

FINAL COPY

Torrance County Board of Commissioners  
Commission Meeting  
December 12, 2018  
9:00 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 December 12, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting to order at 09:09 AM  
Pledge lead by Mr. Harrington  
Invocation lead by Patrick Luna

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Frost: Moves to approve November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes  
Madam Chair DuCharme requests her full explanation on page 9 when Bill Williams asks why a 5 member board is needed. County Manager Garland suggested to table item till next meeting so Madam Chair DuCharme has a chance to ensure her full statement is added to the minutes.

Commissioner Frost: Changes motion to table item till the Special Commission meeting December 20, 2018.  
Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion  
All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Frost: Moves to approve November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes  
Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion  
All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

Madam Chair DuCharme: Thanks Linda Jaramillo and staff for their hard work on the minutes, it takes patients, dedication and skill.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

*1. Approval of Checks*

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

**Public Requests:**

Charlene Guffey: Thanks to Commissioner Frost and DuCharme for the service they have done for the last 4 years. This is concerning agenda items 10 & 11. The more you reconsider changing fees that are used for private hauling, giving out discounts, changing policy's on vacant property, less money is being collected. You are putting a burden on the county's budget. I encourage Ryan Schweback and Kevin McCall to sit down with the board members that are representing the county to get to know them. The County is worried about putting subsidized money out for tipping fees but don't blink an eye at the million plus for transporting criminals and large job loss, this is more of a burden on the budget. Stop using Solid Waste as a political grand stand, stop creating the turmoil. The Committee should be working on the next contract with Solid Waste.

**Public Hearing:**

As part of our efforts to keep Torrance County residents informed and involved in the decision process, the Torrance County Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider Ordinance 2018-01 AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE BOARD OF TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO FIVE MEMBERS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 7 OF THE NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTION.

**17. Ordinance 2018-01 An Ordinance increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members**

Dennis Wallin – County Attorney: This is an Action item on the agenda following the public hearing. We will keep this orderly and go row by row for all who want to speak after Commissioners make a preliminary statement.

Madam Chair DuCharme: I will make a statement at the end of the Hearing.

Commissioner Frost: This is a public hearing and I'm prepared to hear the public.

Commissioner Sanchez: I have prepared a brief presentation to provide an overview to ensure we all understand how the issue has unfolded and provide clarity to the issue from my perspective. Welcome everyone for attending. In 1903 the County was created, separated from Valencia County. The county has always functioned on a 3 member system. Census data show in 1910 population was 10,119 and in 2000 population was 16,911 with ups and down from different industries in the area. The last redistricting was done in 1980 when the population jumped from 5,290 to 7,491 in 1980. Our current population is estimate to be 15,599. From 1980 to 1990 we had a significant jump as well as for 1990 to 2000, redistricting should have been done at that time. There is recommendation to redistrict anytime the population shifts in a manner in which commission districts are unbalanced by threshold of 500 people. When we look at other counties there are trends, about half of the counties have remained on the 3 member system and the other half are a 5 member board except for Los Alamos, De Baca and Hidalgo Counties. There are no population requirements to move to a 5 member commission, unless you have 250, 000 in population you are required to redistrict.

The process on how the county moves from a 3 member to a 5 member. 1. Pass a County Commission Resolution – notice of intent, this must be unanimous 2. Redistricting 3. Ordinance and advertising of the Ordinance 4. Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance 5. Commission Vote must be unanimous vote. Only the

Commission can vote this Ordinance in. This issue was introduced January 24, 2018; the Resolution 2018-13 was passed unanimously February 28, 2018; presentation from NM Research and Polling done May 23, 2018; a contract in the amount of \$15,000 with Research and Polling was done June 24, 2018; 5 maps were made July 26, 2018; maps were presented to the Commission September 19, 2018; workshop September 24, 2018; Salary in the budget September 26, 2019; redistricting workshop October 3, 2018; ordinance approved November 14, 2018; notice in paper November 23, 2018 – December 6, 2018; Public Hearing December 12, 2018. This Ordinance is only to move to a 5 Commission Member Board not to pick a map. Picking a map will be at a later date.

Implantation can happen one of two ways, if passed today, the Governor can appoint interested party, if the Commission wants this to take effect immediately or wait till 2020 elections, 3 commissioners will be up for election. After that they would be staggered. Commissioner Sanchez explains the boundaries of the current districts compared to map A & D3 on a power point presentation. He also feels maps A & D3 are the best inclusive map following current boundaries such as DOT, Municipalities Schools, etc. Is this feasible? Can we afford it? I don't believe the PILT fund will work but the general fund will. (graph shows an increase in revenue by 36% from 2014-2018, in the general fund). What drives the general fund; Federal PILT, Small Counties Assistance, Gross Receipts Tax, Equalization Gross Receipts Tax and Property Tax. On average 1.3 million is contributed on average, from 2014-2018 property tax has increased by 14%. The Expenditures have risen also, the prison closing affected us negatively. There is an 11% increase in expenses. We are seeing the county is running from a fiscal standpoint very efficiently. Salary's for the new Commissioner members will be \$27,520, with benefits its \$42,500 a total of \$85,000 per year for 2 new commissioners. Another option is to lower the Commissioners salaries and absorb the cost.

The benefits of having a 5 Commission board over 3 members. First Commission members must not take anyone's word for it, they need to conduct research. Board members must be able to challenge each other and engage with one another on the critical issues. A 5 members Commission absorbs a bigger workload, have a variety of skill set and diversity. All communities need a chance to be represented.

Dennis Wallin – County Attorney: You are not sworn in, this is your opinion. When you come to the podium announce your name and the floor is yours. We will keep this orderly and go row by row for all who want to speak.

Shannon Cobb- Luna Rd off of 337: In favor of a 5 member board so we have greater diversity and greater representation for all.

Mary Wilson –Abo: In Favor of a 5 member commission, and strongly believes redistricting is in order. We have had a 3 member Commission since the county came to be, things were different then. With a 5 member Commission it will serve our needs in to the future with more skills and 2 can discuss issues without violating the Open Meetings Act.

Jose Mora –Abo: Feels Commissioner Sanchez made a lot of sense in his presentation and a 5 member Commission will better serve the county

Michael Godey – Tajique: In Favor, the second biggest driver of economic unit in the county is the Mountainair area, Mountainair needs to be unified with its own voice. . With 3 people on the board, 2 Commissioners can't get together to conduct research because it creates a quorum. If you have 5 members, 2 members can get together and more can be done.

Marroll Hall – Estancia board of Trustees: The Estancia Board of Trustees passed a Resolution, supporting the idea of a 5 member Commission. We did not agree that it should be appointed, I favor the option to take it to the 2020 General Election. My personal opinion, in favor of map D2 because it keeps associated communities together. Torrance County is growing up, a lot more of the solar and wind farms are coming, this will change the face of the county but probably won't change the population, and this will change the economy of the county.

Nathan Dial - Mayor of Estancia: The numbers will be irrelevant in two years when we do the new Census. When the town operator needs some money for his road grader, he can't get it because the budget is so tight. Now that we are going to add two new Commissioners we're fat. We would like, the 3 Commissioners to take their current pay and divide it into 5 so there is no increase to the budget. The Town of Estancia is in favor of a 5 member Commission as long as they are elected not appointed.

Gail Rose – Corona: Strongly approve a 5 member board with a full salary.

Rosalinda Romo: In favor and wants to keep the communities together.

Ron Graham – Chairman of Planning and Zoning Board for Torrance County: I have seen a lot of change in the county. In favor of a 5 member board. I am for fair and better representation and good government.

Angela Nunez – Merced Del Manzano Land Grant: Reads letter of support and Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members.

Mary Gustin – Mountainair: Here at the request of Mayor Peter Nieto, reads Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. , Hereto Attached

Frank Luna – Manzano Land Grant: In full support, we have waited too long for this to happen.

Randall Riley – President of Estancia School Board: Supports the Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached. On an individual note, I have been on the school board for many years and know what it takes for efficiency a board to work together to benefit who you are representing. A 5 member Commission is long overdue and I'm in favor of the Governor appointing the new Commission and not postpone the decision.

Bruce Peterson – Ewing: Change is tough but with change comes progress. It's past time that the Commission went to 5 members. If we are going to make the change to 5 members, we should have the Governor appoint the Commissioners the first time, after that they will be elected.

Fay Chavez – Willard: Reads Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached

Bobby Chavez – Mayor of Willard: Commends the Commissioners for their hard work in considering a 5 member Commission. It is important to have an open line of communication be it 3 or 5 members.

Peggy Schweback: I agree with what everyone is saying, we do need a 5 Commission Board, I am concerned about the timing. There is a good approach starting but we are not planning with complete data, we are

guessing about the economy and population. The school and prison population has dropped. I remember a time when this county was so economically stressed that the state considered coming down to take over its management. I would recommend the salaries be set by the current Commission. I have seen 3 member boards function very well and seen 5 members function horribly. You cannot say because you are going to have 5, it will be wonderful. I'm not opposed, let's do this carefully.

Andrew Gutierrez – La Merred Del Pueblo De Tajique: Support Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached

Ermenio Salas – Torreon Mutual Domestic Consumer Water Association/Chairman of the New Mexico Land Grant Council: Support Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached

Juan Sanchez - La Merced Del Pueblo De Chilili: Support Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached

Danielle Johnson – District 1: Mr. Frost is my Commissioner and I'm in support of a thoughtful process. My concern as an educator is that we are hurrying this decision. I appreciate all the work Commissioner Sanchez has done and I commend the administrative staff under the direction of the County Manager. I'm not in opposition of a 5 member board but urge you to move slowly.

Justin Poff: Population is decreasing, the money could be used elsewhere.

Francis Gonzalez – Vice president Mountainair School Board: Reads letter in support from husband Norm "Speedy" Gonzalez –Punta De Agua, Hereto Attached. Support Proclamation of Support for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached. It is important we work as a group for the betterment of all community members.

Kathleen Jesse - Tajique: In Support, we have a lot of issues coming up and the big one is water. With 3 Commissioners this county cannot be represented because there are many people that need the water. We all need our input.

Johnny Romero: In favor, our areas have never been represented fairly. What is giving our economic boost is the rural areas, the less populated areas are showing financial growth. We need to start representing the county as a whole. There is never going to be a right time.

Carol Glade – Mountainair: I feel it is important to have a diverse Commission, expanded with ideas and experiences and knowledge base. Having a 5 member board is important. Look at it as an investment not a cost. An investment you get a return on your money. Think about what the majority of the people wants and needs.

Bill Larson: I'm in Commissioner DuCharme's District. Has anyone addressed the percentage of Democrats, Republicans and Independents in each district?

Dennis Wallin – County Attorney: That is illegal, the requirement that Research and Polling use are statutory. They have to look at whether or not the districts are contiguous and nearly equal in population.

Bill Larson: That puts a lot of people at ease to know. You have 2 commissioners leaving and 2 coming in, all will have to work together. Whether its 3 or 5 members all the PILT and Tax money will be irrelevant unless we have a reasonable water plan that addresses our ability to grow.

Art DuCharme – District 2: In talking with people at the Association of Counties, there are 17 counties that have 5 member Commissions vs. 15 with 3 members. The trend is leaning to a 5 member board because the mechanics of how groups work. Incorporated areas in our county follow a mayor, counsel scheme.

Daniel Antonio Herrera - Manzano: Santa Fe still wants our water and Bernalillo County wants our land. Bernalillo County cannot grow because of the Pueblo's. Unless we develop a real team, with 2 more members. We will lose out to them. Santa Fe has the millionaires and Bernalillo has the votes. It's up to us to develop that 5 person team to push them back to where they belong.

Janet Douglas: I'm not in favor of or against a 5 member board, I can see the advantages and feel I have been well represented by Commissioner Sanchez. I'm very conservative and would urge fiscal responsibility. This is going to be expensive and we have a lot of issues in the county that need to be addressed.

Commissioner Sanchez: I wanted to ensure we had a funding source that could handle this and wanted to ensure that no service or county department was being cut or sacrificed in order to pay more salaries. In the last couple of years the County has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment and increased the starting pay for road department employees from \$9.00 to \$12.00 an hour. We have had requests from the Assessors and Treasures office for staff and granted their requests. We have also added a Human Resources Director and Operations Manager, these are new positions. We are talking about adding 6 deputies to the Sheriff's Office. We are looking for better representation for the whole county.

Peggy Schweback: Who decided on the redistricting maps and when?

Dennis Wallin – County Attorney: That will come up later, there will be another Public Hearing where the various options be brought to you for review. Then the Commission will vote on a map. The ordinance is silent as to when this will take place. The new Commission will decide to defer it to the 2020 elections or it could go into place immediately where the Governor will appoint the Commissions from new districts.

Annette Ortiz – Deputy County Manager: Read Proclamation of Support by Village of Encino for Torrance County Resolution 2018-13 increasing the number of Commissioners on the Board of Torrance County Commissioners to Five Members. Hereto Attached

Joseph Luna: In Favor of a 5 member Commission Board

Bill Larson: I'm in favor of this decision being made by the 2 Commissioners that were recently elected and the Commissioner that remains. Rather than 2 out of the 3 who will not be Commissioners in 30 days.

Mayor Ted Hart – City of Moriarty: We did not do a Resolution based on the fact, we will support what our county chooses. You are jumping the gun by at least 2 years, we have a new Census coming out in 2020 and I believe the numbers will change. I have no problem with a 5 Commission Board. If you put it off till 2020, you are still not going to get the Census numbers till about 2022.

Madam Chair DuCharme: We have a tremendous opportunity to benefit the county for many years. I am grateful for those who came to support the issue of a 5 member Commission. She points to the 2 new Commissioners sitting in the audience together and she says this concerns her. Madam DuCharme says she feels that she can express those concerns. She implies that everyone noticed that the 2 new Commissioners

advertised as a group with others. She mentions the newly elected District Judge, Shannon Murdock as being in that group.

Madam DuCharme makes reference to comprehensive land use plan created by MRCOG. She points to page 75 under strategic action recommendations under County Government Operations. First of these being to expand to a 5 member board within 1-5 years, on July 29, 2003 a Resolution was signed adopting this plan. Madam DuCharme mentions when she first became involved in county matters and witnessed the isolation of one Commissioner from the others and says she experienced this herself as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Frost: We have been a county for 115 years and have had a 3 member board. In 12 days we will have a new Commission which includes Commissioner Sanchez, Commissioner McCall and Commissioner Schweback. If those Commissioners decide to go to a 5 member Commission he will support them 100%. He says that if today is a good time to go to a 5 member Commission then it will be a good idea in the future. He asks Madam Commissioner Ducharme and Commissioner Sanchez to oppose the 5 member Commission and forward it to the new Commission in 12 days.

Commissioner Sanchez: This is for posterity, we are making history. We have an opportunity to make an impact for the future. This responsibility is entrusted to us, we must have courage at all times. This matter will have a positive impact on the county. It is my oath to express the interest of the county. Viewing the issue in its entirety is worthwhile.

Madam Chair DuCharme: We need to decide for the next Commission. Everyone is welcome to express their opinion. These 2 gentleman did not take this opportunity. Why would you think, Commissioner Frost, we could put this responsibility on their shoulders, what is the bases for that?

Bobby Chavez – Mayor of Willard: These 2 men will have to do good for their people in their district. It's not right to let them take over what you have been working so hard for so long to bring this to the public of this county. You need to pass this and not throw it on their hands.

Melvin McNeal - Republican Party Chair in Torrance County: During the Primary Election back in May we had the lucky 7, some citizens decided that was who they were going to vote for. This was a concern, for those that were not a part of the lucky 7. As the chairman of the party, I went to the state party and the Secretary of State about a Judge's support through their signs for these lucky 7. 3 of our judges were in the lucky 7, Heath White-Magistrate, Josie Chavez-probate and Shannon Murdock-district. I approached Josie and Shannon, informed them to be very careful about aligning themselves with non-judges or anyone running for office. They took my advice and put signs in other locations. The state party and the Secretary of State sated a private citizen can put up any signs they want. Our 2 new Commissioners put up their signs separately.

Ron Graham: We need to get to a vote. This is not a Democratic or a Republican thing. This is for the betterment of our county government.

Commissioner Sanchez: Makes motion to pass Ordinance 2018-01

Madam Chair DuCharme: Seconds the motion

Commissioner Frost: Opposed

There is not a unanimous vote

**Motion Failed**

**ACTION ITEMS\*:**

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

**\*Commission Matters:**

**1. 2018 Safety Performance Awards – Nick Sedillo, Risk Manager**

Deputy Kent Ballard and Janice Barela were awarded 2018 safety performance award, both were nominated by co-workers for following safety protocol and ensuring everyone is safe. Deputy Kent Ballard has 4,132 hours accident free, Janice Barela has 3632 hours accident free.

**2. Employee Annual Leave**

Christine Snow – 911 Dispatch: Requesting Annual leave hours over 100 hrs. Rollover to 2019. 911 dispatchers have a hard time taking time off because they have been short staffed.

County Manager Garland: It is not fair to other employees if we approve only 911 staff. There is a total of 25 employees with more than 100 hrs. If the employee leaves we have to pay out the annual leave. My recommendation is to deny request a have cut off date January 4, 2019.

Commissioner Frost: Makes motion to hold at 100 hrs. Deny the request to carry over hours, cutoff date to use extra hours is January 4, 2019.

Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**3. 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule**

Annette Ortiz – Deputy County Manger: Request approval of 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Frost: Moves to approve 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**4. 2019 Holiday Closure Schedule**

Annette Ortiz – Deputy County Manger: Request approval of 2019 Holiday Closure Schedule

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve 2019 Holiday Closure Schedule

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**5. EMWT Regional Water Association Board of Directors Appointment**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to appoint Jason Quintana for EMWT Regional Water Association Board of Directors

Madam Chair DuCharme: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**6. Resolution 2018-54 Resolution Finding a Decedent to be Indigent or Unclaimed**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve Resolution 2018-54

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED



**7. Resolution 2018-55 Resolution Finding a Decedent to be Indigent or Unclaimed**

Commissioner Frost: Moves to approve Resolution 2018-55

Commissioner Sanchez: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**8. Memorandum of Understanding between Torrance County and Bernalillo County for Fiscal Agent Assistance**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Torrance County and Bernalillo County for Fiscal Agent Assistance

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**9. NMAC Board of Directors Election – Linda Jaramillo, Clerk**

This item needs to be tabled was meant for the January 9, 2019 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to table item

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**10. Report on Solid Waste Pick Up Options**

Belinda Garland – County Manager: Ms. Ortiz has done some research on the solid waste pick up options from other counties in the state such as a punch bar and pay cash as you go. We have diagrams as to what is considered a load and the cost. These are some options we can review. Hereto attached

Madam Chair DuCharme: Gordon Environmental supplied the county with some information with different pick up options. An RFP is ready and is flexible. We can add what kind of system we would like to see take place. We can invite other counties here and present to us how they handle their solid waste pick up.

**11. Reconsideration of the Fee Charge to Private Hauler Users**

Madam Chair DuCharme: Resolution 2018-044 states Torrance County residence who use private haulers have to pay additional fee to the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority. This is a disadvantage to the private haulers. People who use private haulers are charged \$60.00 and an additional \$20.00 fee pre quarter. This \$240.00 per year plus \$80.00 per year for people who use private haulers. Why are they charged this fee, for a service they don't receive. I don't think this is legal. I'm asking the Commission to reconsider this fee.

Belinda Garland – County Manager: This would need to be advertised as a resolution. The Solid Waste Authority informed me that the people that received vacant exception cannot use the transfer stations, they have to take their trash to the land fill, Monday – Friday only, no options on weekends except to take the trash back to where they live. The fee people pay that use private haulers allows them to use the transfer stations or land fill 3 times in a quarter. If you get rid of the fee you will no longer be able to use the transfer stations.

Dennis Wallin – County Attorney: Both Federal Court and Attorney General have looked at the fee and have determined it to be legal.

Commissioner Sanchez: I would like to see a change in rates across the board. I'm not willing right now to change any fees.

Madam Chair DuCharme: Makes motion to cancel the fees for people who use private haulers.

No second

**Motion dies**

## **12. Update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Discussion**

Madam Chair DuCharme: This document was prepared by MRCOG staff. The current plan was adopted July 29, 2003. Implementation of the plan states, this comprehensive plan establishes a basis for policy and decision making by the County government and should be constantly reviewed and refined or revised as necessary. It is a common practice for local government to update comprehensive plans every five years; but when major changes occur at any time within the County, reevaluation of the strategic actions is crucial to the utility and significance of this plan. An attempt was made to update this plan but fell through.

Belinda Garland – County Manager: There was a grant awarded to the county, we tried to utilize that grant. We were informed by DFA that it was not acted on, so the grant was pulled. We have not applied for a grant in order to rewrite this document.

### **\*Public Relations:**

## **13. Updates:**

### **a. Various County Departments**

Betty Cabber – County Assessor: The business personal property rendering forms and livestock rendering forms were mailed out yesterday, with a deadline of February 28, 2019, we included our outreach dates. The Forms and outreach dates are available on the County website or use forms from Tax & Rev. If you have not completed livestock rendering forms and AG application, you are in jeopardy of losing your special method of evaluation for grazing farming or ranching.

October was my last meeting of being the Torrance County Representative to the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors. New Mexico Counties is a great resource for all. Our newly elected officials, the 2 new Commissioners and Probate Judge attended the better informed public officer classes held the first week of December, felt this was very informative.

The 60 day session and conference starts January 15, 2019. They feel they will be getting 6-8 thousand bills being introduced into the session, because there is a new administration. The Counties got together with the Municipal League, they are in sync with what each other wants as their priorities. I urge as many people as possible show up or call our legislatures to show your support and express our county needs.

Nick Sedillo – Operations Manager: Emergency services are crucial. We need to take a good look at our fire departments, EMT, law enforcement and volunteer groups they are awesome. The demand for services are great, something to look at as we go into the future.

Steve Guetschow – Planning & Zoning: PNMR's special use application request for a Solar Farm in Moriarty was voted "due pass". That public hearing will be January 9, 2019. Last Thursday I attended the Mountainair Ranger District shared stewardship meeting. Public comment may be extended another 90 days for the new forest plan. Currently the Forest Service personal is going through their process in Washington. We had a meeting with Cibola group shared stewardship held at the Isleta Pueblo. They are trying to arrange people from another ranger district to make a presentation on the proper way for the public to make a comment to the Forest Service. Tomorrow at 9:30 am the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee will be meeting here.

Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk: Today up to 5:30 pm elected officials can file for candidacy for New Mexico Association of Counties Board of Directors. This includes the new Commissioners, Commissioner Sanchez, County Clerk, County Assessor, County Treasurer, County Sheriff and Probate Judge.

### **c. County Manager**

On the week of December 3, 2018 I attended a meeting discussing our options for moving forward on the Core Civic 2017 Property Tax Protest. This should help in the mediation scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> and Court Hearing. I also attended a training by phone on the new Time Clock system. Our HR Director will be scheduling a training for the supervisors. I attended the BIPO Conference in Albuquerque put on by NM Counties, an EVEDA Executive Board meeting in Moriarty. A presentation from Pattern Wind Energy and PNM in regards to the renewable energy projects. Country Attorney, Commissioner Sanchez and I Met with Gabe Henehan from NextEra to negotiate the proposed IRB and PILT payments for the repowering of the High Lonesome Wind Farm. An agreement was reached and a Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to present the proposal to the full Commission for approval. The purchase of the Summers' Bail Bond building is moving forward. Inspections are being completed and the closing is set for Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

### **\* Department Requests/Reports:**

#### **14. 2019 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting schedule – Steve Guetschow, P&Z Director**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve 2019 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting schedule

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

#### **15. Resolution 2018-56 Line Item Transfers – Amanda Tenorio, Finance Director**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve Resolution 2018-56 Line Item Transfers

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

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

#### **16. Ratification of Contract between Torrance County and Presbyterian**

Commissioner Sanchez: Moves to approve Ratification of Contract between Torrance County and Presbyterian

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

Madam Chair DuCharme: Thanks Commissioner Frost for all his hard work and very proud of the Torrance County website that Deputy County Manager Ortiz has worked on.

### **\*Adjourn**

Commissioner Sanchez: Motion to adjourn Regular Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Frost: Seconds the motion.

All in favor: MOTION CARRIED

**Meeting adjourned at 03:38 PM**



Ryan Schwebach – CHAIR



Genell Morris – Administrative Assistant

1-9-19

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.