

Final Copy
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Commission Meeting
March 22, 2017

Commissioners Present: **Julia DuCharme-Member**
 James Frost-Member
 Javier Sanchez- Chair

Others Present: **Annette Ortiz- Interim County Manager**
 Dennis Wallin- County Attorney
 Michelle Jones –Clerk Admin. Assist. III

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Sanchez calls the meeting to order at 9:04 am and calls for a Commission Roll Call. Commission District 1- Present, Commission District 2- Present, Commission District 3- Present. Ms. Belinda Garland, resident and incoming County Manager, leads us in the pledge and Ms. Nicole Maxwell, reporter for the Mountain View Telegraph, gives the invocation.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Sanchez asks for a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. **ACTION TAKEN:** Madam Commissioner DuCharme makes a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of the Meeting Agenda:

Chairman Sanchez asks for a motion to approve today's Meeting Agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve today's meeting agenda. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme has a question about today's agenda item #9. **Request Funding to**

Cover Unbudgeted Tipping Fees. She asks Mr. Wallin, County Attorney, if the Commission can have a discussion about the agreement the County has with the EVSWA and if the Commission can make any decisions about that agreement. Mr. Wallin replies that the Commission can have a discussion about the agreement. He states that he believes that the description of agenda item #9 is broad enough that the Commission could take action on it. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if the action taken on agenda item #9 should only be about tipping fees. Ms. Ortiz states that the Commission could take action today on the tipping fees and could also give administrative direction to the Manager's Office concerning this item, if they deemed necessary; the administrative direction would not have to be in the form of a motion. Mr. Wallin asks if Madam Commissioner DuCharme is anticipating some broader action. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if Ms. Ortiz's comment is correct. Mr. Wallin replies yes. Mr. Miller, EVSWA Manager, states that he has a previous engagement today in Vaughn at 1:00pm. He requests that agenda item #9 be completed by 11:00-11:15 am or moved up on the agenda. No further discussion. The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed.
MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Chairman Sanchez asks for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that she has two duplicate consent agendas in her packet, both in the amount of \$82,946.74. Ms. Ortiz states that this is an error. She provides the Commission with the second correct consent agenda, which is in the amount of \$555,776.91. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks for clarification about invoice #473817 in the amount of \$16,480.00 paid to Presbyterian Medical Services. The description on this invoice states that it is payment for October and November. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if we have been billed yet for December, January, and February. Ms. Ortiz replies that she will look into this; she is not sure if we have received the other bills. No further discussion. The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There are no Indigent Claims.

Action Items
Items to Be Considered and Acted Upon

***Department Requests/Reports:**

(Public Comment, each item: At the Discretion of the Commission Chair.
 Comments are limited to one (1) minute per person.)

1. Updates

Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk, informs the Commission that the Board of Registration has completed the purge process. We purged 359 voters. Ms. Jaramillo states that she has the list of purged voters on her County Clerk website. If anyone is on there who wishes to be reinstated as a voter, all they need to do is come in to the Clerk’s office and re-register to vote. Ms. Jaramillo states that this purge should help candidates who request voter lists as it will eliminate excess information that is obsolete.

Ms. Jaramillo presents the Commission with a report showing an updated count of Torrance County registered voters by party and precinct. (A copy of this report is included in the file for this meeting). She gives the Commission the following recap of Torrance County voters by political party:

PARTY								
DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	DECLINED TO STATE	BETTER FOR AMERICA PARTY OF NEW MEXICO	NM GREEN PARTY	LIBERTARIAN PARTY	OTHER	OTHER	GRAND TOTAL
3282	4138	1498	1	27	49	2	367	9364

Hanna Sanchez, Fire Department Admin., informs the Commission that they have completed 36 hours of wildland training; they had 14 students pass the class. The only thing they have left to do is to get their red card, at which time they could actually be deployed if they chose to do so.

Ms. Sanchez informs the Commission that the Mountainair Fire Department has extended an offer to the Torrance County Fire Department to take an EMT basic

course with them. It is going to be run through the Dona Ana Community College; it starts on March 27th and will last 4 weeks. They have 9 interested volunteer firefighters: 4 people from District 2, 2 people from District 3, and 2 from District 5, along with Ms. Sanchez.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Management, informs Madam Commissioner DuCharme that the Torrance County website has been updated and now has a reporting mechanism in place for signs and roads. The respective department will get an email when a request is made.

Cindi Sullivan, Animal Services, informs the Commission that they have Animal Control up and running. They have two new full-time Animal Control officers and it appears to be working out. They have already been able to go out and talk to some residents that they know are having issues that have been really difficult to resolve.

Steve Guetschow, P&Z, informs the Commission that next week the Cibola Collaborative for the US Forest Service extended landscape team will meet. Mr. Guetschow states that hopefully they will be able to complete the ratification of that charter.

Commissioner Frost has no update today.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that at the last Commission meeting, Ms. Hanna Sanchez gave an update about new volunteers in the Fire Department. Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that she is really excited to hear this. She reminds all that our volunteer Firefighters now receive a stipend; \$10.00 if they respond to a medical call and \$15.00 if they respond to fire. She states that we have new volunteers, but we need more.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme reminds all that we have three open positions on the EVSWA Board; these representatives will receive \$30.00 per diem. The deadline to apply for those positions is March 29th. We also have two vacant positions on our investment committee. All who are interested and have an expertise in investing are strongly encouraged to apply.

Chairman Sanchez takes this opportunity to introduce our New County Manager- Ms. Belinda Garland. Ms. Garland comes to the podium and introduces herself. She states that she has a tentative start date of April 8th and is excited to get started and is here today to listen and learn. She's excited for this opportunity and is

hoping to bring her knowledge and some good things to the County. She states that she is going to welcome comments, feedback, and ideas and is going to try and set up some kind of mechanisms for that.

2. Contract Annual Renewal between Torrance County and Waste Management- Danette Mead, Animal Services

Ms. Mead speaks. This is their annual contract renewal with Waste Management. It's a self-renewing contract, however this year there was a price increase so she needed to bring it to the Commission for renewal approval. The contract price is going from \$60.00 to \$78.38 per month. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve contract annual renewal between Torrance County and Waste Management. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. The effective date of the agreement is 3/1/2017 and is listed on the first page of the agreement. This new price will be locked in for the term of one year. The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Request Funding to Bring the Santa Fe Spay & Neuter Van to Torrance County- Cindi Sullivan, Animal Services

Ms. Sullivan speaks. She states that this has been a hot topic for them for about ten years now. She explains that the Santa Fe Humane Society has a spay/neuter van that is completely self-contained and it goes to different areas of New Mexico.

Ms. Sullivan explains that there is an organization, the Friends of Estancia Valley Animals, that was created by Debra and Mike Hoy, which helps with sterilizations in this area. They reside out of Edgewood and typically charge the public \$60.00 for the sterilization of a dog and \$30.00 for the sterilization of a cat. They recently talked to Mr. Chris Acosta, the Animal Control officer for the City of Moriarty and said that they wanted to bring the spay/neuter van to Moriarty. Mr. Acosta wanted the County to have an opportunity to be involved in this too. There was a meeting with the Friends of Estancia Valley Animals, Ms. Sullivan, and Mr. Acosta and they came up with an idea. The Santa Fe Humane Society likes to take the van to locations for at least two days. Mr. Acosta is going to approach the City of Moriarty and ask them to fund reserving the van for one day, at a cost of \$2,350.00 per day, and Ms. Sullivan is here today asking for assistance for the second day from the County. They did some research and decided that the Moriarty Civic Center would be the best location for the van for the two day event.

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Mead have found a source who is willing to donate \$1,000.00 towards the second day, so they only need the remaining \$1,350.00. They are asking the County to assist with funding this second day because if they can get this whole day funded, they can offer spay and neuters to the public for just \$30.00. Ms. Sullivan states that if they can fund this now, it will make their jobs much easier in the future as they will have less puppies and kittens coming in to the shelter. We also have vets now who are willing to provide emergency after-care service if necessary. Ms. Sullivan states that if they can secure this funding, they will be able to heavily advertise this event with the \$30.00 flat fee. She states that if they can secure the funding for this event, and it is successful, they will try to budget for future events. Ms. Mead states that they may even be able to offer services for less than \$30.00. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if the City of Moriarty is planning to fund their day. Ms. Sullivan thinks they have. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if they can move the van for the second day. Ms. Sullivan replies no, once the van is set up, it has to stay in the one location for both days. They can do 30 sterilizations each day.

Chairman Sanchez asks Ms. Ortiz where she thinks the funds could come from. Ms. Ortiz replies that if the Commission approves this, she will find the funds in the County budget. There is a brief discussion about locating the van in Estancia. Ms. Sullivan states that the majority of the calls the shelter gets are from the more northern part of the County. There is discussion about possibly holding future events in Estancia. Holding this event in Moriarty seems to be the best idea logistically and fiscally.

Commissioner Frost states his support for the County assisting with funding for this event. Chairman Sanchez suggests not using PILT money to assist with funding this event. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve allocating funds in the amount of \$1,350.00 to the Animal Shelter to assist in the funding of a Spay/Neuter van event. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if there are any grants available to help with this funding. Ms. Sullivan replies that most of the grants available for this kind of service are only available to 501c organizations, not government organizations. Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that this is a needed service, but she would be more comfortable discussing this at budget time. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion.

Michelle Jones, McIntosh resident (myself), advocates for the funding of this event. She speaks about her experiences with the Torrance County Shelter and hopes the Commission will allocate funds for this event.

Linda Jaramillo, Estancia resident and County Clerk, also advocates for funding of this event. She states that she recently adopted a stray cat and her daughter has a lot of pets that also need to be fixed and she would take advantage of an event like this.

Assuming this event is successful, Chairman Sanchez encourages Ms. Sullivan to look for other strategies and funding sources to pay for more events like this in the future. He also asks her to consider holding future events like this in other part of the County such as Estancia, Willard, and Mountainair.

The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Frost encourages Ms. Sullivan to consider advertising this event on our local radio station and in our local newspaper and also asking the public for donations to help defray the cost. He states that if she does this, he will donate the first \$50.00.

4. Contract Renewal between Torrance County and Western Trails Animal Hospital- Cindi Sullivan, Animal Services Ms. Sullivan speaks. She states that the County Animal Shelter has two contracts with Western Trails Animal Hospital that need renewal: one for professional services and one for veterinary services. Nothing has changed in these contracts since they were renewed last year.

- a. Professional Services- All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the renewal of the Professional Services agreement between Torrance County and Western Trails Animal Hospital. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**
- b. Veterinary Services - All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve the renewal of the Veterinary Services agreement between Torrance County and Western Trails Animal Hospital. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

5. Contract Renewal Between Torrance County and Kathleen West for Professional Services- Cindi Sullivan, Animal Services Ms. Sullivan speaks. This is for a contract that they renew with Ms. West every year for professional

services. Ms. West provides quarterly inspections that are required by the Pharmacy Board of the State of New Mexico. Nothing has changed in this contract since it was renewed last year. All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve the contract renewal between Torrance County and Kathleen West for Professional Services. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Resolution 2017-13 Line Item Transfer(s) - Amanda Tenorio, Finance Director Ms. Tenorio speaks. Today, she is requesting Commission approval of Resolution 2017-13 Line Item Transfers. These line item transfers are within the requesting departments budgeted funds. All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve Resolution 2017-13 Line Item Transfers. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks about a transfer request from the Road Department in the amount of \$5,925.00 for the purchase of 2 vehicles for Road Department employees. Mr. Leonard Lujan, Road Department Superintendent, states that he purchased two pickups because many of the trucks that the Road Department employees were using broke down and were either unrepairable or too expensive to repair. Mr. Lujan states that he went to the State surplus and purchased a 2007 Ford and a 1999 Chevy. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

7. Ratification of Amendment Request and Contract Amendment Between Torrance County and NM Environment Dept. - Dan DeCosta, Code Enforcement Mr. DeCosta is not present at today's meeting. All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to table this item. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **ITEM TABLED**

8. Tajique Transfer Station Update Regarding Options Ms. Ortiz speaks. She informs the Commission that she does not have any new information to provide to them today on this item. Chairman Sanchez asks Ms. Ortiz when she thinks she will have an update for the Commission. She replies that she was not able to complete her update today as she had a family emergency. **ACTION TAKEN:** Madam Commissioner DuCharme makes a motion to table this item. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. Commissioner Frost comments that he thinks the

County needs to get the word out that we are looking for suggestions or offers of property from the public with regards to this agenda item. Chairman Sanchez states that he was hoping that the Commission could look at their options today. Ms. Ortiz states that we need to know what we are asking for; how much property, equipment, infrastructure, roads, etc. Mr. Lujan, Road Superintendent, comments that he is waiting to get a quote on what it would cost to move the fence from the existing transfer station to a new location. He states that he was already told that the fence poles that are there cannot be moved or re-used; they would be cut down. He does not know anything yet about the actual fencing. He states that since the discussion of moving or closing this transfer station in Tajique began, his Road Crew employees have seen a significant increase in illegal dumping in the area. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks who owns the fence. Mr. Wallin comments that, in this instance, the fence is most likely part of the property and is the property of the Land Grant. It is clarified that Chairman Sanchez had asked Mr. Lujan to look into the cost of moving the fence.

Mr. Andrew Gutierrez, a representative of the Tajique Land Grant, comments that it is very disappointing that this item is being tabled again; they have been working on this item since August of 2016. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **ITEM TABLED**

9. Request Funding to Cover Unbudgeted Tipping Fees Ms. Ortiz speaks. She reminds all that the Commission held a Special Meeting on Monday, March 20th, to discuss this issue. She states that the County Manager's Office needs direction on how the Commission wants to move forward on this; where do they want the payment of these fees to come from, etc. She states that the County is currently being billed for these fees and we are 8 months behind. She states that we have not been charged any late fees yet. All documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to pay the outstanding amount of tipping fees to the EVSWA. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. Commissioner Frost asks if this will include paying the monthly fees going forward. Chairman Sanchez states that this motion is specific to one thing- paying the outstanding amount. Ms. Ortiz asks what fund the Commission wants this payment to come from. Chairman Sanchez states that he believes that the Commission only has one option- the Wind PILT fund.

Chairman Sanchez adds that this situation is very disappointing. He states that he personally resents having to use the PILT money for this purpose. However, the present Commission is bound to meet its obligations under the agreement that was

signed by the previous Commission. There is no recourse but to comply with our obligation and make payment as is required. He states that this does not mean that he can't resent it; he resents it very much. He states that the County will pay this, but he does not know if this is sustainable. He states that he wants to make it clear that he made this motion and we are looking to pay this, but "kicking and screaming" from his personal point of view.

Ms. Ortiz clarifies with Chairman Sanchez that this motion is to pay the tipping fee invoices through the end of March; he concurs with this. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks Mr. Miller, EVSWA Manager, if he can assure the Commission that the EVSWA will not charge a 20% late fee, as the new Commission was only recently made aware of this situation and was not told about a late fee until very recently. She states that she doesn't think a late fee can be imposed if the Commission was not even made aware that there could be a late fee. Mr. Miller states that the amount due that he gave to the Commission (at the Special Meeting?) did include late fees on past due amounts more than 30 days late. He states that it is simple interest, 20%, and does not compound on itself. He states that, right now, the Commission is looking at tipping fees plus the appropriate late fees; there is no late fee on the February invoice yet. He states that, as far as assuring the Commission that the EVSWA won't charge late fees, he cannot do that. He states that he is merely following the rules and the procedures established by the JPA, of which Torrance County has three representatives. Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that the current agreement between the EVSWA and Torrance County is signed by then Chairman Candelaria. She states that she voted against that agreement; she thinks it is one-sided, it heavily benefits the EVSWA, and in her opinion, it is not in the best interest of Torrance County. She states that she can't support the agreement, but the decision was made and the contract was signed. She wants to save this money for the County, but she cannot see a way where the County cannot pay these tipping fees. However, she states that nowhere did she see that the EVSWA could charge a 20% late fee. Mr. Miller states that there was a regular board meeting of the EVSWA on May 17, 2007 and on page 2 of the minutes for that meeting a decision was made. He states that the minutes read the following: 'Item C- Landfill late fee. Joseph explained that the landfill customers are charged a late fee of 20%.' Mr. Miller explains that 'Joseph' is Mr. Ellis, who was the EVSWA Manager. He continues to read the minutes which state, in summary, that this late fee charge is resulting in large bills for some customers and causing them to not be able to use the landfill.

Mr. Wallin, County Attorney, recommends that the Commission approve payment of the overdue tipping fees, if that is what they decide, but he does not recommend

that the Commission approve payment of any late fees. Mr. Wallin states that he will research the legality of the imposing of these late fees; he states that they may very well be unconstitutional.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks for clarification of the exact amount of the overdue tipping fees. Mr. Miller states that the overdue tipping fee amount, without the late fee, is \$73,175.97. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez amends his motion to state that he moves that the Commission pay the past due EVSWA tipping fees in the amount of \$73,175.97 from the PILT fund. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion.

Michael Godey, resident, states that he supports the Commission paying the overdue tipping fees, but not the late fees and he suggests that the Commission consider renegotiation of the JPA.

No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed.

MOTION CARRIED

At this time, Chairman Sanchez states that, in light of what has transpired and the agreement that is in place, he is in favor of re-evaluating the County's relationship with the EVSWA: the JPA, the agreement that was signed in July of 2016, and any further agreements that would identify and delineate fees owed by the County, to be paid by the County, to the EVSWA. He states that he thinks a general re-evaluation of the relationship would be beneficial. Chairman Sanchez directs the County Manager's office to convene a meeting to start looking at what the County's interests in this matter are; what are the specific points that we would like to address and what are the nuances that we are going to have to look at in order to get a re-evaluation that is meaningful. He suggests that this meeting be conducted as soon as possible.

10. Mid-Region Council of Government Appointment(s) Ms. Ortiz speaks. She states that she reached out to Mr. Cave at MRCOG regarding their Executive Board. She reads his response into the record:

Annette,

Torrance County has two members on the MRCOG Full Board of Directors. One of those members will also serve on the Executive Board. The County usually tells MRCOG Board which of the two members they wish to serve on the Executive Board and it has typically been the Commission Chair, but doesn't have to be. The member name submitted for the Executive Board by all of the member governments will then be approved by the MRCOG Full Board.

Ms. Ortiz states that, according to Mr. Cave, the Commission would make their appointment to the MRCOG Executive Board, or the Commission would submit names of persons they would want the Executive Board and then the MRCOG Full board to approve what the Commission is suggesting. Chairman Sanchez reviews the chart showing the names of the MRCOG Full Board and Executive Board. Ms. Ortiz states that there is the MRCOG Full Board, the Executive Board and the Transportation Board. At the last Commission meeting some appointments were made; the new County Manager, or her designee, and Madam Commissioner DuCharme were appointed to the MRCOG Full Board and Chairman Sanchez was appointed as the alternate to the MRCOG Full Board.

Either the new County Manager or Madam Commissioner DuCharme can now be appointed by the Commission to the MRCOG Executive Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to recommend the new County Manager, Ms. Belinda Garland, for appointment to the MRCOG Executive Board. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commission votes; all in favor, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Commission still has the position of Torrance County representative to the Mid Region Rural Transportation Board. The County will advertise for this position.

11. CDBG Funding Chairman Sanchez speaks. He states that he would like for the Commission to give some direction to the Manager's Office about this item. He would like for the Manager's Office to look at our eligibility for various components of the CDBG. He states that there is infrastructure funding, planning funding, etc. He would like for the Manager's Office to determine our eligibility and the availability of CDBG funding. Ms. Ortiz states that, as it stands today, we are not eligible for 2017 funding; we would have to look at 2018 funding. Chairman Sanchez requests that the Manager's Office look into this and provide an update to the Commission at the next regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Frost comments that he heard on the national news that one of the goals of our new administration in Washington D.C. is to eliminate the CDBG program. He states that this is something we need to keep in mind.

12. Comprehensive Plan Chairman Sanchez speaks. He states that he believes that we have begun this process, but he doesn't know exactly where we are at with it. He states that Mr. Guetschow from Planning and Zoning gave the Commission

some documentation about this, and part of that delineates the process we would follow if we were to pay for this through a CDBG planning grant. He reads the following guidelines:

1. County submits planning grant application to DFA Local Government Division
2. LGD sends letter of award to the County
3. Fiscal Agent MOU reviewed by the LGD, signed by the County and MRCOG
4. Financial Responsibility-County
5. Financial Responsibility- MRCOG
6. LGD sends grant agreement to County, County sends signed copy back to LGD
7. County can contract with MRCOG or other firm for professional services
8. If MRCOG is chosen, a scope of work will be developed with the budget and timeline
9. 18-months to complete and adopt the Comprehensive Plan and close out the account

Chairman Sanchez asks where we are on this timeline. Ms. Ortiz replies that she will have to look into this. Ms. Gaiser from the MRCOG was here in November of 2015 and it is Ms. Ortiz's understanding that she was in the process of getting a committee together to work on this at that time. The Commission directs the Manager's Office to look into where we are at in this planning process and where we need to go to get this plan completed. Chairman Sanchez asks the Manager's Office to provide the Commission with a plan of action on how they can proceed with this by the next Commission meeting.

13. EMT Update from Manager's Office Chairman Sanchez speaks. He states that an issue was brought up to the Commission- the need for an EMT in the Southern part of the County. He states that he would like to resolve this issue. Is it possible? And if it's not possible immediately, can we develop strategies for a long term solution? Ms. Ortiz comments that we did receive some great news today from Ms. Hanna Sanchez, who informed the Commission that there are 4 people in that area who are looking to take the EMT classes. This could mean a shorter response time, which will help with the immediate need for EMT services. Getting a paramedic in the area is still a challenge. We have heard from Superior Ambulance about approximately how much it would cost to house a paramedic in

that area and the number of calls they receive in that area vs the northern part of the County. Ms. Ortiz asks if the Commission is interested in trying to invest the dollars that would be needed to house a paramedic and ambulance in that area. It would cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars to have full-time 24-hour paramedic services in that area. We are making strides in the recruitment of EMT's in the area, but we would still be relying on the response time of available volunteers. Chairman Sanchez states that he wonders if these additional EMT's will suffice.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Management, comments that an EMT basic is very limited in what they can do when they respond to an incident vs a paramedic.

Ms. Hanna Sanchez comments that the EMT basic training will start on March 27th and will continue for 4 months. She states that she has spoken with Chief Lester Gary from the Town of Estancia and they have 3 paramedics working out of their station, along with approximately 4 EMTs. He told Ms. Sanchez that we were welcome to talk with Dispatch about Estancia being 'toned' if there was an issue out in that area. Estancia would have a shorter response time than an ambulance coming out of Moriarty. Ms. Sanchez states that we have 5 volunteers with Torreon that want to take the EMT class. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if we have an ambulance in District 4. Ms. Sanchez replies that currently, we do not. She states that, hopefully, they have another ambulance coming on a grant, and then they will be doing some re-arranging. It is clarified that you can have one paramedic and one EMT in an ambulance, you don't have to have two paramedics.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Management, brings up the idea of the County enacting the 'Hold Harmless' tax increments that are available to us. The County could, by ordinance, enact three 'Hold Harmless' 1/8 tax increments that would generate approximately \$750,000.00 annually. These tax dollars could be dedicated to police, fire, transportation, or street repair.

Chairman Sanchez states that he was thinking about putting a research committee together to look into this issue and research all the available options. This committee could be composed of our Fire Marshall, Dispatch, our local Fire Department, Superior Ambulance, and could be guided by the Manager's Office. He states that they could put together a series of meetings and really look at different options. Then the Commission could decide if we do want to do it or if we don't want to do it. If we don't, we move on to the next item, and if we do- we identify a road map for how to get there. He states that the idea of this committee would be to give clarity to this issue.

Ms. Hanna Sanchez states that she just spoke to Fire Marshall Trumbull and he said a paramedic would cost approximately \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 a year. He also told Ms. Sanchez that he has been in contact with Estancia Fire Chief Gary and Chief Gary said that they would be more than willing to clear out a bay in their station and do some renovations in order to make it a housing unit and possibly move one of our Superior Units from the Moriarty area up here to Estancia. He said that this would ultimately save the County money and decrease the response time by about 30 minutes. Ms. Ortiz asks who would be responsible for paying for the renovation of the bay and would Superior be willing to move a unit. Ms. Sanchez states that she is not sure, but this could be discussed at a meeting with Estancia and Superior.

Chairman Sanchez asks for feedback about the item. Commissioner Frost comments that possibly funds generated by the 'Hold Harmless' tax could help to pay for a paramedic.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Management, comments that we need to start somewhere; we have got to say we are going to do it and let's do it. He states that we would be ignorant not to impose the 'Hold Harmless' tax. It would give us a starting point.

There is discussion about the price of a 12-hour paramedic, a 24-hour paramedic, an ambulance, housing a paramedic, etc.

Michelle Jones, resident (myself), comments that the 'Hold Harmless' tax can be enacted by ordinance and she suggests putting the ordinance on the next Commission agenda and getting this process moving forward. She also suggests putting the creation of the research committee on the next agenda. She comments about the outstanding job that Ms. Hanna Sanchez is doing and suggests that she be on this new committee.

Mr. Frank Luna, resident and concerned citizen, states that this has taken a long time, but he thinks he sees the cogs moving. He thanks the County for looking into this and trying to get it going. He thanks Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Sedillo for their information. He is in favor of a research committee and looking into the 'Hold Harmless' tax.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Management, clarifies that the 'Hold Harmless' tax is not a tax that would be imposed on property. It is a tax imposed on businesses that come in to the County, that impact the County. He explains that years ago when the Governor removed the tax on food, the 'Hold Harmless' tax was created so

counties could continue to function and provide the basic services of law enforcement, fire protection, and roads. He strongly advocates for the enactment of this tax.

Ms. Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk, states that she is not in favor of having a Special Election to generate funds for the County, but reminds the Commission that there is the option of putting questions on the General Election ballot if necessary; it does not cost the County anything.

Nick Sedillo states that the 'Hold Harmless' tax increase, if all three increments were enacted, would be the current tax rate multiplied by 0.375%.

Michael Godey, resident, comments that the "Hold Harmless" tax increment can be an amount 'up to' 1/8%. The Commission can decide the exact amount to enact.

Chairman Sanchez asks Ms. Hanna Sanchez if she agrees with the idea of a research committee. She does. Chairman Sanchez asks if the Commission can appoint this research committee now. Mr. Wallin replies that the Commission can appoint this committee if they so choose. Nick Sedillo comments that the County's Safety committee is a very diverse group. Chairman Sanchez suggests that this committee be compiled of the Fire Marshall, the EMT Director, Law Enforcement, the County Manager's Office, the Torreon Fire Department, the Estancia Fire Department, Dispatch, and a concerned citizen. The Commission will take letters of Interest for the concerned citizen position. The County Manager's Office will coordinate and set meetings and report back to the Commission.

14. Economic Development Plan Chairman Sanchez states that he put this on the agenda because he thinks there is a need for a comprehensive economic development plan that would allow us to specifically focus on business creation and jobs. He states that this would entail a revitalization of our urban centers; we have four or five in the County. He states that he thinks there are a lot of ideas out there for this revitalization and it would be nice to harness those ideas and create a plan that we could all use as a road map. It would help us give guidance to EVEDA and allow us to see what kinds of businesses we want to bring into the County and what kinds of jobs, and by extension, what kind of infrastructure we want to invest in. Chairman Sanchez states that this can be accomplished in a few different ways. He states that most comprehensive plans have an economic development component, as does our, but he finds it to be kind of useless. He thinks we need a very specific document; something that speaks to things that we

can do, businesses that we want to bring in. He states that he envisions the County being the facilitator; organizing meetings, perhaps bringing in a contractor, if required, to create this plan. He also thinks that the municipalities need to come in and partner and identify for themselves what level of development they want in their communities; what infrastructure they feel they need. He envisions this as a large collaborative effort.

Chairman Sanchez states that we could inject this into the comprehensive plan, or create it as a stand-alone document; He leans towards the latter. He wants to create a document that really focuses on economic development specifically. He wants to focus on business creation and job creation. He states that we can accomplish this a few different ways. We could leverage the MRCOG and find out what they would charge and what our membership would allow us. There is also an RDG grant, (Rural Development Grant) that is offered through the USDA. This grant specifically deals with planning efforts and plans that have to do with business and job creation. He believes that the County would have a strong chance of getting this grant because we have never received it before. The USDA can provide us with some assistance in filling out the application. The other option would be the County just doing it themselves. He suggests creating a committee that might assist with developing the plan. Chairman Sanchez asks the Manager's Office to look into what kind of planning assistance we could receive from the MRCOG and the USDA. Commissioner Frost is in agreement with this.

Michelle Jones, resident (myself) suggests involving EVEDA.

Ms. Tracy Sedillo, Treasurer, comments that she believes that in the County news that EVEDA sends out, there was information about a USDA grant and she believes that the application deadline is March 31st.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that she is in full support of these idea. She states that she remembers when we received the CDBG grant to update the comprehensive plan, we assembled a 7 or 9 person committee to assist the MRCOG with that process. Perhaps we can involve the members of that committee. Chairman Sanchez agrees with this, but also likes the idea of spearheading this effort ourselves.

***County Manager Requests/Reports:**

15. Update

Ms. Ortiz informs the Commission that she, in-coming County Manager Belinda Garland, and the Finance Department, met with our current auditors and they are working diligently to get our audit wrapped up and submitted.

Ms. Ortiz has been in contact with Mr. Lujan, Road Superintendent, and they are working on their grader leases.

The Animal Control positions have been hired and they are getting their phones and all the equipment that they need.

We have one Deputy position and one part-time office staff position opening in the Sheriff's Office and we have one equipment operator position opening in the Road Department. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks Ms. Ortiz when the Sheriff's Department will be able to move into their new location. Ms. Ortiz replies that the last update she received was that the phone lines were being put in. She will look into this.

Public Comment/Requests:

At the Discretion of the Commission Chair. For Information Only (No Action Can Be Taken). Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person on any subject.


Michael Godey, resident, speaks. He states that the Commission is asking for a lot of people for a lot of committees. He suggests that the Commission be patient when getting people or they will end up with all the same people on multiple committees.

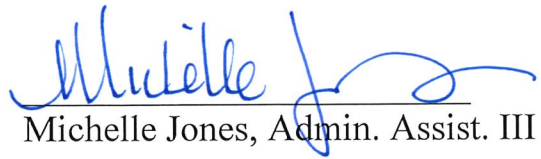
***Adjourn**

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to adjourn the March 22, 2017 Commission Meeting. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion. The Commissioners vote; all in favor, none opposed.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am


Chairman Sanchez


Michelle Jones, Admin. Assist. III

4/12/17
Date

The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Torrance County NM Website. Audio discs of this meeting can be purchased in the Torrance County Clerk's Office and the audio of this meeting will be aired on our local radio station KXNM.

