

**FINAL COPY**  
**Torrance County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**April 14, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**

Commissioners Present:

**RYAN SCHWEBACH – CHAIR**  
**KEVIN MCCALL – MEMBER**  
**LEROY CANDELARIA – MEMBER**

Others Present:

**JANICE BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER**  
**PHILIP TENORIO – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER**  
**JOHN BUTRICK – COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
**YVONNE OTERO – COUNTY CLERK**  
**GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**1. Call Meeting to order**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Calls the April 14, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

- 2. Pledge lead by:** Chairman Schwebach  
**Invocation lead by:** Commissioner McCall

**3. Changes to the Agenda:** None

**4. PROCLAMATIONS:** None

**5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:** None

**6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:** None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS**

**Yvonne Otero – County Clerk:** Update hereto attached. This was an informational update on the Special Election being held June 1<sup>st</sup> for the position of Congressional District 1 recently vacated by Deb Haaland. The candidates are Laura Olivas – DTS, write-in; Melanie Ann Stansbury – DEM; Robert Ornelas – DTS; Mark David Moores – REP; Christopher Manning – LIB; Aubrey Dunn –

DTS, write-in. Registering to vote by mail and online closes May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Same day registration will be in the Clerks office throughout early voting, May 4<sup>th</sup> through May 29<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to vote by absentee can now contact the Clerk's Office to request an application or go to nmvote.org, ballots will start going out May 4<sup>th</sup>. The last day to request an absentee ballot will be May 18<sup>th</sup> for domestic voters and for Military and Overseas voters the last day they can request a ballot is May 25<sup>th</sup>. A letter will be sent out to all register voters with the election information. If you do not receive a letter, please update your voter registration with a current mailing address. Election day is Tuesday June 1, 2021 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Early voting runs from May 29, 2021 to May 4, 2021 at the Torrance County Administrative offices and May 15, 2021 to May 29, 2021 at the Moriarty Civic Center 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Contact the Torrance County Clerks office with any questions at 505-544-4369 or if you are interested in being poll worker. The polling locations for election day are the Duran Fire Station, Encino Community Center, Estancia High School Gym, Manzano Center, McIntosh Fire Department, Moriarty Civic Center, Moriarty/Edgewood School Administrative Building, Mountainair Dr. Saul Community Center, Tajique Community Center, Torreon Community Center and Willard Community Center.

**Marcie Wallin – Fair Board:** The Fair Board has been working on getting the funding for a multi-purpose building for the fairgrounds since 2016. The southern Economic Development Committee created a plan and in 2020 we were awarded \$150,000 and awarded \$700,000 in 2021 to upgrade the current building and build a new building.

**Johnny Perea – Fair Board:** The Fair Board has been working with our County Manager and Deputy County Manager to develop a plan to spend the money. We are at a point to get something built. We want this to be a County building not to be only used by the fair. We are in the early planning stages. We also find more value in keeping the current building and upgrading, rather than tearing them down. We will have to rent tents this year but hoping this will be the last year we have to do this.

**Phillip Tenorio – Deputy County Manager:** Phase 1, we are insulating the steer barn for \$55,000 and the fans are \$40,000 for steer and show barns. We have appropriated \$150,000 this year; this money can be used for phase 1. Phase 2 will include insulating the small barn, goat barn and the large building that can tap into the \$700,00, we have recently appropriated. We can get part of phase 1 done this year, including hiring an architect (\$90,000 set aside) for the master plan, then after the fair continuing with the 15,000 sq ft multi-purpose building.

**Tracy Sedillo – County Treasurer:** Second half of taxes are due May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The de-ear making of the gross receipts tax, that bill passed back in 2019, Tax and Rev just started the de-ear marking process in January of this year. There are now 6 categories of the gross receipts; the county wide area, the county wide adopted by referendum, county area, the county area adopted by referendum, the communication and EMS tax was not de-ear marked so it remains as it always has been. The county supported Medicaid was not de-ear marked, that tax does not appear on the monthly report, it is on a separate report because it is intercepted by the state. This big change was, NMFA is not intercepting the entire Environmental gross receipts Tax and sending it to the Solid Waste Authority, the money is coming here so we have to pay them by check because it is in the terms of the JPA we signed with the authority. This will happen on a monthly basis. This is in a category on its own in the gross receipts.

**Don Dirks – Fire Chief:** We continue to see a high volume of fire activity and EMS calls for service. The fire activity is slowing down. As the state is opening up, we are seeing more EMS calls.

All districts have been inspected by the State Fire Marshal's Office and the results are back, I am drafting responses and will submit to the Commission. It went better then expected. We should be able to immediately lower the ISO rating at District 4 in Torreon. We should be able to get funding for the second building in Duran, District 1. District 3 renovations are almost complete, we are waiting on TLC for some quotes on a small project. The reporting that was backlogged for the last 3 years, is now Up-To-Date. We are waiting on the State Fire Marshal to verify it was received.

EMT basic class started April 9<sup>th</sup> through mid-June, we have 9 volunteers and have a waiting list. We are close to 100% response to all calls; this includes Superior Ambulance.

April 17<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Job Fair at the Lions Club in Moriarty from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Forrest Service will be having controlled burns in the Manzano Mountains, we are on standby in case of emergency. I will put this on our website when we get a notice of a controlled burn.

**Marco Banales – City of Moriarty, EVSWA – Vice-Chair:**

Earth Day is April 22 and in celebration of Earth day, a 2950 2004 John Deere tractor was donated from EVSWA to Estancia Schools because they found funding for liability and insurance for its Industrial Arts program, Mountainair and Moriarty School Districts will have an opportunity to work on this tractor. They will learn how to renovate the tractor, farming safety and operational skills. We hope to develop this program into some community gardens that will be planned and organized through our land grant associations and local community associations.

The tractor has some fuel issues and needs tires. Any help or donations will be appreciated.

**Jesse Lucero – County Assessor:** We are currently in the middle of our protest period. Protest period started April 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

We have sent out flyers and have had a lot of interest from the general public wanting to understand their notice of value and property tax.

A big thanks to the City of Mountainair, Village of Corona, Village of Encino, the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District, Moriarty Senior Center, Moriarty Civic Center, and the Lions Club for allowing us to use their facilities for our outreach.

We are encouraging the public to get their Notice of Value electronically. If interested, please follow the steps on the flyer received by mail. If you choose this option, you will receive your tax bill electronically.

It's time to look for new protest board members. I will put an advertisement in the newspaper for anyone interested to submit a resume. Resumes will go to the Commission and the Commission will make a decision on protest board members. This needs to be done every 2-3 years. We are looking for members who have a real estate background, real estate appraisers and one member can be a member of the general public.

Thank you to County Clerk Yvonne Otero and Deputy Clerk Chavez for helping Deputy Assessor Humphrey resolve a situation. New Mexico is a non-discloser state and sales affidavits for residential properties is the law. We have had a difficult time with the different title companies around the state. Anytime a property is purchased the sales affidavit goes into simplifile. With the help of the

Clerk's office, we were fortunate enough to get the information needed to do a better job appraising Torrance County property.

Thank you to the Maintenance for all their help.

House joint resolution if approved goes to the voters. House joint resolution #2, the Veteran exemption went from \$4000.00 to \$10,000.00, passed. This will take about a 1% hit of total revenue. House joint resolution #3, the incremental rating of disability, did not pass. A veteran has to complete an application with a copy of their DD214, that application goes to Santa Fe then a certificate of eligibility will be mailed to the Vet they must endorse this and bring to our office for the exemption.

**Charlene Guffey:** People living in RVs across the county is out of control. By allowing this to happen it is creating problems in areas not zoned for RV living. These people are cheating the county out of property taxes, services, permits and utilities. They are creating under ground water problems by dumping waste on the ground. The county has an obligation to keep tax paying residents safe and enforce the ordinances that are in place. The ordinance on RVs need to be looked at to close the loopholes and be updated. This is decreasing the property value.

**Yvonne Otero – County Clerk:** If anyone is interested in becoming a precinct worker, please contact my office (505)544-4369. It pays \$180.00 for Presiding Judge and \$160.00 for Judge and Clerks with a \$20.00 incentive for attending the Election School. We especially need workers in the Duran and Encino area. Any students ages 16 and 17 interested in being a precinct worker can also contact the Clerk's office.

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. COMMISSION:** Motion to approve the March 24, 2021 Torrance County Board of County Commission Minutes

### **Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to approve the March 24, 2021 Torrance County Board of County Commission Minutes

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach – abstains was not present;  
**McCall -Yes: MOTION CARRIED**

**9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. FINANCE: Approval of Payables**

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to approve payables.

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**B. MANAGER: Motion to accept Second Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.**

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to accept Second Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**John Butrick – County Attorney:** This is in regard to NMSA 33-16-5 and NMSA 33-16-7. NMSA 33-16-5 statue states every 3 months every correctional facility shall produce a report that includes the age, gender and ethnicity of every inmate who is placed in restricted housing during the previous 3 months including every inmate that is in restricted housing at the time the report is produced. The reason restricted housing was instituted for each inmate listed in the report and the dates on each inmate was places in and release from restricted housing during the previous 3 months and submit a report prepared in accordance with this subsection to the board of County Commissioners in the county in which the correctional facility is located if the facility is a jail. Section 33-16-7 states on the date that a report is submitted to a board of County Commissioners precuent to section 5 of the residential housing act, a copy of the report shall be submitted electronically to the legislative council service library. After this has been voted on it will be submitted to the legislative council service library today. This is in regards to items 9 B, C, D & E.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**C. MANAGER: Motion to accept Third Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.**

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to accept Third Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

**Commissioner Candelaria:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

- D. **MANAGER:** Motion to accept Fourth Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to accept Fourth Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

- E. **MANAGER:** Motion to accept First Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to accept First Quarter 2020 Restrictive Housing Report from CoreCivic pursuant to NMSA 1978 33-16-5.

**Commissioner Candelaria:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**10. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:**

None

**11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:**

A. **FINANCE:** Motion to approve the Disposition of Firearms, Resolution No. 2021-18

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Motion to approve the Disposition of Firearms, Resolution No. 2021-18

**Commissioner Candelaria:** Seconds the motion.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** This resolution is for the disposition of firearms from the Sheriff's Office. A spreadsheet is attached with a detailed list of firearms and firearm parts.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

## 12. APPROVALS

None

## 13. DISCUSSION

### A. GRANTS: ICIP Work Group/Project Update.

**Cheryl Allen – Grant Manager:** We have 7 core members including our Deputy County Manager, Operations Manager, Planning & Zoning Director, Finance Director, Chief Purchasing Officer, Legislative appropriations Manager, and Grants Manager. We invite project managers and stakeholders to provide input. Our first official meeting was September 2, 2020, we meet twice a month the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays. Our next meeting will be April 15, 2021 from 9-11 am. The purpose of the meeting is to address the projects on the ICIP list and ensure the work is moving forward and identify new projects. We follow a standardized agenda in 7 categories as followed: Senior Centers; Construction projects; road construction projects; water projects; vehicle and equipment projects; miscellaneous projects and new business. Our projects are: Senior Centers – 2021 application for Aging and Long-Term Services and Capital Outlay funding. We requested funding for all 3 Senior Centers. We were approved for repairs for the Moriarty Senior Center in the amount of \$60,500, Mountainair was approved for \$176,000. We have started the application process for Aging and Long-Term service for 2022 due May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Phillip Tenorio – Deputy County Manager:** Construction for fairground project, we are breaking this into phases. We have \$150,000 appropriated for phase 1, insulation, fans and Architecture, phase 2 is \$700,000 include a base shell of a metal building. Phase 3 would include completing the metal building.



**Cheryl Allen – Grant Manager:** Construction for the new County Government offices. 2021 Capital Outlay was awarded \$75,000. We are hiring a consultant to prepare an RFP for an architect. With HB285 we were awarded \$100,000.

The Road Department yard shop, \$550,000 approved in 2021, site and construction plans have been created. The security system for the 911 Dispatch Center has been approved for \$75,500. Security fencing target hardening, we have a fence plan established to protect the property and expand parking at dispatch, animal service and fire station. The Emergency Management Facility & Shelter is installing a security gate with keypad. The animal shelter expansion has been approved with this latest house bill for \$25,000. Road construction on McNabb Road we were approved \$300,000 it will cost \$300,000 for each mile of road. No action on Riley Road at this time.

Water projects include the Duran water system, we currently have \$120,000 and HB285 has increased the amount by \$25,000. Mescalero dam mitigation, we have done a site tour and looking at doing a patrial branch, details will be provided on the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Abo water system is included in the ICIP, but no action has been taken at this point.

Vehicle and equipment projects, road department is purchasing a skid steer we were awarded \$50,000, we are combining grant funds for a total of \$56,647.47. This is completed, the skid steer has been ordered and should arrive in a month. The 4X4 Sheriff patrol vehicles have been awarded \$95,000 with last years funding. Quotes have been submitted to finance for 3 Dodge Durango's all wheel drive. Total cost is \$103,825. The Sheriff's Department will cover the remaining balance and pay for equipping the vehicles.

Miscellaneous projects, restoring and preserving historical records, regrant of \$8,500 to digitize, index and repair the first 6 book in the Clerk's Office, we have not heard anything back on this. New business, Solar and energy efficiency implementation at all county facilities, we are looking to add solar panels and LED lighting. Another project is coordination of a Reginal Animal Shelter, we are in early discussion.

## **B. FINANCE: Discuss American Rescue Plan.**

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** Torrance County was awarded 2.998 Million dollars. The Federal government is still determining the stipulation and uses of it. The Packet has NACo's break down of the bill. The US Treasury has scheduled by May 11<sup>th</sup> to have the final outline on what these funds can be used for. We will potentially receive half of the funds on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the other half a year later. We will be looking into adding this into the budget for FY2022. We will need direction

on how the Commission will want to use these funds. Once we start using these funds the dollar threshold will put us over the \$700,000 requirement for the federal single audit. Potentially 2 to 3 years will have audit fees associated with these funds. Some of the outlines NACo has fulfilling lost revenues for the county, business grants, premium pay for eligible workers, and infrastructure.

C. **FINANCE: FY22 Budget Hearing (Conduct Public Hearing)**  
PowerPoint hereto attached – No action taken, presentation only.

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to enter into a Public Hearing

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**Chairman Schwebach:** We will allow time after the presentation for public comment.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** We are required by statute to have one public hearing for the budget, it does not stipulate the time of year. I chose the beginning of the budget planning process, so the public can voice any concerns. No action will be taken. At the May 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting the Commission will be giving the Finance Department direction. We are looking to have the interim budget approved at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting. Each department will present their budget request.

**Madam County Manager Barela:** At the next Commission meeting we will have another Budget Hearing for the community to give their input. The Manager's office and the Commission will give their recommendations.

**Steve Guetschow – P&Z Director:** Requesting staff raises total amount \$16,771 and operating Increase of \$2,525

**Steve Guetschow – P&Z Director:** Ruben Gastelum is unavailable but requesting \$46,036.00 for a field tech and a raise totaling \$4,403 and operation money in the amount of \$1,360.

**Madam County Manager Barela:** Requesting raises for staff totaling \$13,675.00.

**Yvonne Otero – County Clerk:** Requesting a raise but will not go over last year's budget, operating increase of \$1,900 for vehicles, vehicles are new to the

department and Capital outlay for digitization of records \$5,000 with potential grant match of \$2,125.

**Tracy Sedillo – County Treasurer:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$26,088.00.

**Jessie Lucero – County Assessor:** Requesting staff raises of 6% across the board totaling \$44,722, this is within the \$21,921 budget for FY21 and Capital Outlay for a truck \$40,500.

**Cheryl Allen – Grant Director:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$4,969 and operating money totaling \$3,075.

**Madam County Manager Barela:** HR is requesting funding for 6 student Apprenticeships totaling \$44,628, \$7,438 per student.

**Stephanie Dunlap – Sheriff Administrator:** Requesting 10% raise for deputies and transport totaling \$132,381.94 Increasing Detective Ballard above Sgt. (Lt. grade). Operating, Education supplies totaling \$10,000. Capital Outlay, 3 patrol vehicles, 3 transport vehicles (only 1 if prison does not close) totaling \$234,000.

**Stephanie Dunlap – Sheriff Administrator:** Requestion operating money totaling \$23,000 (only \$8,000 if prison does not close), a transport Officer \$62,027.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$ 23,613 and telecommunications \$830.

**Nick Sedillo – Operations Manager:** Requestion staff raises totaling \$16,771, operations \$ 16,001 and small truck \$40,000.

**Cindi Sullivan – Animal Services Director:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$55,529.92 and a new front desk clerk \$ 49,752.

**Matt Propp – Emergency Manager:** Requesting a part time position \$11,000. Operation and do away with grant for salary \$10,000.

**Anna Martinez – DV Director:** Requesting staff raises \$1,064.

**Don Dirks – Fire Chief:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$14,007, new positions \$44,791 each for 2 EMT and clerical assistant totaling \$39,825 and manager proposed salary table \$66,697.

**Leonard Lujan – Road Superintendent:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$353,044 and road project reoccurring yearly \$300,000.

**Kathy Reyes – Community Monitor:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$8,144.

**Christine Snow – 911 Director:** Requesting staff raises totaling \$39,732, small car for \$80,000, manager proposed salary table totaling \$132,402.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** Our County Attorney has stepped out and is requesting a new job position for a Legal Assistant \$52,248, IPRA software \$14,665 and Capital Outlay for new job position \$8,700. Please take into consideration our County Attorney's contract is up in May and we need to consider any potential raise.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** USDA/Wildlife is requesting the same amount as last year \$35,250.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** Funding request for FY2022 is \$22,298, the normal funding request is \$90,366 this is a one-time savings of \$68,068. This is due to a hiring freeze. There is potential for FY 2023 to go back to the \$90,000 with full staff. This comes from the county's budget through the general fund. Their total budget is \$292,218.

**Debbie Mayberry – Family Consumer Science Agent, 4H Agent in Extensions:** We are hoping to fill all the positions.

**Jeremy Oliver – Finance Director:** The Fair Board does not have any requests.

**Chairman Schwebach:** Any public comment or questions? None

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to enter back into regular session.

**Commissioner Candelaria:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**D. MANAGER BARELA'S REPORT:** Full update hereto attached  
The 2021 Legislative update: 933 bills was introduced, 334(35.80%) of bills passed the 1<sup>st</sup> house, 168 (18.01%) of bills passed 2<sup>nd</sup> house, 158 (16.93%) of bills sent to the Governor, 140(15.01%) of bills signed in law.

HB 105, the technical fix to last years legislation regarding the issuance of industrial revenue bond for renewable energy such as wind farm, was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 6, 2021. Due to this legislation becoming law, the County may begin negotiations for a new Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) for another wind farm as early as June 2021.

HB 4, NM Civil Rights Act, was signed by Governor Lujan Grisham on April 7, 2021. I want to thank Sheriff Marty Rivera for taking the initiative to make sure Torrance County Sheriff's Office Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are up to date with the new laws that will go into effect in July. He went through the procurement process to hire a private, independent contractor to update the SOP's.

HB 285, Statewide Capital Projects (Capital Outlay Projects), was signed by the Governor Lujan

Grisham on April 9, 2021. She did not veto any Torrance County projects. This means the County will receive the following funding:

\$60,500 for renovations to the Moriarty senior center in Moriarty in Torrance County

\$176,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish the Mountainair senior center in Mountainair in Torrance County

\$25,000 to plan, design, construct and equip water system improvements for Duran in Torrance County

\$100,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish a county administrative building in Torrance County

\$700,000 to plan, design, construct, improve, furnish, and equip the county fairgrounds in Torrance County

\$75,500 to plan, design, construct and equip building security and entry control systems for the county 911 dispatch center in Torrance County

\$25,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish a room for cats at the Torrance County animal shelter in McIntosh in Torrance County

\$300,000 to plan, design, and construct McNabb road between New Mexico highway 41 and Lexco Road, including signage, in Torrance County

\$550,000 reappropriation for the Road Shop and Yard in Torrance County

I am excited for the day these bonds are sold and the County has access to the funding so we can begin these projects. The County has an amazing team working together on its projects. I appreciate the collaboration and the high level of expertise included in this ICIP work group.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

Here are some important dates for those who are interested in showing animals at the Torrance County Fair:

April 22 – Tag-in Date for Steers & Heifers from 5-7 PM in Estancia

May 1- Cattle Ownership Deadline

June 9 – Tag-in Date Lamb, Goat, and Swine from 5-7 PM in Estancia

June 12<sup>00</sup> – Tag-in Date Lamb, Goat, and Swine from 8-10 AM in Moriarty

June 15<sup>00</sup> – Lamb, Goat, and Swine Ownership Deadline

July 17<sup>00</sup> – Fairground Clean-up from 7-11 AM

July 28<sup>00</sup> – Fairground Clean-up from 4-7 PM

## **Claunch Pinto – NM State Forestry Grant**

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District, as part of their NM State Forestry Grants, specifically, their 2019 NFL Funding, has met with the NM Department of Transportation to design a thinning project on highway right of way on NM HWY 42 on the north side of Cedarvale. This project will be approximately 56.5 acres. The slash will be chipped, and the wood will be stacked on the right of way for locals to pick up. This project is scheduled to begin in June 2021.

## **Departments Update**

### **Job Openings**

Torrance County is currently accepting applications for the following positions:  
Dispatcher (911 Operator/Communications Specialist) - Multiple positions (Open until April 15th)

Animal Control Officer - 2 positions (Open until April 21<sup>00</sup>)

Grants Assistant (Open until April 20<sup>00</sup>)

Victim Support Specialist - PT (Open until April 22nd)

Clerical Float (Open until May 2nd)

Mechanic (Will be advertised soon)

Torrance County is hosting a Job Fair this Saturday, April 17th, at the Lion's Club in Moriarty 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can get more information about these positions at the Job Fair, or you may visit the County website [www.torrancecountynm.org](http://www.torrancecountynm.org) and click on "Job Opportunities" for more information and to apply.

## **Road Department**

The Road Department is in the process of completing Saline Pump Rd. They have put down caliche material on 2.3 miles and will zip it tomorrow, April 15<sup>th</sup>. They have also finished the tree trimming on Martinez Rd. They will be moving to Lucy Rd from NM HWY 42 going north next week. They have about one (1) mile of road that has blown out, and they need to repair it. They will also start trimming trees on 321 for two miles. They are currently blading the roads as they receive complaints because it is too dry right now to blade all of the roads.

## **Sheriff's Office / Community Monitoring - Community Service Trash Pick Up**

During the last Commission Meeting, Commissioner McCall directed me to check into the use of inmates to pick up trash near the Pilot Truck Stop. During that meeting, I informed the Commission that Undersheriff Lucero was already looking into utilizing community service workers for this project.

Undersheriff Eli Lucero coordinated with Kathy Reyes, Community Monitoring, to secure court-ordered community service workers to pick up trash yesterday morning. Their first project was located east of Lisa's Truck Stop.

In four hours, two community service workers picked up 29 (55-gallons size) bags of trash. The Sheriff's Office was present to ensure the safety of the community service workers since they were working along the roadways. Using a Sheriff's Office pickup truck, the Sheriff's Office staff made three trips to the landfill.

Undersheriff Lucero has the following community service trash pickup project planned for this Friday, April 16th:

Location: I-40 between exits 196 and 194, westbound lane

Time: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM (6 hours)

They are expecting five community service workers

The City of Moriarty and the County are working on long-term remedies to this problem as well.

## **Fairgrounds**

I am requesting for the Commissioners to direct me on how they wish to proceed with the planning of the improvements to the fairgrounds. The County has the funds to begin the plan and design of the multi-purpose building. Do you want to

meet as a Commission with the Fair Board at the fairgrounds? If so, I can coordinate with the Fair Board and can post notice of that meeting. If it is the Commission's preference for each Commissioner to meet individually with members of the fair board, I can arrange that as well.

**Chairman Schwebach:** I would like all 3 Commissioners there and do a walk around with some of the preliminary plans. If the fair board can attend, I would prefer it.

**Madam County Manager Barela:** It can also be noticed as a joint meeting. If the entire fair board wants to attend it is a possibility.

**Chairman Schwebach:** Notice it as such. Will the 1<sup>st</sup> week in May work for everyone, 9 AM?

**Commissioner Candelaria:** Yes, that will work.

**Commissioner McCall:** Agree

**Madam County Manager Barela:** Id like to defer part of my time for Mr. Butrick to give a comment in regards to his budget request.

**Chairman Schwebach:** Your budget was presented, we will have another public hearing at the next meeting, can this wait?

**John Butrick – County Attorney:** I would like to give my take on my budget. I am requesting a new job position for a Legal Assistant \$49,763, This includes benefits. IPRA software, will help my office and the Sheriff's Office, \$14,665. Capital outlay for new job position \$8,700. Please take into consideration my contract is up in May and we need to consider any potential raise. We can discuss in executive session and a final decision in open session.

## **E. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

### **1) Commissioner McCall, District 1**

I appreciate the work done with community monitoring clean up. Lisa's truck stop looks better. I am excited for the clean up along I-40 on Friday.



The Highway Department put no parking signs along Hwy 41 near the Pilot Truck Stop and along Abrahames Rd.

The plan was to clean up around the Pilot Truck Stop, but we wanted to give Pilot an opportunity to do it themselves.

## **2) Commissioner Schwebach, District 2**

Planning & Zoning has guidelines for RV's. We have a policy to address this. Planning & Zoning has 152 land use permits. With many of these permits, no well permit is requested. Their plan is to harvest water or haul water. This is an economic and cumbersome. This valley needs a water delivery system. EMWT has worked on this, they started with the concept to deliver water to existing municipalities. This plan is in place and EMWT has the ability to implement this but has stalled out for various reasons. As a county it is a key to our economic growth. This potential money coming from the Feds can look to infrastructure to design a concept for this to be implemented. I do not think the county wants to be a water authority but can play a major roll in getting it to where it needs to be. One of the biggest hold ups for getting outside money is how financially viable is it. We need to find out how many people are willing to hook up into it. We need to be competitive on the cost.

Thank you to Mayor Hart with the Moriarty clean-up.

## **3) Commissioner Candelaria, District 3**

I had a complaint about the trucks bringing in the new electric power. The trucks are tearing up the roads and cattle guards. Leonard Lujan will check into this because the company was to maintain the roads.

I want to thank the Forest Service for having a productive burn North of Red Canyon Campground.

**Philip Tenorio – Deputy County Manager:** I passed that information on to Pattern Energy; they will look into this. There are many locations of concern. We will follow up with this.

## **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A. COMMISSION:** Discuss limited personnel matters (Fire Chief), closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2).

- B. COMMISSION:** Discuss limited personnel matters (County Manager's End of Probation Evaluation), closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2).

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to enter into executive session.

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**Enter into Executive Session: 10:14 AM**

**Action Taken:**

**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to enter into regular session

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

**Enter into Regular session 12:15AM**

**Chairman Schwebach:** During the Executive Session we discussed limited personnel matters (Fire Chief), closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2) and Discuss limited personnel matters (County Manager's End of Probation Evaluation), closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2). No other discussions were had. No action taken.

**15. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:**

April 28, 2021 9:00 AM @ the Torrance County Admin Building.

**16. Signing of Official Documents**

**17. Adjourn.**

**Action Taken:**

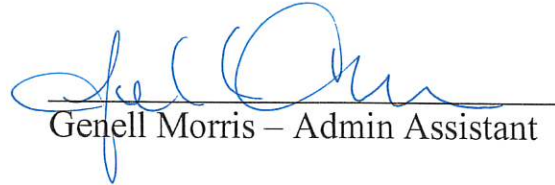
**Chairman Schwebach:** Makes a motion to adjourn Commission Meeting

**Commissioner McCall:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Candelaria - Yes; Schwebach - Yes; McCall -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

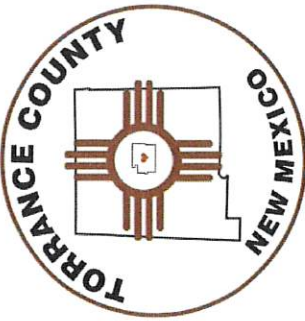
Meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM

  
Kevin McCall – Vice Chairman

  
Genell Morris – Admin Assistant

4/28/21  
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.



Commission Meeting  
Sign In Sheet

Meeting Date: April 14, 2021

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)	COMMISSION DISTRICT
✓ Marcie Wallin - John Perea	Estancia NM	
✓ Tracy Sedillo	Estancia, NM	3
✓ Don Dirks TCFD	Estancia	
✓ Marco A. Batales	150 Akin Farm Rd Estancia	3
✓ Jesse Lucero	Estancia NM	3
✓ Charlene Gutfrey	Moriaty	1
1-✓ Yvonne Otero	Clerk	





# TORRANCE COUNTY



## MANAGER'S REPORT

4/14/2021

Janice Y. Barela

505-544-4703

[jbarela@tcnm.us](mailto:jbarela@tcnm.us)



## 2021 Legislative Update

Some interesting facts about this year's Legislative Session (as of April 9, 2021):

Bills Introduced: 933

Bills Passed in 1<sup>st</sup> House: 334 (35.80%)

Bills Passed in 2<sup>nd</sup> House: 168 (18.01%)

Bills Sent to Governor: 158 (16.93%)

Bills Signed into Law: 140 (15.01%)

HB 105, the technical fix to last year's legislation regarding the issuance of industrial revenue bonds for renewable energy such as wind farms and solar farms, was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 6, 2021. Due to this legislation becoming law, the County may begin negotiations for a new Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) for another wind farm as early as June 2021.

HB 4, NM Civil Rights Act, was signed by Governor Lujan Grisham on April 7, 2021. I want to thank Sheriff Marty Rivera for taking the initiative to make sure Torrance County Sheriff's Office Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are up-to-date with the new laws that will go into effect in July. He went through the procurement process to hire a private, independent contractor to update the SOP's.

HB 285, Statewide Capital Projects (Capital Outlay Projects), was signed by the Governor Lujan Grisham on April 9, 2021. She did not veto any Torrance County projects. That means the County will receive the following funding:

- \$60,500 for renovations to the Moriarty senior center in Moriarty in Torrance County
- \$176,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish the Mountainair senior center in Mountainair in Torrance County
- \$25,000 to plan, design, construct and equip water system improvements for Duran in Torrance County
- \$100,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish a county administrative building in Torrance County
- \$700,000 to plan, design, construct, improve, furnish and equip the county fairgrounds in Torrance County
- \$75,500 to plan, design, construct and equip building security and entry control systems for the county 911 dispatch center in Torrance County
- \$25,000 to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish a room for cats at the Torrance County animal shelter in McIntosh in Torrance County



- \$300,000 to plan, design, and construct McNabb road between New Mexico highway 41 and Lexco Road, including signage, in Torrance County
- \$550,000 reappropriation for the Road Shop and Yard in Torrance County

I am excited for the day these bonds are sold and the County has access to the funding so we can begin these projects. The County has an amazing team working together on its projects. I appreciate the collaboration and the high level of expertise included in this ICIP work group.

## *Mark Your Calendars*

Here are some important dates for those who are interested in showing animals at the Torrance County Fair:

- April 22 – Tag-in Date for Steers & Heifers from 5-7 PM in Estancia
- May 1 – Cattle Ownership Deadline
- June 9 – Tag-in Date Lamb, Goat, and Swine from 5-7 PM in Estancia
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Tag-in Date Lamb, Goat, and Swine from 8-10 AM in Moriarty
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Lamb, Goat, and Swine Ownership Deadline
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – Fairground Clean-up from 7-11 AM
- July 28<sup>th</sup> – Fairground Clean-up from 4-7 PM

### **Claunch Pinto – NM State Forestry Grant**

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District, as part of their NM State Forestry Grants, specifically their 2019 NFL Funding, has met with the NM Department of Transportation to design a thinning project on highway right of way on NM HWY 42 on the north side of Cedarvale. This project will be approximately 56.5 acres. The slash will be chipped, and the wood will be stacked on the right of way for locals to pick up. This project is scheduled to begin in June 2021.

## *Departments Update*

### **Job Openings**

Torrance County is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Dispatcher (911 Operator/Communications Specialist) – Multiple positions (Open until April 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Animal Control Officer – 2 positions (Open until April 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Grants Assistant (Open until April 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Victim Support Specialist – PT (Open until April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Clerical Float (Open until May 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Mechanic (Will be advertised soon)

Torrance County is hosting a Job Fair this Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Lion's Club in Moriarty 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can get more information about these positions at the Job Fair or you may visit the



County website [www.torrancecountynm.org](http://www.torrancecountynm.org) and click on "Job Opportunities" for more information and to apply.

### **Road Department**

The Road Department is in the process of completing Saline Pump Rd. They have put down caliche material on 2.3 miles and will zip it tomorrow, April 15<sup>th</sup>. They have also finished the tree trimming on Martinez Rd. They will be moving to Lucy Rd from NM HWY 42 going north next week. They have about one (1) mile of road that has blown out, and they need to repair it. They will also start trimming trees on 321 for two miles. They are currently blading the roads as they receive complaints because it is too dry right now to blade all of the roads.

### **Sheriff's Office / Community Monitoring - Community Service Trash Pick Up**

During the last Commission Meeting, Commissioner McCall directed me to check into the use of inmates to pick up trash near the Pilot Truck Stop. During that meeting, I informed the Commission that Undersheriff Lucero was already looking into utilizing community service workers for this project.

Undersheriff Eli Lucero coordinated with Kathy Reyes, Community Monitoring, to secure court-ordered community service workers to pick up trash yesterday morning. Their first project was located east of Lisa's Truck Stop.

In four hours, two community service workers picked up 29 (55-gallons size) bags of trash. The Sheriff's Office was present to ensure the safety of the community service workers since they were working along the roadways. Using a Sheriff's Office pickup truck, the Sheriff's Office staff made three trips to the landfill.

Undersheriff Lucero has the following community service trash pick up project planned for this Friday, April 16th:

- Location: I-40 between exits 196 and 194, westbound lane
- Time: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM (6 hours)
- They are expecting five community service workers.

The City of Moriarty and the County are working on long-term remedies to this problem as well.

### **Fairgrounds**

I am requesting for the Commissioners to direct me on how they wish to proceed with the planning of the improvements to the fairgrounds. The County has the funds to begin the plan and design of the multi-purpose building. Do you want to meet as a Commission with the Fair Board at the fairgrounds? If so, I can coordinate with the Fair Board and can notice that meeting. If it is the Commission's preference for each Commissioner to meet individually with members of the fairboard, I can arrange that as well.