

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
September 17, 2024**

Chairman Beckstead called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on September 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chairman Beckstead 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
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER	Bryan Myers
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Travis Sisco
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Michele Truby-Tillen
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	11

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

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

Commissioner Lanier reported a correction to his comment in New Business, Item #1 of the Commission minutes from August 27th. The minutes were changed to read, there will be no taking of private lands.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2024
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2024
3. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for August 2024
4. Approval of Finance Check Registers for August 2024
5. Approval of Resolution No. 24-25-23, Supporting New Mexico DOT/2024 Local Government Road Fund Cooperative Agreement
6. Approval of Resolution No. 24-25-22, in Support of a US DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Discretionary Grant Application
7. Approval of Award of Proposal 24-25-04, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Services
8. Approval of FY25 Budget Adjustment #2 – Resolution No. 24-25-24
9. Approval of Write Off of Certain Accounts Receivable – Resolution No. 24-25-25

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. Proclamation Declaring September 17th -23rd to be Constitution Week 2024

Terri Fortner, Chairman Pro-Tem, stated that she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and requested that San Juan County issue a proclamation declaring the week of September 17th - 23rd to be Constitution Week, 2024. Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner read the proclamation aloud:

WHEREAS, September 17, 2024, marks the two hundred and thirty-seventh anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week; and

WHEREAS, the Desert Gold Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution will be celebrating the America 250 Patriot Marker Dedication celebrating America's 250th Anniversary in conjunction with Bells Across America US Constitution week on September 17th, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2024 to be

CONSTITUTION WEEK

in San Juan County and urges all citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Proclamation Declaring September 17th -23rd to be Constitution Week 2024. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. Proclamation Recognizing September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, announced that September is National Suicide Prevention Month; to remember those lost to suicide, support those who have faced suicidal thoughts, and recognize the impact on individuals, families, and communities. Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death overall in the United States and second leading cause of death for ages 10 to 14 and 25 to 34 and fifth in people ages 35-54. Raising awareness about suicide prevention provides a crucial opportunity to make a difference. Mr. Saavedra read the proclamation aloud:

WHEREAS September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time when millions of people around the world join their voices to promote suicide prevention awareness; and

WHEREAS understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention, help others in crisis, and change the conversation around suicide; and

WHEREAS suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the US, and 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10 to 24; and

WHEREAS too many of our Nation's veterans and active military service members have also considered suicide or taken their own lives; and

WHEREAS suicide is not inevitable for anyone. By starting the conversation, providing support, and directing help to those who need it, we can prevent suicides and save lives; and

WHEREAS the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people in suicidal crisis or any kind of emotional distress. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or Text 988 or chat 988 lifeline.org to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; and

WHEREAS Everyone in our community can play a role in preventing suicide. We all need the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles. A simple phone call, message, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize suicide is not the answer.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, proclaim the month of September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Proclamation Recognizing September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Special Deputization of Archuleta County Colorado Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement Assistance in the Middle Mesa Area – Shane Ferrari, Sheriff

Shane Ferrari, Sheriff, stated that the area of San Juan County known as "Middle Mesa" is a peninsula surrounded by the Navajo Reservoir and inaccessible by road from New Mexico, creating a challenge to maintaining an adequate police presence in the area. This area is home to approximately 168 residents and a population of approximately 230 people. Due to the remote location, emergency services are delayed, and Middle Mesa residents are often frustrated due to the lack of San Juan County Sheriff's Office patrol presence, the ability to stop crimes in progress, and delayed emergency response times. In times of emergency, the Archuleta County Colorado Sheriff's Office has assisted the Sheriff's Office in stopping criminal action, under no established mutual agreement. The Archuleta County Sheriff has agreed to allow his deputies to be sworn as San Juan County Sheriff's Office Special Deputies to assist in times of emergency, to stop crimes in progress, and with periodic patrols establishing a better law enforcement presence. Special deputization will give authority to the deputies to stop criminal action and detain suspects until San Juan County Sheriff's deputies arrive to take formal action. The added presence will improve the quality of life for Middle Mesa residents and assist in suppressing criminal activity in this remote area. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Special Deputization of Archuleta County Colorado Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement Assistance in the Middle Mesa Area. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Lease of Office Space in the Multi-Agency Building to Senator Sharer and Representative Montoya

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that the Legislative Council Service requested to lease office space in the San Juan County Multi-Agency Building located at 7450 E. Main Street for Senator Bill Sharer and Representative Rod Montoya and their staff members. The rent for one office is \$300 per month, and will terminate on December 31, 2026, and allows for one two-year renewal. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Lease of Office Space in the Multi-Agency Building to Senator Sharer and Representative Montoya. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolutions No. 24-25-21 and 24-25-18, Adopting Policy & Procedure for the County's Voluntary Clean-Up Program and Setting Income and Asset Qualifications for Hardship Relief Assistance

Michele Truby-Tillen, Community Development Director, reported that County Ordinances No. 4, 72, 73, and 127 require landowners in the County to keep their properties clean and free of trash, debris, and dilapidated structures. The County instituted a voluntary property clean-up

program where a property owner may receive assistance by way of labor/equipment from the County to perform demolition, disposal, and clean-up and may qualify for hardship relief assistance based on income/asset limitations. Resolution No. 24-25-21 sets a written policy and procedure for the County's voluntary clean-up program and Resolution No. 24-25-18 sets the income and asset eligibility qualifications for hardship relief assistance as required by SJC Ordinance 72 and 73. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve Resolutions No. 24-25-21 and 24-25-18, Adopting Policy & Procedure for the County's Voluntary Clean-Up Program and Setting Income and Asset Qualifications for Hardship Relief Assistance. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

6. Order County Assessor to Impose 2024 Property Tax Rates

Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Board of County Commissioners is required to issue a written order imposing the property tax at the rates set on the taxable value of property allocated in the appropriate governmental units. The order must be issued within five days of receipt of the Department of Finance & Administration's (DFA) Property Tax Rate Setting Order, however, for the third straight year, DFA is allowing additional time for the governing body to respond; this year's deadline is September 20th. The written order must be delivered to the County Assessor immediately. The finance officers of the municipalities, school districts, and San Juan College have been notified regarding the new tax rates for their government units. Ms. Martin presented the following information:

- DFA and the County Commission issue and deliver its own written order to the County Assessor. No later than October 1st, the Assessor prepares and delivers the property tax schedule to the County Treasurer who mails the tax bills no later than November 1st.
- Tax rates can be set by a combination of taxing authorities, however tax rates set by the taxing authority are subject to change due to the Yield Control Statute.
- The Yield Control Statute considers growth control factors such as inflation and new construction
- Other than Eddy County at 7.5 mills, San Juan County remains the second lowest in the state at 8.5 mills for the 2024 tax year
 - Residential mill rates showed a decrease of 2.28% from 7.176 to 7.020
 - Non-Residential mill rates remain at 8.5 mills
- No General Obligation Bond debt has been issued by the County in 33 years
- The last property tax increase was in FY2005 in which the mill rate increased from 8 to 8.5 mills to fund the Water Reserve Fund for the San Juan Water Commission

During certification of last year's rates, it was discovered that yield control was not applied to the San Juan Water Commission's .5 operational mill rate, but only the County's operational rate of 8 mills. As a result, the Water Commission's water reserve fund has received a subsidy from the County general fund of approximately \$250,000 for a full tax year. Currently the water reserve fund has a cash balance of approximately \$10 million. Last year staff requested direction from the Commission on continuation on the historical practice to date of not applying yield control to the Water Commission's .5 operational mill rate or to change practice and start imposing yield control. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve to Order County Assessor to Impose 2024 Property Tax Rates. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

7. Resolution No. 24-25-26, Report on Inspection of Detention Center

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, reported that NMSA 1978, §33-3-4, Inspection of Jails and Detention Centers, provides that the governing body shall conduct an annual site visit to inspect the overall conditions at the detention facility and present an inspection report at a regular meeting of the governing body. The last report was submitted on August 15, 2023. Resolution No. 24-25-26 reports the findings of the inspection and the conditions at the Detention Center. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 24-25-26, Report on Inspection of Detention Center. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- The Mental Wellness Resource Center building flooded over the weekend due to a supply line burst and was relocated to Alternative Sentencing.
- An update on the recent presentation/discussion regarding the Freight Rail Project at the District 13 Navajo Nation Council Meeting.
- A Freight Rail Project presentation will be held next week at the Region 9 Economic Development in La Plata County.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Commissioner Todacheene reported the following:

- At the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry meeting, Lionel Hoskie expressed that assistance is needed for the Navajo Nation roads.
- At the Northern Agency Council meeting, Ms. Todacheene noticed that the County was not recognized for the projects that they have assisted with on the Navajo Nation and requested that a report be submitted to the office of the Navajo Nation President and Vice President when the County assists with projects on the Navajo Nation.

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, updated the Commission on the following:

- Megan Cullip, Behavioral Health Services Director, and Mr. Saavedra presented information regarding the Crisis Triage Center at the District 13 Navajo Nation Council Meeting.
- Gravel Field Adventure is filming within San Juan County to promote the various attractions.

Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner announced that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is seeking a representative and introduced Carol Taulbee. Ms. Taulbee stated that NAMI is making efforts to regenerate a broad outreach program for mental health and substance addiction in San Juan County.

Bryan Myers, Chairman of the Survey Advisory Committee, announced that in addition to the employee suggestion boxes in various areas, there is also a virtual employee suggestion link located on the Employee Access website or staff can use a QR code to submit feedback/suggestions which is submitted to Human Resources for review.

Comments / Input From The General Public


Christina Brickey expressed concern for public dumping in San Juan County and stated that other local government entities provide free trash services to their residents and would like to request this for the County residents. Mr. Stark indicated that city entities contract for trash collection and fees are charged to the municipalities. Mr. Stark informed her that there is an app called Clean Up San Juan to report illegal dumping.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Beckstead adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER 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