

**San Juan County Commission  
Regular Meeting  
August 13, 2024**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on August 13, 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 Pro-Tem Fortner led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	John T. Beckstead
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	Steve Lanier - ABSENT
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
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
ADULT DETENTION CENTER DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Thomas Paul
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
HOUSING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Charlotte Stanley
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR	Megan Cullip

VISITORS: 6

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene 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, Treasurer, reported that as of June 30, 2024, County investments earned \$2.6 million in interest; an increase of 355% from FY21 and 93% increase over June 2023. The return on the average balance invested increased from 1.66% to 2.78% in FY24. Total cash and investments as of June 30, 2024, were \$106 million with the deduction of the property tax payable and outstanding check adjustment totaling \$103 million, which includes June property tax collections of which \$573,018.08 was distributed to local municipalities and school districts in July 2024.

2. **Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-10, Waiving the \$5.00 Minimum Penalty on Delinquent Property Taxes**

Carol Taulbee, Treasurer, stated that New Mexico State Statute allows a county to impose a penalty of 1% per month, but not exceed 5% of the delinquent tax amount except when the penalty is less than \$5.00. Ms. Taulbee requested that the Commission approve Resolution 24-25-10, which waives the \$5.00 minimum penalty on delinquent property taxes. A motion was made by Commissioner Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Resolution No. 24-25-10, Waiving the \$5.00 Minimum Penalty on Delinquent Property Taxes. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene 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 were no changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Treasurer's Check Register for July 2024
2. Approval of Finance Check Registers for July 2024
3. Approval of Projects for State Fire Marshall Grant Funding
4. Approval of Award of Proposal No. 24-25-03, Fire Hose and Fire Hydrant Testing
5. Approval of Request to Serve as Fiscal Agent to Apply for the Community DWI (CDWI) Prevention Grant
6. Approval of SEMAP (Section Eight Management Assessment Program Certification)
7. Approval to Certify Annual Inventory

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

### **New Business**

1. **NTEC (Navajo Transitional Energy Company) NavEnergy Hub**

Kim Flowers, Vice President of Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) presented the following information:

- NTEC is an energy company created by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, to ensure that the best interests of the Nation are a priority in new energy projects.

- The project provides a diversified clean, dependable energy, while ensuring a consistent increasing financial benefit to the Navajo Nation.
- The NavEnergy Hub has four core components as follows:
  - Clean coal power generation – removal of CO2 emissions from coal generation at the Four Corners Power Plant
  - Solar Power – renewable power on reclaimed former mine lands, to serve peak period daytime demand.
  - Gas – clean and efficient energy generation partnered with solar power for 24/7 generating capacity.
  - Transmission – enhancing existing transmission infrastructure to connect to the grid.
- The NavEnergy Hub will be located at the Four Corners Power Plant and will negotiate for carbon capture utilization, sequestration, and a transmission infrastructure project.

Ms. Flowers indicated that construction is to begin in 2027, with plans to be in operation by late 2031. The Commission asked various questions.

**2. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-17, Supporting Capital Appropriation Award/Participation for Road 4990 Drainage Improvements**

Nick Porrell, Public Works Director, reported that the County was the recipient of Capital Appropriation funding in the amount of \$1,921,000 to plan, design, and construct drainage improvements on Road 4990 improving transportation during inclement weather where existing low water crossings can result in temporary road closures during stormwater runoff. There are four principal drainages that are being evaluated: Sullivan, Munoz, Creighton, and the Armenta Wash. Staff requested approval of Resolution 24-25-17 to execute the Capital Appropriation agreement with New Mexico Department of Transportation. A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 24-25-17, Supporting Capital Appropriation Award/Participation for Road 4990 Drainage Improvements. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consideration of Mental Wellness Resource Center Name and Branding Change**

Megan Cullip, Community & Social Services Director, reported that in 2019, the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis was conducted revealing that the County lacked a centralized hub for accessing resources and the Mental Wellness Resource Center (MWRC) was established. The MWRC services have expanded beyond connecting clients to behavioral health resources by connecting individuals to basic needs such as housing, substance abuse treatment, transportation, and other additional services. Staff suggested renaming MWRC to the Navigation Center which will align with Presbyterian Medical Service's Community Compass Center which will commence in January 2025. The process to rebrand all materials is estimated to cost \$6,000. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve Mental Wellness Resource Center Name and Branding Change. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Consideration of the FY2025 Firefighter Recruitment Fund Grant**

David Vega, Fire Chief, announced that San Juan County Fire & Rescue has been awarded \$393,750 from the FY25 Firefighter Recruitment Fund to hire full-time firefighters and emergency medical technicians which will be distributed over the next 3 years in various increments. The additional positions will improve response times and enhance Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings. An 18-month analysis of response data shows that Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays are the busiest days of the week, with the peak call volume occurring between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. One Fire Lieutenant and two firefighters are needed to staff an engine and will work two 14-hour shifts and one 12-hour shift on the peak days to ensure availability for emergency response. Chief Vega indicated that to meet the grant application deadline prior approval from the Commission was not received and requested support and approval to fully execute the grant. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the FY2025 Firefighter Recruitment Fund Grant. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Consideration of FY2025 Corrections Recruitment Fund Grant**

Daniel Webb, Adult Detention Administrator, announced that the Corrections Recruitment Fund awarded the County \$1,312,500 to be distributed over the next 3 years; \$750,000 the first year, \$375,000 the second year, and \$187,500 the third year to be utilized by the end of each fiscal year beginning FY25. The funding is designated to fill vacant full-time detention staff positions and Mr. Webb stated that the funding will allow the hiring of 10 detention officers with the starting hourly wage of \$20.73 including benefits. Staff requested approval of the grant agreement with the NM Department of Finance and Administration. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, to approve the FY2025 Corrections Recruitment Fund Grant. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Report from County Manager**

Mike Stark, reported the following:

- The San Juan County Fair Parade Marshal was former Parks and Facilities Administrator, Daniel Hill. The Parks and Facilities staff also participated in the parade.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Poultry and Rabbit Barn is on August 14th.
- San Juan Generating Station Power Plant will complete demolition of the stacks on August 24th at 9 a.m.
- Adam Ortega, Military Intern, was introduced to the Commission. Mr. Ortega gave a brief history of his background.

**Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

Commissioner Todacheene and Commissioner McDaniel recognized National Code Talkers Day which is August 14th.

Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner expressed the importance of wearing a life jacket when participating in water recreation activities.

**Comments / Input From The General Public**

None

**Adjourn**


Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 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