

**San Juan County Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 16, 2024**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on April 16, 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 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
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Michele Truby-Tillen
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
VISITORS:	24

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024
2. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for March 2024
3. Approval of Finance Check Registers for March 2024

4. Approval of FY2024 Budget Adjustment #12-Resolution No. 23-24-62
5. Approval of Award of Proposal No. 23-24-20, Outdoor Recreation Master Plan for San Juan County
6. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Kirtland Fire Inspections by San Juan County Fire and Rescue

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. Presentation on the Safe Communities UmattR Program**

Vickie Campbell, UmattR Program Director, stated that the program has been in San Juan County for 16 years and there are currently 21 students, ages 16 to 21, enrolled. Ms. Campbell explained that the team members give presentations to local elementary students on how to overcome daily struggles in life, their success stories, and hand out trading cards. Brooke Willcox, Payton Frost, Hannah Freeman, Elysia Kinney, Ava Quintana, and Riley Trotter, who are students from local high schools, gave a brief introduction of themselves and their inspirational stories. The Commission made various comments encouraging the students and thanked Ms. Campbell for the program.

#### **2. Annual Update on First Tee Program**

Tina Pacheco-White, Executive Director of First Tee, updated the Commission on the following accomplishments and goals of the First Tee Program:

- In 2023, there were 4 youth selected to participate in First Tee National Opportunities- Annie Yost & Skyler Woods competed in PURE Insurance in Pebble Beach, Teresa Saborn attended Leadership Academy at Villanova University, and Matt Ahlgrim competed in the First Tee National Championship at Stanford University
- Continued growth in outreach programs- Special Olympics program has doubled, Sycamore Park First Tee, and Veterans Program has impacted 100 veterans.
- Expansion into Southwest Colorado- Actively working in Durango, Cortez, Pagosa Springs
- Diversify Funding Base- HB2 junior funds, secured one-time large investments from PNM and Charles Schwab
- 2024 activities include the Drive-Chip Putt Qualifier which will be held at the Riverview Golf Course, expansion of Veterans Programs, and hiring of an additional full-time employee.

Ms. Pacheco-White thanked the Commission for their support of the First Tee Program and the Bataan Memorial Death March which took place in Las Cruces. Chairman Beckstead stated that he believes that the Veterans Program makes a difference in many lives. Ms. Pacheco-White stated that the veterans that participate in the program range in ages 32 to 90 years old.

**3. Consideration of Application for Variance from San Juan County Ordinance No. 120 for Kannabis Klub LLC, 5641 Bloomfield Highway, Farmington**

Michele Truby-Tillen, Community Development Director, indicated that Kannabis Klub LLC submitted a Variance Petition Application to the Community Development Department on March 11, 2024, requesting a variance from a residence requirement in Section 3(A) of Ordinance No. 120. Kannabis Klub LLC desires to start a Class IV manufacturing operation that extracts THC from cannabis using a Co2 extraction process. The structure is located at 5641 Bloomfield Highway in Farmington, which was formerly the VFW Hall and is within 300 feet of three (3) residences measuring 44 feet, 102 feet, and 253 feet. The applicant is seeking a variance to last the life of the business at this location. A public hearing was held before hearing officer Douglas A. Echols on March 28, 2024. The requested variance was not opposed by any neighbors at the hearing nor were any negative comments received by the Community Development Department. Hearing Officer Echols submitted written findings and conclusions and recommended the request for variance be granted. Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, announced that the Commission will only be relying on evidence gathered at the original variance hearing so as not to violate the due process rights of parties involved. Chairman Beckstead asked about the filtering system. Ms. Truby-Tillen stated the Co2 extraction process will be the installation of an HVAC system. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Application for Variance from San Juan County Ordinance No. 120 for Kannabis Klub LLC, 5641 Bloomfield Highway, Farmington. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Consideration of Proclamation Declaring April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Commissioner Todacheene introduced Eleana Butler, Executive Director of Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico. Ms. Butler thanked Commissioner Todacheene for her support and announced that the benefit event, the 12th Annual SASSY Tortoise & Hare Run took place in Farmington on April 6th. Ms. Butler read the following Proclamation aloud:

**PROCLAMATION  
PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 AS  
"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"**

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in the community. SAAM aims to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities about how to prevent it; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "Building Connected Communities: Our Voices Have Power. Together, We Can Build Safe and Respectful Communities." Building connected communities helps us reduce the likelihood of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment in our communities. Any space where people come together is a community, whether in neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, organizations, or even online spaces. We are all a part of a community; often many, even when we may feel disconnected or apart from them. Community is powerful. Community creates a sense of belonging and reminds us of how our beliefs, choices, and actions impact one another. We must

address all abuses of power to prevent sexual violence -- in our relationships, communities, and society; and

**WHEREAS**, April 2024 marks the official 23rd anniversary of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence (SV) is a widespread, preventable, public health problem in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally 53% of women and 29% of men reported experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1 in 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 there were 112 sex crimes reported to the San Juan County Sheriff's Department; and the statistics do not represent the true incidence and prevalence for multiple reasons including not all victims report the crime to law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, for 20 years Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico has provided services to sexual assault survivors, and in 2023 assisted 359 sexual assault survivors with the youngest survivor being one year old and the oldest survivor being 87 years old.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, does hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in San Juan County, to keep our community members safe from this crime, to stand with victims and survivors, and to acknowledge that assaults cause severe physical, psychological, and emotional trauma.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the Proclamation Declaring April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Resolution No. 23-24-61, Supporting Reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

Commissioner GloJean Todacheene read aloud Resolution No. 23-23-61:

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-24-61  
SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE  
RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT**

**WHEREAS**, during the build-up to the Cold War, tens of thousands of individuals in the United States were exposed to radiation from above-ground nuclear weapons tests and occupational exposure while employed in the uranium industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency have identified 523 abandoned uranium mines within the confines of the Navajo Nation, which includes areas in San Juan County; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to radiation hazards has caused serious illness to individuals who worked processing uranium or who were downwind of atmospheric nuclear testing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act ("RECA") 44 U.S.C. § 2210, was first passed in 1990 to allow partial restitution to individuals who developed serious illnesses after presumed exposure to radiation released during the atmospheric nuclear tests or after employment in the uranium industry, and established an administrative program for claims relating to said exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of RECA claims have been filed by residents of the Four Corners Region, with many of the claimants belonging to Native American tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, RECA was extended for two years in 2022, but the RECA Trust Fund and filing deadline will terminate unless it is extended again.

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate has passed Senate Bill 3853, which reauthorizes RECA for another six years, but the bill must still pass the United States House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of the RECA reauthorization would greatly benefit individuals and families in San Juan County who have suffered from radiation exposure caused by employment in the uranium industry and atmospheric nuclear tests.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, hereby expresses its support and urges the U.S. House to pass the proposed reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to continue to compensate individuals and families exposed to radiation through the development and testing of nuclear weapons.

San Juan County Resolution 23-24-61 expresses the County Commission's support for reauthorization of the Act so affected individuals could continue to receive compensation for

their exposure to radiation during the development and testing of nuclear weapons. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve Resolution No. 23-24-61, Supporting Reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **Report from County Manager**

- Chairman Beckstead recognized Pete Atcitty, Michelle Murray, Jamie Church, Harelda Anderson from Leadership San Juan.
- The Employee Service Awards will be held at McGee Park at 11:30 a.m., recognizing 76 employees with over 800 total years of service.
- The ribbon cutting for the Cedar Hill Pedestrian Bridge is Tuesday, April 30th at 2 p.m.
- On April 25th, local high school students will be attending the annual County Government Month event held at the County complex from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Recognized Tim Mietty, Marketing Assistant for creating a flyer showing the multiple ways San Juan County is working to keep our County clean.

### **Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

Commissioner Todacheene stated that she served as Council Delegate with Pete Ken Atcitty when there were 88 delegates; now reduced to 24. Of the 88 delegates there were 9 women who were honored and recognized this morning by 25th Navajo Nation Council in Window Rock.

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager reported the response to the employee satisfaction survey had increased to 52% and a survey for employee benefits will be conducted soon.

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

Joseph Hernandez from the community of Gadii'ahi Chapter, expressed his interest in renewable energy, behavioral health, and access to running water/electricity in his community. He also shared that he is a candidate for the upcoming election.

### **Closed Executive Session**

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to go into closed executive session to discuss threatened or pending litigation- 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 Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chairman 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 Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF MAY 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