

**Fianl Copy  
Torrance County Commission  
Regular Meeting  
December 13, 2017**

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

**Others Present:**                **Belinda Garland, County Manager**  
  **Annette Ortiz, Deputy County Manager**  
  **Sylvia Chavez, Admin Assistant**

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Sanchez calls the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, Leslie Olivas leads the Pledge of Allegiance and Linda Smith gave the Invocation.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Sanchez asks for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Madam Commissioner DuCharme makes a motion to approve the December 13 2017 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

Chairman Sanchez asks for approval of the meeting agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Chairman Sanchez asks for approval of the consent agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if there are

any indigent claims, Ms. Ortiz states that there are none. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**\* Presentation(s):**

**1. Vendor Demonstration on Solar Lighting on Traffic Signs-Gary Aragon**

Mr. Aragon addresses the Commission with a concern about a couple of intersections off of Lexco road, Martinez & Lexco and Old Rt. 66 and Lexco. The visibility at these particular intersections are very bad, he would like to see lighting installed to help drivers see the stop signs. Mr. Aragon suggests solar lighting at the stop signs, he demonstrates to the Commission a solar light that is used to help with visibility. The particular solar light Mr. Aragon presented today to the Commission also had a camera which County Manager Garland asks about. She asked if the light could be purchased without the camera, the answer was, yes. Mr. Aragon is willing to allow the County to use one of the lights at the intersection of Lexco & Martinez for a period of time to see if this is something the County would like to purchase and install in the future. The price for the lighting alone is \$1080.00 with a 3yr warranty. There are different options for the pole that is used for the light that the County can decide will best suit their needs. Commissioner Frost mentions that there have been fatal car accidents in that area and feels that having the lighting can be very beneficial. He suggests a light without the camera.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if these types of lighting are used anywhere else in NM. Mr. Aragon mentions that they are used in several places throughout the state, to help with lighting in parking lots as well at intersections.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks about the battery life during cloudy days. Mr. Aragon mentions that the battery can last 3 days.

Commissioner Frost feels this is something the County should look into and try and budget monies at the next fiscal budget. He asks Leonard Lujan, Road Superintendent what he thinks about the lighting at the intersections. Mr. Lujan said it's a good idea, however he is worried that the lighting would not last long at some of these intersections. Some people may borrow them and not ever return them and then the County is out the money for the lighting. Mr. Aragon mentions again that he is willing to let the County use one of the lights he has, even if its just here in the parking lot to get the feel for the amount of lighting it puts out. The general consensus of the Commission is to revisit this during budget time.

They thank Mr. Aragon for his presentation today and they will keep in touch with him. **NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATION ONLY.**

**\*Department Request/Reports:**

**3. Updates: a. Various County Departments b. Other Boards or Land Grants (upon request) c. Forest Service (upon request) d. Commission**

**a. Various County Departments**

Leslie Olivas, Purchasing Director- she gives the Commission an update on some RFP's that the County currently has, the RFP for the Teen Court Coordinator is due by next Tuesday, December 19 at 3pm and the RFP's for Towing Vehicles will be published on the 21<sup>st</sup> for 2 consecutive weeks.

Jesse Lucero, Deputy Assessor- informs the Commission that the blue livestock forms have gone out and the Assessor's office will have satellite offices in communities to help people with the livestock forms and any other questions they may have about tax assessments. They will be in Encino on January 23, Corona on January 25, Mountainair on January 30, Moriarty on February 6, and in Edgewood on February 8. For all these locations the times will be from 9am to 2pm. Mr. Lucero also mentions that starting in the New Year the Assessor's office will be starting the reappraisal of Moriarty.

Steve Guetschow, P/Z Director- at the last P/Z meeting a Conditional Use Permit was issued for expansion for Patton met towers. They will be coming before Planning & Zoning and the Commission at the end of the first quarter in 2018 to renew their Special Use permit and give an update on their project. Also at this meeting the 2018 meeting schedule was approved for the first Wednesday of every month with the exception of July, that meeting will be held on Monday July 2.

Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk-would like to remind the Commission and those present at today's meeting that next year is an election year. On February 6, the Moriarty-Edgewood School District will have a special bond election. On March 6 the Municipalities will have their elections. March 13 is candidate filing day for the following offices; Sheriff, Assessor, Commission Districts 1 & 2, Probate Judge and Magistrate Judge. The following state offices are also up for reelection; Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer,

Attorney General, Commissioner of Public Lands, Judge of Court of Appeals, State Rep. for Districts 50 & 70 and Public Regulations Commissioner Districts 2 & 5. Ms. Jaramillo encourages everyone to participate in all these elections, your vote does count. She reminds people to get registered to vote and to exercise your right to vote. There are currently 9,463 registered voters in Torrance County, 3,241 are Democrats, 4,184 are Republican and 1,896 are declined to state. Ms. Jaramillo states that there is a lot of work put into ensuring that all 9,463 voters are given the opportunity to cast their vote.

Nick Sedillo, Risk Manager/Safety Officer- the County has just completed year 10 of the NMAC Risk Awareness Program (RAP). This year was a bit challenging for the County we only met one of our four goals which means the County's Workers Comp., Auto & Law Enforcement liability premiums will go up. This will cost the County more money unfortunately. The safety Committee will come up with new goals for the County in the New Year and we will start on RAP year 11 once we get all the material from the Assoc. of Counties.

Andy Miller, EVSWA Manager- on December 1 the authority mailed out 1,100 letters and the phones have been nonstop. The letter details the reason that some people may not be receiving a discount on their bills. Mr. Miller goes over some numbers; 65+ discount there were 439 letters sent out, 286 have responded 8 have qualified. Low income discount there were 250 letters sent out and Mr. Miller does not have a good number on any of these. For the exempt discounts there was 460 letters sent out, 75 have responded and given the discount. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks what people are saying when they call in, Mr. Miller states that there has been various things stated but his staff have been able to answer all questions that they have received and have informed the customers the reason for the change in the discounts. County Manager Garland thanks Andy and his staff for his assistance with getting the letters out and mentions that the manager's office has also been receiving the same calls. She encourages the elderly customers to apply for LIHEAP, which helps with a one-time payment for their heating utility. Once they qualify for this assistance they will receive the discount with solid waste. Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that since Mr. Miller has started as the Manager of EVSWA he has worked hard on building customer relations and apologizes for the decision that Commission has made to hurt that relationship. Mr. Miller thanks Madam Commissioner DuCharme for the compliment but feels the Commission has made

the right decision. Mr. Miller is asked if he could stay for agenda item #9, Mr. Miller said he can but has a meeting at 10 he has to attend. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks the Commission if they can move item #9 up on the agenda after department updates. The Commission agrees to this.

**d. Commission**

District 1: Commissioner Frost states that he attended an EVEDA meeting, which the EVEDA board is made up of local representation and we discuss what is going on in our communities. During this discussion the EMWT water station in McIntosh was brought up as well as Myra meeting with Rep. McQueen in regards to acequias in Torreon. These projects are on ICIP's in the County, either on the County's or by EMWT as well as other government entities that support EMWT water station. Commissioner Frost asks Myra to come to the podium to go over her discussion with Rep. McQueen. Myra Pancrazio-EVEDA director, informs the Commission that her meeting with Rep. McQueen was very informative, he outlined the process for additional funding for acequias projects. Rep. McQueen mentioned that the Acequias Assoc. works very closely with land grants to get funding for their acequias and recommends that Torreon should look into this to get funding for their project instead of going through the County. The Acequias Assoc. funding is direct funding, there is no competing with other projects on ICIP's lists, it goes straight where the funding is needed.

District 2: Madam Commissioner DuCharme wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, there are miracles happening and the employees and volunteers at Bethel work year round to make sure these miracles happen. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks Linda Smith to come to the podium and give an update on Bethel. Linda Smith-Bethel director, informs the Commission that Bethel served 798 families last month for the Thanksgiving holiday and expect to do the same or more this month for Christmas. She estimates that Bethel will have served over 22,000 people in the year. Only low income families are served through Bethel, every month they serve 1800 people that's a lot of food and volunteer time. They are still doing their holiday food drive, new toys & full stockings for children. Bethel serves 3 different counties, Southern Santa Fe, Eastern Bernalillo & Torrance County. The majority of their help does go to people in Torrance County. Ms. Smith mentions that they do work with different agencies to help Senior Citizens with some of their needs. The Commission thanks Ms. Smith for all her work in our Community.

**\*Commission Matters:**

**9. Address the Commission in Regards to the Solid Waste Fees; Would Like to Request VA Benefits Recipients Receive Solid Waste Discount- Edward McCracken, Resident**

Mr. Edward McCracken comes today to ask the Commission to think about giving disabled veterans a discount for solid waste fees. Mr. McCracken is a 50 % disabled vet and was affected by the change.

County Manager Garland mentions that she did do some research on VA benefits and those benefits are not considered to be public assistance. When the County was working on the discounts they went by what is state statue to be considered discounts and disabled veterans is not one of them. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if some of these people that are disabled veterans are already receiving the discounts it shouldn't cost the County more. County Manager Garland stats that it could cost the County more money because not all disabled veterans are over the age of 65, the Commission could tie the discount to over 65 for disabled vets.

Betty Cabber-Assessor tells the Commission that her office only applies the tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans on the tax rolls. She can get the Commission numbers for number of disabled veterans' exemptions this way the Commission will know how many could receive a discount with solid waste.

Michael Godey-resident cautions the Commission on defining age for disabled vets, people with disabilities will get upset.

Andy Miller-EVSWA Manager does not have any numbers for this year but can speak of the numbers from last year. The cost to the County last year was \$3,500.00 in discounts. Mr. Miller reiterates that the authority will do whatever the County decides is best.

County Manager Garland suggests that the Commission look over the numbers at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and then make any changes to the resolution at that time to include VA discounts if they feel that's the direction they want to go. The authority has spent a lot of money on sending out letters so would like the Commission to wait for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year since the change will take place January 1 for the new quarter.

Chairman Sanchez feels that a step was skipped, the Commission needs to engage with the public and inform them that there was not an increase of price but that there was an error in management.

Myra Pancrazio-resident states that she is a wife and mother of a veteran and age has nothing to do with your disability, she also cautions the Commission on age defining with this discount if they chose to move forward with this.

Johnny Romero-resident- tells the Commission that he is confused with the discounts and who qualifies for them. His parents received the discount and now they are not. County Manager Garland states that his parents should have received a letter that detailed all the discounts and those that will qualify.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if the Commission is willing to look into Mr. McCracken's request, Commissioner Frost states that he is but reminds the Commission that no matter the decision there will always be reactions on whatever we decide. Chairman Sanchez agrees with Commissioner Frost and that is why he feels that engaging the public will help them with understanding what exactly is taking place.

Janet Douglas-resident states that she did not receive a letter from the EVSWA because she is an Estancia resident but she was aware of the change. People will always say they didn't know but it's the ignorance of the people, people feel entitled to everything.

Danielle Johnston-resident would like the Commission to be aware of the quality of service that has improved throughout the County, the roads are improved, the waste service has improved and the Planning & Zoning enforcement has improved. Its part of growing and taking care of the County, if we become complacent things could deteriorate.

Chairman Sanchez directs County Manager Garland to do more research on disabled veterans discounts **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to have County Manager Garland do research for Disabled Veterans discounts. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, Commission votes 2 in favor, Commissioner Frost against. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **4. FY2017 DWI Program Report for DFA-Tracey Master, DWI Prevention Coordinator**

Ms. Master presents the Commission with the DWI program report for 2017. The report had three different objectives: Objective 1 Keep a Clear Mind the rationale for use of this by Torrance County's DWI program was to change the attitudes among our youth and reduce DWI tomorrow. Objective 2 Protecting you, Protecting me was chosen due to it being an evidence-based program that also works to reframe attitudes and teach good behavior regarding alcohol to youth. Objective 3 Alcohol-free and or educational events and presentations was offered

to youths in Torrance County to see that alcohol isn't a necessity at every function where they anticipate having a good time. There were pre & post testing done with the youth that showed an excellent change in the desired direction. Some of the questions asked on the test were, do you think you can be hurt by use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana and if they believed if they would use those substances when they reached their teenage years. Ms. Master informs the Commission that even with a decrease in the budget, TNT (Teen Needs Teen) had 109 students utilize the program. Report hereto attached. **INFORMATION ONLY, NO ACTION TAKEN.**

### **5. Assessor's Office Request to Re-Classify all Appraiser/Re-Appraisal Clerk Positions- Jesse Lucero, Deputy Clerk**

Mr. Jesse Lucero introduces the certified appraisers from his office, Nick Sedillo, Bill Holt, Crystal Garcia-Salas and Steve Sasnow. The four of them cover the entire county, each of them have worked very hard to become certified appraisers. The classes they take are a semester's worth of schooling in 4 days. Deputy Assessor leads the Commission in a round of applause for these individuals. With Greg Richard retiring the Assessor's office has a vacant appraiser's position available, which brings Mr. Lucero to the Commission today to request the re-classification in the Assessor's office. This will not change or create a new position but re-classifies some positions. With the re-classification it gives room for other staff members to move up on the ranks within the office. Flyer hereto attached.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the Re-classification of all Appraiser/Re-Appraisal Clerk Positions in the Assessor's office. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks for clarification on the language of re-classify versus restructure. County Manager Garland explains that to re-classify these positions the pay will stay at the current rate for the vacant positions which can increase pay amount for other employees in the office that choose to advance up. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks if these jobs have job descriptions, Mr. Lucero is working on them. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **6. Fire Department Job Specifications, Review & Approval**

Chief Gary presents the Commission with the County Fire Department's organizational chart as well as job specifications. They are for Assistant Chief of Operations, Safety Officer, Assistant Chief of Support Services, EMS Coordinator,



Training Coordinator and Wildland Coordinator. This will help with rank structure and organizations of the departments.

County Manager Garland asks if the probation period can be 6 months to keep unified with the rest of the County positions.

Chairman Sanchez states that this is much needed in the departments.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme agrees with Chairman Sanchez. She asks Chief Gary for clarification on a few of the job specifications, there is a Safety Officer and in the job description of the Assistant Chief of Operations it states in there that they would be the Safety Officer.

Chief Gary explains that everyone will help cover different jobs throughout the departments, this ensures that if someone is unable to attend a fire someone else can jump into that roll and help cover those duties. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to the Fire Department Job Specifications. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7. Resolution 2017-60 Budget Increase-Amanda Tenorio, Finance**

### **Director**

Ms. Leslie Olivas presents this resolution for Ms. Tenorio, this resolution is for a budget increase. Resolution hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve Resolution 2017-60 Budget Increase. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **8. Resolution 2017-61 Line Item Transfer-Amanda Tenorio, Finance**

### **Director**

Ms. Olivas presents the Commission with Resolution 2017-61 for Line item transfers. This does not change the overall budget, they are just transferring from line item to another. Resolution hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve Resolution 2017-61 Line Item Transfer. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks about the transfer in the road department funds road material to communications. Ms. Olivas states that they did not have enough in their budget to cover costs to fix their radios. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**\*Commission Matters:**

**10. 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Annette Ortiz presents the Commission with the 2018 Commission meeting schedule. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve the 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule. Chairman Sanchez seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**11. 2018 Holiday Closure Schedule**

Ms. Ortiz presents the Holiday Closure Schedule for 2018. Ms. Ortiz mentions that the County will observe Veterans Day on Monday November 12, 2018 due to the Holiday falling on a Friday. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve the 2018 Holiday Closure Schedule. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**12. Letter to Applicants for Special Projects**

Chairman Sanchez requested this item be placed on the agenda, he feels that letters should be sent out to the applicants that took the time to present the Commission with their projects. The letter will give an update on the status of their projects and when the next funding cycle will be. The Commission has not approved them nor have we declined them either, this way the applicants know that we haven't forgotten their projects.

Ms. Annette Ortiz asks for direction on what exactly needs to be put in the letter, does the letter need to say the funding for the projects is put on hold or that they need to resubmit/reapply at the next funding cycle.

County Manager Garland mentions that the Commission will be having a Special Meeting next week and the Commission can decide at that point what exactly needs to be done with these projects, the Commission has not set a time line. So we need to know if the Commission wants to place these projects on hold or does the Commission want applicants to reapply and even submit new projects. We can put this on the next agenda for the Commission to decide what direction to go with these projects and then we can get letters out to all the applicants. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a

motion to table the Letter to Applicants for Special Projects. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor.  
**ITEM TABLED.**

### **13. Schedule a Workshop to Review & Develop Road Plan**

Chairman Sanchez would like to schedule a workshop in the New Year to create a "Review & Develop road plan. He would want to involve key stakeholders from throughout the County in this plan. It would be professional and strategic and something for future administration to use and continue to work on as times & things may change.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme comments that the public can come and voice their concerns.

Chairman Sanchez would like this workshop to be more of a professional workshop with good input and thoughts. Not one with complaints.

Commissioner Frost states that his thoughts are that we have several departments that know a lot about their departments. So are we going to have workshops for all the other departments we have in the County. The road department is no different, they know what their budget is and they know what materials work better on roads. They know everything it takes to run their department and to maintain roads.

Chairman Sanchez suggests having a small committee to include the County Manager, a Commissioner and the Road foreman to meet and design something to bring back to the Commission.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme states that her constituent's #1 concern is the roads, so she feels that this is a good direction to go in, we need to improve our roads.

Johnny Romero-resident thinks this a good idea, we have a big County and there should be public input, have someone from each district be part of the committee that is knowledgeable about roads. Even if their part is to give helpful suggestions, not to tell the road department how to do their job.

Michael Godey-resident comments that adoption of private roads is a problem in this County. The County needs to figure out funding for the roads it currently has. The Commission's main job is to ensure Safety, Infrastructure and Education.

Charlene Guffey-resident states that the county roads are an infrastructure project and the County needs to develop a 5 to 10 year plan for the roads with funding from the wind farm money. The workshop is a good idea but she feels that the Commission should limit the people that are involved.

Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks Chairman Sanchez what is the reason for the purposed plan, is it to address specific roads or was it for general road issues. Chairman Sanchez answered that it was more for general purposes and he agrees with Ms. Guffey the County should allocate some of the wind farm money for the roads.

Leonard Lujan-Road Foreman states that the 1<sup>st</sup> thing that needs to happen is to figure out where the money is going to come from. We just got new blades and we are getting a lot of thanks out in the County for the work being done. But people don't want graveled roads or chip sealed roads they want paved roads and that is expensive.

County Manager Garland mentions that we have gone over road issues several times and the road department is going back to the way they use to maintain roads.

Steve Guetschow-P/Z Director states that Leonard does an excellent job on the roads and does a great job with the money he has in his budget.

Commissioner Frost mentions that there was a time that we asked about raising taxes to help with the roads but apparently we are already at the highest we can be. We have also asked the voters and they have voted it down.

Annette Ortiz-Deputy County Manager states that she is hearing 3 different things here today, Chairman Sanchez wants a workshop, Madam Commissioner DuCharme wants maintenance and Commissioner Frost wants to leave well enough alone. Yes a workshop to develop a plan is a good idea but Ms. Ortiz feels that the public does not necessarily need to be involved. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to task the Managers office to set up a preliminary meeting to include the Road department, County Manager and Chairman Sanchez to design the workshop. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **14. Request Approval of the Voting Membership for the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance**

Ms. Tracey Master-DWI Prevention Coordinator, presents the Commission with the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County voting member list. As a formality she is asking for approval of the voting members. The County does not fund this partnership, it is state funded and the Memorial for Perpetual Tears is the fiscal agent however this partnership does serve as the planning council for the DWI prevention program and for that reason is why we ask for approval from the County. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to approve the Voting Membership for Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community. Commissioner Frost seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme asks how long the term is for the board members and how are the vacancy on the board announced. Tracey answers that the term is for 2 years and they are staggered terms. The advertising for the positions is done on social media and on the radio. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **\*County Manager Requests/Reports:**

#### **15. Ratification of 2018 Health Insurance Contract with Presbyterian**

County Manager Garland informs the Commission that on December 7 there was in employee enrollment. The County received quotes from Presbyterian and BCBS. Cigna and United Health Care declined giving the County a quote. Presbyterian was lower than BCBS so the County chose to stay with Presbyterian. There will be a 29% increase cost for insurance with Presbyterian so Belinda states the County will do a little bit of research on medical next year. Contract hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to Ratify the 2018 Health Insurance Contract with Presbyterian. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **16. Request to Fund Two Transport Deputies**

County Manager Garland comes before the Commission to request 2 additional transport deputies due to our prisoners being housed at the Santa Fe County

detention facility. She also presents the Commission with some numbers for overtime for that we are currently paying our transport deputies. As well as a letter from NMSP stating that they will no longer be transporting out of County. She mentions to the Commission that with the numbers given today, she wants to clarify that the initial cost for equipping the transport deputies is high due to getting uniforms and vehicles equipped. For the 1<sup>st</sup> six months the cost will be \$195,565.00 for transport deputies. She also informs the Commission that we are not providing security at the courts that we are required to do statutorily due to transport issues: \$520,000.00 dollars has been transferred from the general fund to the jail fund and she is requesting that \$200,000.00 cover the transport deputies. County Manager Garland explains that if CoreCivic were to open again these transport deputies will have the option to attend the law enforcement academy and become Sheriff's deputies. Documentation hereto attached.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Commissioner Frost makes a motion to approve funding for two transport deputies. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. Madam Commissioner DuCharme comments about the price comparison between the 6 months and year cost for the transport deputies, she can see that the 1 year cost is more beneficial for the County.

Betty Cabber-Assessor reminds the Commission that the 30 day Legislative session will be starting soon & encourages everyone to be active & to keep in contact with our Legislature's and Senator's. This can be a time that the County can ask for additional funding to help with additional costs the County is incurring due to the facility closing. She will be keeping in contact with County Manager Garland on the NMAC priorities & bring any information back to the Commission. Chairman Sanchez reiterates that no PILT monies will be used to help with the additional cost for this. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **17. Update**

County Manager Garland reads her manager report:

The HR director interviews have been conducted, the Architect has brought in the draft designs for the new Counters for the County offices, interviews for the Road Dept. Executive Assistant have been done, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November a meeting for ADA compliance was held & learned a lot of interesting ADA compliance issues that need to be addressed. Attended a MRCOG meeting, had in investment

committee meeting. Managers update hereto attached. **NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATION ONLY.**

**Recess meeting at 12:40 PM**

**Reconvened at 1:12 PM**

## **2. 1:00 P.M. Presentation on Proposed Land Exchange between State Land Office & BLM-Chris McNeil, NM State Land Office**

Ms. Melanie Barns-Deputy State Director with the BLM office, she gives a brief introduction of the land exchange between the BLM office and the State Land Office. The exchange will consolidate federal lands in the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument & Sabinoso Wilderness. October 4, 2017 was the initial start date of this exchange, the purposed exchange will be equal value as determined by appraisals, and the approximate amounts are as follows: 43,000 acres of NM State Trust Land & 70,500 acres of Federal lands (BLM). Ms. Barns explains that the exchange will enhance the NM State Land office economic development but will increase the price of grazing rights to ranchers. She also goes over the land exchange process overview, 1<sup>st</sup> Feasibility Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Agreement to initiate, 3<sup>rd</sup> Notice of Exchange Proposal, 4<sup>th</sup> NEPA Analysis & 5<sup>th</sup> Notice of Decision. Right now they are at stage 3 Notice of Exchange Proposal. At this stage there is a comment period, the public has until December 15 to make any kind of comment on this exchange.

Ms. Laura Riley-Director with NM State Land office informs the Commission that there is land in Torrance County that will be affected by this. The land is mostly north of the Salt Lakes, which includes lands that are leased to the Wyre Ranch and by Kyle Sharp. She informs the Commission and those present that the BLM website has all the detailed information on this exchange. Mr. Riley gives a brief history on this process, this has been in the works since 2015 and the agreement was finally signed in October of this year. She does mention that the price of grazing will go up for those ranchers, the price for grazing on BLM lands is \$1.87 AUM versus \$6.15 AUM for land on State Land Trust. All ranchers and stake holders have been notified about the exchange and there has been no negative feedback. Ms. Barnes does inform the Commission that there will be a loss of 5% of revenue through the PILT monies the County receives with this exchange. There will be approximately 8,254 acres in Torrance County that will be affected in the exchange. But she informs the Commission that there is room for more wind towers to put up.

Ms. Barnes also goes over the right of way holder's options: 1. Maintain right of way under current terms & conditions including expiration date 2. Negotiate an easement with the NMSLO that would become effective at the time of patent issuance 3. Submit an application to the BLM to amend the right of way or portions thereof to a perpetual term & make a one-time payment of rental to the BLM 4. Submit an application to the BLM to amend the right of way or portions thereof to a perpetual easement & make a one-time payment rental payment to the BLM. The right of way holders have 60 days from the date of notification to respond. She also goes over the grazing rights, the MOU between the NMSLO & BLM should not interfere with ranching operations. Letters have been sent out to permittees/lessees in early November in regard to obtaining agricultural leases. Commissioner Frost states that the ranchers will be the main one affected by this exchange because of the price of grazing rights. Ms. Riley states that yes, the price will go up on grazing but the ranchers will have more control over public access to the lands, they will have to open up during hunting seasons.

Michael Godey-resident asks about the possibilities of economic growth, is there an idea of how much economic growth there will be. Ms. Riley answers that they have just started the process and have not been able to visit all of the 70,500 acres to determine that.


Betty Cabber-Assessor asks if there is any land in the Lucia project for the wind towers. Ms. Riley stated that not as of yet but it's an ongoing process. All documentation hereto attached. **NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATION ONLY.**

## **Adjourn**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Sanchez makes a motion to adjourn the December 13, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting. Madam Commissioner DuCharme seconds the motion. No further discussion, the Commission votes all in favor none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Javier Sanchez

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Chavez



1/10/2018  
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.**