

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2024**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on March 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Mike Stark 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	Gary McDaniel
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	Liza Gomez
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Nicole Brown
HOUSING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Charlotte Stanley
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR	Megan Cullip
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	28

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to call to order the Board of Finance Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Finance Meeting

1. Report on County Investments and Interest Earned

Carol Taulbee, County Treasurer, reported that as of December 31, 2023, County investments earned \$907,240.57 in interest for FY 2024, which is a 224.42% increase from the interest earned in December 2021 and 103.90% increase over December 2022. The return on the average balance invested increased from 0.59% to 0.97% in FY2024, reflecting the current

high-rate environment. The average of invested dollars increased by 23.84%, and the total cash/investments as of December 31, 2023, were \$118,955,000.96. This amount includes December property tax collections of which \$21,779,253.51 was distributed to local municipalities and school districts in January 2024. As of December 31, 2023, after deducting the property tax payable and outstanding checks, the cash and investment total is \$96,730,437.56.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to adjourn the Board of Finance Meeting, and call to order the Regular Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there was one change to the agenda. New Business Item #6, Steven Saavedra's title was corrected to Deputy County Manager. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the agenda as amended. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2024
2. Approval of FY24 Budget Adjustment #10 – Resolution No. 23-24-56
3. Approval of Treasurer's Check Register for February 2024
4. Approval of Finance Check Registers for February 2024
5. Renewal of Proposal No. 20-21-08, Property and Casualty Insurance to Kysar Millennium Leavitt Insurance Agency of Farmington, NM for the Communications Authority
6. Approval of the Award of Bid No. 23-24-19, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Surface Treatment Aggregate from C & J Gravel Products, Inc. of Durango, CO and Mesa Sand & Gravel of Aztec, NM, as a multiple source agreement
7. Renewal of Proposal No. 21-22-13, On-Call Building Automated System and Facility HVAC Services to Farmington Heating & Metal of Farmington, NM
8. Renewal of Proposal No. 22-23-16, On-Call Trail Design, Permitting and Construction Services with Singletrack Trails of Grand Junction, CO
9. Approval of the Award of Bid No. 23-2-15, McGee Park New Welding Shop to Winters Construction of Farmington, NM
10. Approval of the Award of Proposal No. 23-24-17, Cremation Services to Farmington Funeral Home, LLC of Farmington, NM
11. Approval of Facilities Use Agreement for Riverview Golf Course and County Multi-Agency Building to First Tee-Four Corners
12. Approval of Resolution No. 23-24-57, Amending Sheriff's Office Deputy Fitness Incentive Resolution No. 21-22-09
13. Approval of the McGee Park Lift Station Personal Property Lease Agreement with City of Farmington

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

New Business

1. Four Corners Economic Development Update and Introduction of New CEO

Scott Bird, Four Corners Economic Development Interim CEO, introduced Tim Gibbs as the new CEO of Four Corners Economic Development, who has 22 years of economic development experience and has earned a bachelor's and master's degree in public administration. Mr. Gibbs indicated that he has experience in county government and expressed his willingness to work with the Commission to meet mutual goals. The Commission made various comments.

2. Report from San Juan Regional Medical Center on Safety Net Care Pool Funding for CY2022

Jason Rounds, San Juan Regional Medical Center CEO, introduced John W. Mayer, CFO and Ryan Manning, Director of Finance for San Juan Regional Medical Center. In accordance with NM Statute 27-5-11 D, Mr. Manning presented the following report regarding the Safety Net Care Pool Funding for CY2022:

- As of December 31, 2019, the Safety Net Care Pool Fund (SNCP), which provided funding to hospitals to offset uncompensated care, was replaced with the Hospital Access Payment (HAP) and Target Access Payment (TAP) programs.
- The HAP program, in accordance with Federal Rule 42 CFR 438.60, is paid quarterly through the Centennial Care Management Organization (MCO) based on utilization for both inpatient and outpatient discharges and received \$1,168,074.62.
- The TAP Program, which received \$6,165,172.00, is paid annually to alleviate discrepancies between HAP and the SNCP.
- On January 1, 2023, the Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division began using the Hospital Value Based Program (HVBP) to assist with payment reform for those on Medicaid.

Mr. Mayer stated that the Healthcare Delivery and Access Act, which will generate an estimated \$1.3 billion in funds for state and an estimated \$80 million annually for San Juan Regional Medical Center, was passed on March 1, 2024. The Commission asked various questions.

3. New Mexico State Extension Office Update

Bonnie Hopkins-Byers, NMSU Extension Office County Director, recognized her staff and updated the Commission on the following activities of the Extension Office and the Growing Farms Forward program:

- In 2023 the Extension Office hosted numerous programs:
 - Indian Livestock Day and Joint Steward and Stockman Conference: featured a two-day lecture and a live cattle handling demo with over 100 attendees.

- Northwest New Mexico Local Food Summit: featured a two-day conference for local food action planning and farm tours focusing on new agritourism.
- 4th Grade tours at Growing Forward Farm: had over 1,200 attendees from 12 schools during the spring/fall sessions.
- 4-H completed 100 acts of community service and hosted an Ag-Tivity Camp where members raised and harvested their own chickens. The last day to enroll in a 4-H club will be April 1st.
- The 2024 State-Wide Horse School will be held in June at McGee Park
- The Family and Consumer Science Program hosted 10 canning classes and organized the first annual San Juan County Health Expo.
- The Growing Forward Farm will begin the Ag Workforce Development Training Program which includes classes on invasive weed management and tree pruning.

The Commission made various comments.

4. San Juan County Historical Society Update

Lauralee Harper, President, San Juan County Historical Society, recognized board members of the San Juan Historical Society and updated the Commission on the following activities of the Historical Society:

- The Historical Society operates through volunteers and donations; annual budget is \$13,000 and savings is \$27,000 for future endeavors in preserving history.
- The Board of Directors moved to an archive computer system and elected Connie Nordstrom as the first San Juan Historical Society Librarian.
- The Bowra, The Waybourn, and The Wood are new collections that have been added to the archives.
- Board member Connie Nordstrom was recognized as outstanding member for a second consecutive year.
- Commended Katie Hernandez for re-digitizing the historical society logo and Tristen Olguin for installing the new outdoor display.
- A \$20.00 annual membership donation included the yearly book, newsletter, and invitations to events.

The Commission made various comments.

5. Consideration of Changes to Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan

Charlotte Stanley, Housing Executive Director, indicated that to better implement the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, revisions to the Housing Authority Administrative Plan were necessary. This includes adding Project Based Vouchers (PBV) and the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) that will affect rent calculations and deductions for the elderly and disabled, which will go into effect July 1st. The vouchers will allow the Housing Authority to dedicate 20% of vouchers to assist families, the elderly, and disabled persons in existing housing and/or new construction complexes. Commissioner Lanier asked how many vouchers are currently unused. Ms. Stanley indicated there are approximately 150 open vouchers and the PBVs will assist with utilization of those vouchers. A motion was made by

Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the Changes to Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval of Short-Term Emergency Housing Agreement Between People Assisting the Homeless (P.A.T.H.) and the Mental Wellness Resource Center (MWRC)

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, explained that homelessness and housing assistance has been the number one need identified by clients of the Mental Wellness Resource Center (MWRC), since their opening in November 2020. The Community Cares Project (CCP) was created in October 2021 by MWRC and United Way to provide for emergency housing needs. In FY2022, MWRC coordinated 366 nights of stay with various hotels in the area along with other basic needs which includes food, transportation, and hygiene products; United Way covered the cost at \$115,000. The cost for emergency shelter in hotel rooms ranges from \$45 to \$109 plus tax per night. San Juan County Mental Wellness Resource Center (SJC MWRC) requested to enter into an agreement with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for short-term emergency housing, which will provide a safe and temporary shelter for eligible homeless clients. PATH shall always reserve and have available for use by MWRC clients, one shelter bed in the female dorm and male dorm, and one apartment unit to accommodate small families. The rate for shelter beds is \$75 each and \$400 per month for an apartment unit. The County will be billed for services rendered monthly and the compensation will be funded by the Behavioral Health Investment Zones (BHIZ) grant. This agreement with PATH would be a cost-saving measure and clients would receive meals and case management services in coordination with MWRC navigators. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to approve the Short-Term Emergency Housing Agreement Between People Assisting the Homeless (P.A.T.H.) and the Mental Wellness Resource Center (MWRC). Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration for Award of Proposal No. 23-24-18, Behavioral Health Services to ATB Behavioral Health, Cottonwood Clinical Services, Inc., and Presbyterian Medical Services as Multi Source Providers

Megan Cullip, Community Health & Social Services Director, indicated that Central Purchasing issued 28 invitations on January 24, 2024, for the purpose of selecting firms to provide outpatient mental/behavioral health, and substance abuse services for the uninsured population, of which 3 responses had been received as of February 14th. In accordance with the evaluation criteria the Evaluation Committee recommended that an award be made to ATB Behavioral Health for \$75,000, Cottonwood Clinical Services, Inc. for \$25,000, and Presbyterian Medical Services for \$200,000. Commissioner Todacheene asked why were there not more responses to the invitations. Ms. Cullip explained that there were specific services being requested and not all providers would be able to accommodate those requests. Mike Stark, County Manger, stated that specifically the requests were for services not covered by Medicaid. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Award of Proposal No. 23-24-18, Behavioral Health Services to ATB Behavioral Health, Cottonwood Clinical Services, Inc., and Presbyterian Medical Services as Multi Source Providers. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

Mike Stark, County Manager, announced that Senator Heinrich, Senator Lujan, and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez will be accepting appropriations requests for Fiscal Year 2025. Applications for funding are due to Senator Heinrich by March 13th, and deadlines have not been established by Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez or Senator Lujan. Mr. Stark thanked Jim Dumont, Senator Heinrich's Field Manager, for his assistance in the FY24 appropriation process. Staff evaluated three public safety projects which meet the requirements of available funding as follows:

- Replacement ladder truck for Lee Acres Fire Station – estimated \$2.15 million
- New fire engine for the Blanco Fire Station - estimated \$736,000
- A crime scene reconstruction laser scanner for the Sheriff's Office - estimated \$130,000

A 25% match is recommended for each of the projects. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- The County collectively received \$27.845 million for capital outlay projects for all agencies and entities. The County specifically received \$1.9 million for Road 4990, \$477,000 for continued American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, and \$500,000 for a new Fire Engine for the Blanco Fire Station
- Recognized Representative Rod Montoya for his support of the Freight Rail Project with the House Joint Memorial that he co-sponsored.
- A Special Meeting has been scheduled for March 26th at 2:00 p.m.
- Liza Gomez's retirement party will be March 26th.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Chairman Beckstead indicated that Chief Judge Curtis R. Gurley had written a letter to the Commission commending Louie Montoya and his team for their assistance with repairs at the District Court.

Commissioner Todacheene stated that on March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Farmington Civic Center there will be a Southwest Uranium Gathering.

Comments / Input From The General Public

Representative Rod Montoya explained the State Land Office will be reconsidering fees charged to emergency service towers on state lands.

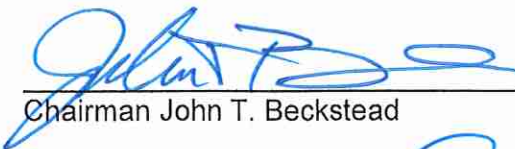
Lilah Westrick, CEO of Shemot Psychosocial Interventions for Youth & Families, indicated that efforts are being made to create a network to help find victims of human trafficking.


Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 2ND 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




Tanya Shelby, County Clerk