

**FINAL COPY
TORRANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 22, 2020**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: RYAN SCHWEBACH –CHAIRMAN
KEVIN MCCALL- DISTRICT 1
JAVIER SANCHEZ –DISTRICT 3

OTHERS PRESENT: WAYNE JOHNSON-COUNTY MANGER
JANICE BARELA-DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
JOHN BUTRICK-COUNTY ATTORNEY
SYLVIA CHAVEZ-ADMIN. ASST.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will have people present either via Zoom or telephonically, some names may have been inaudible and misspelled.

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Schwebach calls the April 8, 2020 Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2.) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pledge led by Chairman Schwebach

Invocation led by Commissioner McCall

3.) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

County Manager Johnson is asking to Commission to defer item no. 11-A, the fair board restructure. The restructure is not ready to be presented and approved by the Commission just yet.

Commissioner McCall informs the Commission and everyone present, that a long resident of Torrance County and mentor to many people passed away on Monday. Mr. George Martin, he was an Ag teacher for 32 years and will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. Condolences and prayers for his family.

4.) PROCLAMATIONS

There were no items presented

5.) CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

There were no items presented

6.) BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There were none for this meeting

7.) PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS

A.) EMERGENCY MANAGER: COVID-19 Response Update

Matt Propp, Emergency Manager informs the Commission that there are 13 cases in Torrance County, and they are not community spread. These cases are from having been direct contact with someone who was positive with COVID-19. There is still continuous testing in the County. DOH is trying to do a no screening process for the testing, this will help with the people who have anxiety about being positive, those individuals can be tested with out showing systems. There has not been a big increase in the County which means the County is being proactive. The hotspots in the County were able to be detected early on and those people that tested positive followed the 14-day self-quarantine order, which helped prevent further spread of the virus. Mr. Propp states that he has received PPE's and will be getting more supplies in that will help with emergency responders. He will continue to work with the DOH for testing.

Chairman Schwebach asks about those that tested positive, were they in direct contact with people who were positive, what does direct contact mean.

Matt Propp replies that the positive cases are from being in a prolonged contact with someone who tested positive like family members. The ones being looked out for are the ones who say "I don't know where I got this from"

Chairman Schwebach responds that the County has not seen that correct.

Matt Propp replies, no, that has not happened in the County.

Chairman Schwebach asks out of the 13 cases are there any that have recovered?

Matt Propp states they there have been 6 recovered and 7 still active cases.

Commissioner McCall asks if any of the 13 cases had to be hospitalized?

Matt Propp responds that the information he got was that 2 were hospitalized but none were in the ICU.

Commissioner Sanchez arrived late and asked about if testing was still being done in the County and Mr. Propp briefed on the testing being done as he stated earlier in his update.

Chairman Schwebach asks how many tests have been done in the County.

Matt Propp replies that there have been 197 tests administered in the County.

Chairman Schwebach asks how the numbers will be kept track of if there is a no screening process.

Matt Propp states that there is a questionnaire that is attached to the testing and that is how the tracking will be done.

Chairman Schwebach asks when the no screening tests will start.

Matt Propp replies that he is not sure when DOH will initiate that but they will be creating a prioritized list by certain criteria.

Commissioner Sanchez asks the County is moving to open testing.

Matt Propp explains that the County has hit a flat curve but the testing has been very selective. This will give those that have not been systematic the opportunity to be tested and help with some of their anxiety.

Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk explains that the Supreme Court denied the petition to have an all-mail election so there will be voting at every precinct in the County. Early voting will begin here in the Admin. Building on May 5. Early voting will be held in the back of the building. The Secretary of State will be proving the PPE for all the poll workers and Ms. Jaramillo has reduced the amount of poll workers to 3 per polling site to be in compliance with the 5 per building. It will be difficult to process the voters but doorbells will be at each door at the polling sites to allow the allotted amount for the restrictions at that time. The Secretary of

State will be mailing out absentee applications to all registered Republican, Democrat and Libertarian and they can choose to vote by mail or they can go to the polling site. The alternate voting site in Moriarty will start on May 16 at the Civic Center and all polling sites will be notified of the election and we will see what kind of restrictions they will have for the use of the building. Ms. Jaramillo encourages people to vote by absentee, it will help with the amount of people at the polling places. More absentee workers have been hired to help with the increased number of absentee applications. Ms. Jaramillo states that if any of her election workers are listening, election school has been delayed but they will be contacted about the election school. The election school will be held like today's meeting via Zoom.

Chairman Schwebach asks about the security and process of absentee voting.

Ms. Jaramillo explains that the voter will request the application for the absentee ballot, the name, date of birth and address is verified and we establish that is the voter. The ballot is then issued to the person requesting the ballot and sent to the address on the application. There is an outer and inner envelope, there are instructions on how to vote the ballot and how to return the ballot. The outer envelope must be signed, or the ballot will not be counted. When the ballot comes back to us, it is marked in the system and no one else can request a ballot for that voter. Now if the voter calls and states that they feel they over voted their ballot and need another one they will be issued a replacement ballot but the first one is nullified. There is check and balances for every process of issuing a absentee ballot. Once that is done the ballot is then placed in a locked ballot box until the process begins and each ballot is processed one by one.

Chairman Schwebach asks if envelopes that are sent out are they certified return receipt or is it recommended to certify.

Ms. Jaramillo explains that the Secretary of State is paying for the postage but if the voter wants to pay for certified mail they can. Ms. Jaramillo will be calling all the local Post Offices and letting them know that there will be a lot of election mail being sent out, that way they are aware of what is going to happen. Ms. Jaramillo does explain that, yes, some do get lost in the mail and there is an affidavit that a person signs swearing that they did not receive their ballot and then a new ballot will be issued.

Noah Sedillo, Chief Procurement Officer states that himself and the road department did meet with the architect for the initial negotiations for the road yard shop. This will help keep this project moving forward. The County will need to have a contract with our engineer to become complaint with the flood plain requirements. Mr. Sedillo states that with the direction from the County manger they will move forward in entering into said contracts.

Commissioner McCall asks how the meeting went.

Noah Sedillo states that it went well and was very productive, had several County employees there as well as the architect, Kory Baker, who has done work for the County before.

Commissioner McCall clarifies that there does need to be a contract with the architect.

Noah Sedillo responds, yes, there needs to be one done.

Commissioner McCall asks if it has to go through the whole procurement process.

Noah Sedillo replies that it is a professional service and as long as the County stays within the guidelines and the contact is under \$50,000.00 then County can negotiate the contract.

8.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A.) COMMISSION: Motion to approve the April 8, 2020 Torrance County Board of County Commission Regular Minutes.

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall makes a motion to approve the April 8, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Chairman Schwebach seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

9.) APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A.) Finance: Approval of Payables

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall makes a motion to approve the payables. Chairman Schwebach seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B.) MANAGER: Motion to Accept the Third Quarter Restrictive Housing Report from Core Civic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach makes a motion to accept the Third Quarter Restrictive Housing Report from Core Civic. Commissioner McCall seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

10.) ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE

Chairman Schwebach states that this is a public hearing to go over item 10-A Duran Mesa LLC IRB in the amount of \$350,000,000.00. **ACTION TAKEN:** Chairman Schwebach makes a motion to enter into the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-01. Commissioner McCall seconds the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

***PUBLIC HEARING: 10-A Duran Mesa LLC**

Crystal Coffman (via Zoom) states that the 3 ordinances will enable well over 600 megawatts in the County. Very excited to have the project move forward and hope the current pandemic we are in does not slow down the forward progress. Ms. Cauffman thanks the Commission for their consideration and looks forward to working with the County.

Jill Sweeney (via Zoom phone bridge) states that before the Commission are 3 Industrial Revenue Bonds, Duran Mesa for \$350,000,000.00, Tecolote Wind for \$556,000,000.00 and Red Cloud for \$490,000,000.00. Ms. Sweeney explains the purpose of the ordinances are to set forth the terms and conditions under which these IRB's will be issued in series over time. They will give the company property tax, GRT and compensating tax abatements, that will allow the projects to be economically feasible moving forward. The bond ordinance itself authorizes other documents including a lease agreement, sub-lease agreement and bond purchase agreement. All parties have come to an agreement, so the agreements are ready to be signed which includes the agreement for the Payment In-Lieu Taxes, there may be some slight adjustments in the language to make sure that the agreements have been properly documented between now and closing. Ms. Sweeney states that this is the Commission's opportunity to pass on the transaction and authorize the working groups, (to include Pattern team members & County Commission and County team members to move on to closing which will occur on or before June 1.

Commissioner McCall asks if the claw back has been addressed.

County Manger Johnson replies, yes, the claw back agreement was 5 years and 100%.

Rob Burpo states that it was a process to get through the PILT negotiations but this agreement will serve both the County and School districts for the next 30 years.

Chairman Schwebach states that item 10-A has been discussed and asks if anyone has anything to discuss about items 10-B or 10-C.

There were no questions or public comment, so this concluded the Public Hearings portion for Ordinance 2020-01 Duran Mesa LLC. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-01. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

***PUBLIC HEARING: 10-B Tecolote Wind LLC**

Chairman Schwebach states that this is the second public hearing, for item 10-B Tecolote Wind LLC IRB in the amount of \$556,000,000.00. The paperwork is the same, but they are different projects and different amounts. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to move into a Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-02. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The floor is open the floor for discussion.

There were no questions or public comment, so this concluded the Public Hearings portion for Ordinance 2020-02 Tecolote Wind LLC. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-02. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

***PUBLIC HEARING: 10-C Red Cloud Wind LLC**

Chairman Schwebach states that this is the third and final public hearing for item 10-C Red Cloud Wind LLC IRB in the amount of \$490,000,000.00. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to go into a Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-03. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The floor is open the floor for discussion.

There were no questions or public comment, so this concluded the Public Hearings portion for the wind project, Ordinance 2020-03 Red Cloud Wind LLC. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-03. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

This concluded the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for Ordinances 2020-01, 2020-02 & 2020-03

A.) MANAGER: Motion to approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of Torrance County Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Duran Mesa, LLC wind energy project in the amount of \$350,000,000.00, Ordinance 2020-01 (Public Hearing) Deferred from 3/25/2020 and 4/8/2020 meetings.

Documents hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-01 issuance and sale of Torrance County Industrial Revenue Bond for Duran Mesa LLC wind energy project in the amount of \$350,000,000.00. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, roll call vote. District 1: Yes, District 2: Yes, District 3: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B.) MANAGER: Motion to approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of Torrance County Taxable Industrial Revenue Bond for the Tecolote Wind, LLC project in the amount of \$556,000,000.00, Ordinance 2020-02 (Public Hearing) Deferred from the 3/25/2020 and 4/8/2020 meetings.

County Manager Johnson informs the Commission that all the documents for the three ordinances are all exactly the same and that was intentional. Working on these three deals and as well as one at Clines Corners, all forms will be identical going forward.

Jill Sweeney states the only difference is the dollar amount but all the rest is the same including the PLIT payments.

Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** make a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-02 issuance and sale of Torrance County Industrial Revenue Bond for Tecolote Wind, LLC wind energy project in the amount of \$556,000,000.00. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, roll call vote. District 1: Yes, District 2: Yes, District 3: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C.) MANAGER: Motion to approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of Torrance County Taxable Industrial Revenue Bond for the Red Cloud Wind, LLC project in the amount of \$490,000,000.00, Ordinance 2020-03 (Public Hearing) Deferred from the 3/25/2020 and 4/8/2020 meetings.

Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** make a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-03 issuance and sale of Torrance County Industrial Revenue Bond for Red Cloud Wind, LLC wind energy project in the amount of \$490,000,000.00. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion roll, call vote. District 1: Yes, District 2: Yes, District 3: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11.) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

A.) MANAGER: Motion to approve restructure and reauthorize Torrance County Fair Board. Resolution No. 2020 ___ Deferred from 3/25/2020 and 4/8/2020 meetings.

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach makes a motion to defer this item till the next regularly scheduled meeting. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **ITEM DEFERRED.**

B.) FINANCE: Motion to approve budget increase for Torrance County Fair Board and additional funds for Complete count Resolution No. 2020-16

Jeremy Oliver, Finance Director informs the Commission that there was an increase to the Fair Boards budget due to an increase of sales from last years fair. They received an additional \$18,000.00. The County did receive additional funding for the complete count, and this is jus the paperwork to show DFA. Resolution hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall** makes a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 budget increase. **Chairman Schwebach** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C.) **COMMISSION:** Motion to approve a resolution calling on Governor to safely begin reopening New Mexico business Resolution No. 2020_____

Commissioner McCall states that he requested the County Manager to draw up this resolution, he felt it was important and may not have to necessarily pass it today but this will allow to have a frank discussion of what it will look like to reopen our economy, our community and our County. To urge our Governor to reopen, he has had discussions with EM Propp Torrance County has seen the curve flatten and that's what we've been told to do and that's what the County has done. The county has not received any guidance from the State on what to do next. Commissioner McCall's hope is that this opens the floor for discussion because the County has an economy that has flat lined. There are mom and pop's businesses out there that have used up all their savings and maxed out their credit cards and they won't be able to do this much longer.

County Manager Johnson reads the proposed Resolution into the record. Hereto attached **Commissioner Sanchez** clarifies that we would be urging the Governor to begin a phased in data driven reopening of businesses that do not fall within the Secretary of Health's definition of "essential".

Chairman Schwebach replies, yes, that is how the resolution reads.

Commissioner Sanchez asks, does the Governor need to be urged to do the obvious? Commissioner Sanchez believes that the Governor would like to open as soon as possible, so what would be gained by urging the obvious.

Commissioner McCall replies that as the resolution states that it is not a one fit all, Commissioner McCall feels that the Governor is going to keep the entire state locked down because of the hotspots. So the urge is because we have hit the curve and we need some hope and optimism. What does the reopen look like, how will it be done.

Commissioner Sanchez replies, don't you think the Governor has already had those conversations of what it will look like when the reopening begins. It is important that all forms of Government be unified in the process. Political hyperbola must be kept out the mix.

Chairman Schwebach states that he is not hearing talks of reopening and he wants to be very clear on his position on this. Firstly, reopening is not going to be like a light switch to reopening. What Chairman Schwebach is seeing is, there is no talk of reopening, but our Communities need to know that there is talk and what it will be like to reopen. is it going to be on May 1st and what does it look like and how do people prepare for it? Yes, there is general talk about reopening but no formal motion to move forward. A lot of people are reaching the boiling point and the big talk is if there is going to be a separation of jurisdictions, Counties and Municipalities. Or will be it a blanket coverage of the state and that is what the frustration is. Why is Torrance being restricted with a lower amount of cases than what's going on in the NW part of the State. Chairman Schwebach by no means wants to undermine the Governor and her decisions but he would like the discussions to begin and this is what the resolution will begin, discussion. Chairman Schwebach has spoken with the local Mayor's and there was a letter drafted similar to this resolution open up discussion and to have a strategic plan on reopening.

Commissioner Sanchez states that he would like to see things reopen tomorrow if possible. Small businesses are hurting but if staying closed saves, a life on the reservation then no we will stay closed. We must be responsible; do the research before we pass this resolution.

Chairman Schwebach states that a message needs to be sent, there has been very little Communication with the local governments.

Matt Propp states that there is no communication with the Emergency Managers, the communication goes through the Lt. Governor and then to County Manager. Leaving out the E.M. and the fire chiefs. We need to be able to bring back information to the County level to let you know what it will look like once reopening begins. Mr. Propp feels that the County needs to proactive in the reopening, not open the flood gates but there can be a process in reopening.

County Manager Johnson explains that the resolution asks to think about reopening and the proper allocating of PPE. The current restrictions are across the board for everyone this will suggest reopening in the phases and keep the full restrictions in the hot spot area's in the state.

Commission Sanchez states that a letter makes more sense, it sends a more unified front from the County and Municipalities. To best serve the communities there needs to be a translation of genuine message.

Chairman Schwebach states that he agrees with Commissioner Sanchez, that's what we need, communication between the County, the Mayors and the community business owners with the Governor.

Commissioner McCall states that he is in favor of reopening and knows that it can't be opened like a light switch. The Governor could hold the restrictions for another month, time is of the essence here. We can urge to open from the bottom up with restrictions in place, the local government entities can keep tract of business being open with restrictions. The local small businesses are calling and asking for help before its too late for them.

Commissioner Sanchez replies, then let's get this letter going.

Mayor Dial, Town of Estancia (via Zoom phone bridge) stats that he has been asked to sign three different letters, but he is in favor of opening from the bottom up. Mayor Dial is in favor of a unified professional letter being sent to the Governor to have a phased reopening of businesses.

Mayor Peter Nieto, Town of Mountainair states that he supports what the Commission is saying but at this time he feels it will contradict the letter he and 13 other Mayors have sent to the Governor in support of her decisions. Letter hereto attached. (County Manager Johnson reads the letter into record)

Mayor Ted Hart, City of Moriarty states that a letter needs to be sent to the Governor, no pressure on her but just stating the facts of what is happening in our Communities.

A lengthy discussion took place about what the letter would say to the Governor, the Commission directed County Manager Johnson to draft the letter before the meeting was over to approve and send out.

County Manager Johnson states he has prepared the letter and reads the letter into the record. Letter hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to approve the letter that urges the Governor to reopening by May 1, 2020. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12.) APPROVALS

A.) **FINANCE:** FY21 Budget Hearing, (Conduct a Public Hearing):

Jeremy Oliver, Finance Director presents to the Commission the FY20-21 budget. Each department will be presenting their requests to the Commission.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

- I. **P&Z:** Additional position, employee raises
- II. **Manager:** Additional position, employee raises
- III. **Clerk:** Additional position, employee raises, operating increase
- IV. **Elections:** Employee raises
- V. **Treasurer:** Employee raises, operating increase
- VI. **Assessor:** Operating increase
- VII. **Grant Coordinator:** Additional position, employee raises, operating increase
- VIII. **Sheriff:** Employee raises
- IX. **Finance:** Additional position, employee raises, operating increase
- X. **OPS/Maintenance:** Employee raises, operating increases
- XI. **Animal Services:** Additional position, employee raises, operating increase
- XII. **USDA/Wildlife Animal Damage Control:** Operating increase
- XIII. **Fire:** Employee raises
- XIV. **Community Monitoring:** Employee raise
- XV. **Emergency Manager:** Employee raise, Capital Outlay increase
- XVI. **DWI:** Additional position, employee raise
- XVII. **Domestic Violence:** Employee raises
- XVIII. **Dispatch:** Employee raises

Steve Guetschow, P/Z Director states that the additional staff member will help with code enforcement and the process when the cases go to court. The employee raises are to bring the staff members now up to be competitive with surrounding Counties.

County Manager Johnson, explains the need for an additional clerk in the Managers' office, County Attorney Butrick is flooded by IPRA's request and the clerk can help with those and that will free up Ms. Archuleta to work more with the Commission and Attorney. The employee raises can be covered by the managers budget, there were some monies saved so it can cover those raises for Lori and Kristen.

County Attorney Butrick states that having Lori help with IPRA's will free up time for him to be able to look over contracts and work on major cases that the County has.

Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk states that the additional staff member will help assist the office be more efficient with the transition of the newly elected Clerk as well as with the transition with herself and Linda Kayser's retirement. Ms. Jaramillo explains that she would like to give her staff a \$1.00 raise and she will need additional money for overtime wages during elections.

Tracy Sedillo, County Treasurer explains that she did a wage analyst with other Counties and would like to bring her staff to a comparative wage as other Counties that are doing similar jobs. Ms. Sedillo states that she has a very good staff, they are good at reconciling as well as good at customer service. The increase to operating costs is for vehicle maintenance; they lend their vehicle to other departments and there is more wear and tear on their department vehicles.

Jesse Lucero, County Assessor states that he has looked at the budget a bit different than other department. In the Assessors budget they have what is called the 1% fund, which is being depleted and has no means to be replenished. Mr. Lucero explains that he was tasked with how much taxable value the County has versus what is actually collected. The pictometry software has helped with this process, though we have just had one fly over and just has been in use a little 5 months. The software will work and bring in more tax dollars once there is a fly over the entire County and if everyone pays their taxes. Mr. Lucero is trying to correct what previous Assessors have done and make his 1% fund whole.

Cheryl Allen, Grant Coordinator explains that she is requesting an additional staff member for her department. This person will help with proofing and research for grants. As well as to ensure a timely submission for grant deadlines. Ms. Allen is asking for a pay increase to be comparable to other Counties. Due to the grant coordinator being a new department, she is asking for an increase to her operating budget, was not sure how to budget last year because there was nothing to compare to for funding.

Marty Rivera, Sheriff states that they did a whole study on getting raises for the deputies. We are needing to raise the wage for our deputies so that we do not loose them to other agencies for higher pay. Sheriff Rivera is asking for higher salaries and a higher PERA plan to be competitive with other surrounding agencies.

County Manager Johnson states that they would like to bring the deputies up to \$24.00 an hour to stay competitive with BernCo and APD.

Jeremy Oliver, Finance Director states that his department could use an additional staff member to help with payroll. Payroll has become a three-person job, when it is payroll week it has come to the point where no one can take time off so that payroll can be done. Mr. Oliver is also asking for pay increases for the finance staff to be competitive with other Counties.

Nick Sedillo, Operations Manager states that he has been in his position for little over a year and half and has been able to get contracts in place and get them up to date. They are awaiting a third person to be hired, they were in the process of doing interviews when COVID-19 hit. So once everything goes back to normal another person will be hired to help with maintenance and janitorial. Mr. Sedillo is asking for raises for the staff members to be comparable to other agencies.

Cindi Sullivan, Animal Services Director states that she is requesting an increase to her operating costs for vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. They are in need of filing cabinets and new office chairs. There was a new water softener installed and that is going to be an additional cost to their budget. Ms. Sullivan is also asking for pay increases for their staff members to be comparable to other agencies.

Justin Hendricks, USDA (*via Zoom phone bridge*) is asking for an increase of \$2,750.00 to the operating costs.

Lester Gary, Fire Chief states he is asking for a pay increase for admin., staff to be comparable to other Counties.

Kathy Reyes, Community Monitor states that she is asking for a pay raise, the courts have changed some of her requirements and Ms. Reyes mentions that she has not received a raise in a few years. She has money in her budget to move around to cover the increase of her salary.

Matt Propp, Emergency Manager states that he is requesting additional funding to help with the cost of a new vehicle and requests funding through capital outlay for a 60x40 building in the Moriarty area. The building will be used for storage and a facility to have during inclement weather shelter.

Tracey Master, DWI Coordinator states that she is requesting an additional staff member for the Teen Court coordinator position. This position has been a contract employee but with a contract there are some limits with that position due to the constraints of the contract. Ms. Master explains that she tried to do a cost/wage analysis but no two DWI programs are the same, but none the less she is asking for a pay increase.

Ana Martinez, Domestic Violence Coordinator states that she is requesting pay increases for the three part time positions within her department. Ms. Martinez is trying to get their wages comparable as other agencies. A few years back their program lost some funding and salaries were cut, this will help get back to where salaries were before the funding was lost.

Dorothy Rivera, 911 Director states that she is requesting pay increases for her employees, it is hard to keep their staff when they can get paid more at other agencies. Overtime is eating up most of their budget due to not being fully staffed. With a pay increase this will help keep staff and get new hires. Ms. Rivera states that they are very frugal with their budget and try very hard to stay within what they are budgeted; their big purchases are fire cabinets to keep all the NCIS's reports they have to keep.

Jeremy Oliver states that were some other requests for funding but those can be funded through the infrastructure fund. Mr. Oliver mentions that with the PILT monies they are creating an additional 2/12th reserve on top of the required reserve monies by DFA. These monies will be available for any allocation the Commissions will need or require. The suggestion Mr. Oliver is giving to the Commission are for the following: salary increase for the newly elected officials, the healthcare increase, the new position in the Manager's office, all requested raises, additional operating costs and the capital outlay building (if not funded from the state). The additional request that are not out of the general fund and come out of a different funding sources are the following: Fire raises, DWI raise and additional position, DV raises and dispatch raises.

Commissioner Sanchez asks if the money for the heritage center has been budgeted.

County Manager Johnson explains that the infrastructure fund will be used for the heritage center, to have a true study done it may cost more than \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Sanchez states that the Manzano Land grant has \$55,000.00 that they are going to put toward the study as well. Commissioner Sanchez asks the other Commissioner's if there are any projects they would like to work on.

Commissioner McCall states that there's not one regional but there are plenty of requests being presented to the Commission here today.

Chairman Schwebach states that this is the second budget hearing he has had as a Commissioner and the County and County employees have been under budgeted and they are what needs the funding. Chairman Schwebach is not against what is being recommended but he does have questions for finance, so he will visit with finance and asks those questions.

County Manager Johnson states that DFA is giving a lot of leeway on the budget and the County will be able to do some line item adjustments. Manager Johnson explains that we are just trying to get ahead of the wage increase in 2023.

Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to close the public hearing for the FY20-21 Budget. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

At this time Commissioner Sanchez excuses himself from the meeting

B. ROAD: Motion to approve revision of FY18/19 State Projects.

Leonard Lujan, Road Superintendent is asking the Commission to revise the FY18/19 projects, this will allow the paving of Heritage Rd. documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to approve the revision of FY18/19 State Projects. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, 2 in favor District 3: Absent. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. FIRE: Motion to approve FY21 Fire Protection Funds

Lester Gary, Fire Chief informs the Commission that this is the application for the FY21 Fire Protection Fund. The amounts are preset by the State Fire Marshal, so they can not be adjusted, but they can roll over from the previous years budget. Chief Gary mentions that these monies can only be used on equipment not on salaries, so there will be a lot of up grading on equipment. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach** makes a motion to approve the FY21 Fire Protection Fund application. **Commissioner McCall** seconds the motion. No further discussion, 2 in favor District 3: Absent. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. FINANCE: Motion to approve Reauthorization for Torrance County Fair Grounds local Capital GRT Funds.

Jeremy Oliver, Finance Director states the Commission had previously approved \$75,000.00 for the fair to go towards a barn or an addition to the barn. The fair board is asking for reauthorization for the money to be spend on fans and panels for the hogs. The fans can come out of the same funding source, but the panels would come out of a different funding source. The panels will cost \$20,000.00 so that will mean that there will be \$55,000.00 left out of the \$75,000.00 which is coming out of the County's capital outlay fund.

County Manager Johnson explains that infrastructure fund has been hit hard as of late and will be the same next year. Manager Johnson suggests that a different funding source be used to purchase the panels such as the PILT funding.

Commissioner McCall replies that he agrees with that and the panels will and can be used elsewhere, so they are a good purchase.

County Manger Johnson states that they have been encouraging the fair board to think of a new building and try not to put so much money into something that may be torn down in couple of years.

Chairman Schwebach states that he has had some discussion with the fair board about that same thing but thinks these are good purchases. Documentation hereto attached. **ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall** makes a motion to reauthorize the funding for Torrance County Fair Board. **Chairman Schwebach** seconds the motion. No further discussion, 2 in favor District 3: Absent. **MOTION CARRIED.**

13.) DISCUSSION

There was none

14.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A.) MANAGER: Purchase of real property for the Pattern Duran, LLC, Tecolote, LLC and Red Wind, LLC wind energy projects. Closed pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1 (H)(8).

County Manager Johnson informs the Commission there is no need to go into Executive session, the Ordinances were approved.

15.) Announcement of next Board of County Commissioners Meeting

April 13, 2020 at the Torrance County Administrative Building at 9:00 AM

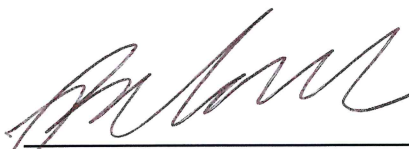
Due to the Governor's Public Health Order the public is encouraged *not to attend* the meeting in person. The public may attend via teleconference by dialing 505-544-4339 and entering conference ID 546375 or listen live on KXNM radio.

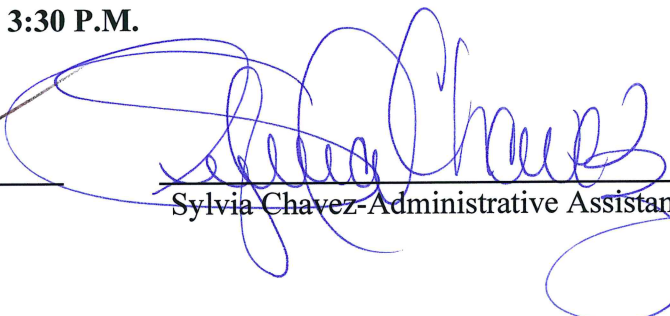
16.) Signing of Official Documents

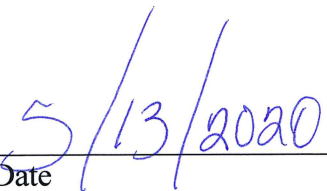
***ADJOURN**

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall makes a motion to adjourn the April 22, 2020, Commission Meeting. **Chairman Schwebach** seconds the motion. No further discussion, 2 in favor District 3 Absent. **MOTION CARRIED**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30 P.M.


Chairman Ryan Schwebach


Sylvia Chavez-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 our local radio station KXNM.