38,324 in 2018 to 52,013 in 2023 and provides employment for 115 people at 15 separate organizations.
- Funding was received through grants in 2018 to assist in the necessary upgrades to the airport to handle regional jet traffic. The upgrades include the following: overhaul/expansion to secure boarding area in the terminal to meet Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operational requirements, repaving/overhaul of the runway 5-23 system, and the taxiway B and G relocation project.
- Commercial service ended in November 2017; in October 2019, the Farmington City Mayor Nate Duckett, City Manager Rob Mayes, and Mr. Lewis presented a marketing study to SkyWest in an effort to restore commercial services.

- A tentative verbal agreement was made to start service in the late spring or summer of 2020 from Farmington to Denver as the first phase of necessary airfield upgrade was completed.
- June 2020 - Farmington City Council authorized the mayor to sign an agreement to start air service with SkyWest on October 15, 2020, however, with COVID cases rising, US Airline traffic plunged about 20% from 2019 and SkyWest postponed until a more robust airline market emerges.
- Following the COVID pandemic there was a pilot shortage due to training/hiring and early retirements, resulting in an increase of domestic airfares.

Mr. Lewis indicated that their consultant will continue to reach out to various commercial airline services.

#### **4. Consideration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocation Revisions**

Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer explained that on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law allocating a total of \$65.1 billion in direct federal aid for COVID 19 response and recovery efforts, including revenue replacement for losses directly related to the pandemic. The County received \$12,038,694 in May 2021 and June 2022, resulting in a total amount of \$24,077,388. As of March 25, 2024, a total of \$13,302,449 of the awarded amount has been spent on ARPA approved projects. Due to the final bid being lower than estimated, reallocation of funding from the Totah Subdivision wastewater project is necessary. Staff requested that all remaining budgets be allocated to fund bridge 3121 and bridge 8111 projects, which adds an additional \$2,339,861 for a total adjusted budget of \$3,489,861 for the two bridges. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocation Revisions. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Consideration of Resolution No. 23-24-60, Proclaiming the Month of April as National County Government Month**

Devin Neeley, Public Relations Manager, stated that since 1991, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services. National County Government Month is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year's theme is: "Forward Together!" San Juan County will be celebrating National Counties Month by inviting about 500 high school students to the County complex for Government days on April 25. Additionally, on April 18, there will be more than 76 employees recognized at the annual service awards luncheon which have a combined 805 years of service to the citizens of the County. Mr. Neeley requested that San Juan County, along with other communities throughout our nation, showcase local area government by celebrating April 2024, as National County Government Month. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve Resolution No. 23-24-60, Proclaiming the Month of April as National County Government Month. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Report from County Manager**

Mike Stark reported the following:

- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and her cabinet will be hosting the Cabinet in Your Community event at the Animas Elementary School on April 11th and Shiprock High School on April 12th. The Governor will also be speaking a Leadership San Juan Government Day, along with Navajo Nation President Bu Nygren.
- Spring Dumpster Days will be held on April 13-14th.

**Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

David Vega, Fire Chief, announced Septic Safe Spring has begun.

Shay Aurnhammer, San Juan County Fire Department Division Chief, stated that efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of faulty septic lids is ongoing. Septic tank companies are also involved in the efforts.

**Comments / Input From The General Public**

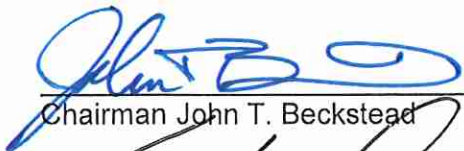
None


**Adjourn**

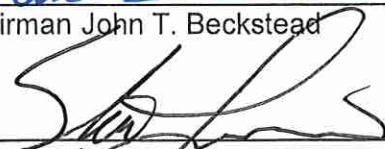
Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL 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

ATTEST:

  
Tanya Shelby, County Clerk

