

Final COPY  
Torrance County Board of Commissioners  
Special Commission Meeting  
September 19, 2018  
10:00 AM

Commissioners Present: JULIA DUCHARME – CHAIR  
JAVIER SANCHEZ – MEMBER  
JAMES FROST – MEMBER

Others Present: BELINDA GARLAND – COUNTY MANAGER  
ANNETTE ORTIZ – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER  
DENNIS WALLIN – COUNTY ATTORNEY  
GENELL MORRIS – ADMIN ASSISTANT

**Call Meeting to order**

Madam Chair DuCharme: Calls the September 19, 2018 Special Commission Meeting to order at 10:05 AM  
Pledge lead by Michael Sharp  
Invocation lead by Linda Jaramillo

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve meeting agenda  
Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion  
All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**\*ACTION ITEMS**  
ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON

**\* Commission Matters:**

1. 2018 Tax Rates
  - a. Tax Rate Setting Order – Betty Cabber, Assessor

Betty Cabber, Assessor requests to approve and Commission signatures for the 2018 Tax Rate Setting Order for Torrance County. Information about the county is sent to DFA, DFA creates the Tax Rate for the county. The Tax Rate has increased, depending on where you live will determine your tax rate. There is discussion on the different rates included in the report tax rate is available on the Torrance County website. Hereto attached

Commissioner Frost: Moves to approve 2018 Tax Rate Setting Order  
Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion  
All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

## 2. 5-Person Commission Re-Districting Work Session

Michael Sharp VP Research and Polling explains the 5 categories used to create the new districts: equal population (excluding the prison population from the 2010 Census), minority voting, compact, contiguity and communities of interest. If the County adopts the plan and goes to a 5 member Commission the Clerk will reassign the voters to the correct district. Plans A-E were presented last month, Commissioner Sanchez requested to modify plan D. Mr. Sharp created a new plan D1, hereto attached, using some of the precinct lines as the cutoff point, with 2 precinct split. On plan D Mountainair was split between 3 and 5, on plan D1 it is all in District 5.

Commissioner Frost: What is being done with the large precinct splitting?

Michael Sharp: If the Commission adopts the plan and goes to a 5 member Commission this year then next year you can make precinct changes.

Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk: Waiting till next year will work for me. We have the local election that we will need to consolidate precincts.

Belinda Garland – County Manager: How much pressure does it put on the election process in the mountain towns with the redistricting?

Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk: No pressure, the ballot will have their correct voting district.

\*Passed out stats on voters and population in Torrance County. Discussion follows on splitting precincts.

Michael Godey – Resident: If there is not much population in the high mountain area, why not put it in district 3?

Michael Sharp: I was following the precinct lines, but can go either way.

Madam Chair DuCharme: Ms. Jaramillo what are the consequences from your perspective?

Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk: My job is to move voters to their perspective Commission districts.

Eventually in the Moriarty are we will have to split precincts for over population. If this takes effect we will be assigning voters to 5 Commission districts instead of 3.

Madam Chair DuCharme: Will this cause confusion for the voters?

Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk: This always adds a little confusion but we inform the voters that precincts and districts have changed. We can move masses of people to different districts.

Commissioner Sanchez: Plan D best represents the natural demographic and geographic boundaries. D1 is on the verge of excellence, does a great job maximizing inclusiveness.

Madam Chair DuCharme: District 5 is disproportionately compared to other districts. Will be difficult for the Commissioner to represent that district. It also splits Sweetwater Hills neighborhood and not in favor of this.

Michael Sharp: Every plan we see splits one community or another. In almost all redistricting plan we find something that isn't ideal. It's a matter of tradeoffs.

Commissioner Frost: Needs to leave for an appointment. What needs to be accomplished before leaving?

Commissioner Sanchez: Pick a plan to present in the public hearing.

Michael Sharp: You can present as many plans as you want.

Commissioner Frost: Until the ordinance is passed to go from 3 to 5 Commission members, all we are talking about is hypothetical. I'm not sure when we will have the Ordinance to decide. In 3 months we will have a new commission and I feel it is wrong for us to decide when the new commission will have to deal with all that goes into having a 5 member commission.

Madam Chair DuCharme: We don't know if the future Commissions will be willing to support this.

Commissioner Sanchez: A map is needed in order to create the ordinance, so we know what we are voting on. A map needs to be in place for the public hearing then vote.

Annette Ortiz – Deputy County Manager: Commissioner DuCharme, you mentioned you are unsure if the new commission will support this, you also don't know if the current Commission supports this. I also suggest you

have more than one map to choose from when you have the public hearing so it doesn't appear that a certain Commissioner picked the towns/population they want.

Commissioner Sanchez: If you have two plans that look alike you should be able to create a plan that marries them together. The only way you would have two plans is if you had two very different plans. We need to decide what the ideal is. We want to minimize confusion.

Commissioner Frost needs to leave and the Commission does not want to continue without him. This meeting will continue Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 9:00 AM. Manager Garland and County Clerk will be unavailable for Monday's meeting.

***\*Adjourn***

Commissioner Sanchez: Motion to adjourn Special Commission Meeting.

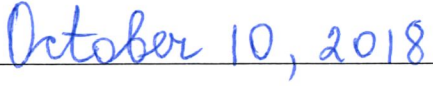
Madam Chair DuCharme: Seconds the motion.

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 PM

  
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JULIA DUCHARME – CHAIR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Genell Morris – Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 out local radio station KXNM.