

FINAL
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 26, 2023, @ 9:00 AM

Commissioners Present: RYAN SCHWEBACH-CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT 2
KEVIN MCCALL- VICE CHAIR, DISTRICT 1
SAMUEL SCHROPP- MEMBER, DISTRICT 3

Other present: JANICE Y. BARELA- MADAM COUNTY MANAGER
JUAN TORRES- DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MIKE GARCIA- COUNTY ATTORNEY
LINDA JARAMILLO- COUNTY CLERK
KEVIN PHAM- CLERK II

1. Call to Order

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Call the Regular Commission meeting to order at 9:00AM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance lead by **Chairman Schwebach.**

Invocation lead by **Vice Chair McCall.**

3. Changes to the Agenda

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Are there any changes to the agenda?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: There are a couple of changes I would like to add. I would like to request that items 11-A and 11-D be removed from today's agenda. The other request is to move item 11-C after item 9, because it can affect the budget and decision.

4. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

A. **Manager:** Employee of the Second Quarter: Senaida Anaya

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Senaida has been very involved in public service for many years. We do this based on one quarter at a time. I would like to read what the nomination form said particularly about Senaida. We have Finance Director Noah Sedillo and the new Grant Administrator Amanda Lujan nominated Senaida for employee of the quarter, and this is what they have to say. Letter of nomination hereto attached:

Noah Sedillo, Finance Director, and I, Amanda Lujan, Grants Administrator nominate Senaida Anaya for the Employee of the Quarter. Senaida has worked as the Grants Assistant for two years

and for over ten years in other departments across Torrance County. During her time as Grants Assistant, and in the last quarter, she has learned a whole new department, managed a complex grants system, supported multiple departments, and bore the uncertainty of change with perseverance and poise. Senaida demonstrates her commitment to public service by serving as the President of the Torreon Land Grant and advocating for her hometown of Torreon. This service ethos carries over into her work as a county employee, always making decisions driven by what will best serve the people of Torrance County. As a public servant, Senaida has faced difficult and upsetting situations with grace and dignity, always focused on the good of the community. For the past six months, Senaida has managed the Grants Department alone. This responsibility has comprised managing numerous grants, including monthly reporting, invoicing, communicating with internal and external partners, supporting several departments, and completing the many tasks required for the fiscal year transition. Senaida's assistance with grants has directly led to the completion and implementation of over thirty projects and programs with approximately ten million dollars in funding. As Grant Assistant, she continues to show her knowledge, experience, and capability as she supports new colleagues in the Grants Department. Senaida's dedication and passion for public services make her an asset to Torrance County as both staff and a community member.

Accomplishments April to June 2023

- Managed 33 grants, monthly reports, finances, communication, and departmental support.
- Submitted approximately 10 grant applications.
- Collaborated with 10 County departments.
- Oversaw approximately ten million dollars of grant funding.
- Assisted with more than thirty programs and projects through grant support.
- Completed NM EDGE training.
- Attended NM Counties Conference.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: On a personal note. Knowing and working with Senaida, and her being in the County. I can tell you that she does all of this with an amazing attitude. No matter who comes to her for support or anything that they would need. She would drop everything and find any way possible to help, on top of her very busy schedule. I would like to present this certificate and award for Employee of the Second Quarter to Senaida Anaya for keeping the Grant Department functioning during a transition phase. Always making decisions driven by what will best serve the people of Torrance County, and for excellence in collaboration with County Departments.

Senaida Anaya-County Grant Assistance: I would like to say thank you to Torrance County for the opportunity to work for the county, and I am happy to serve my community and my county.

5. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - NONE**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **General public comment.**

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: There is nobody that signed up for in-person public comment.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: We do have one sign up on Zoom, and it is Tracey Master.

Tracey Master-County DWI Prevention Program Coordinator: Just a brief update regarding some upcoming activities sponsored by the DWI Prevention Program. Tonight, from 5pm until 7pm, we will have Middle School and High School night at the Estancia Aquatic Center. All of these events are free. This Saturday evening the 29th, we will have music in the park as part of the Old Timers festivities that will be from 4pm to 8pm next Wednesday. We will have family night at the Estancia Aquatic Center. That's August 2nd from 5pm to 7pm. We'll be hosting an outreach table at the Moriarty Comic Convention on August 5th from 10am to 4pm and then we will also be hosting bingo at the County Fair on Wednesday and Thursday, August 9th and 10th at 4pm, at the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation building. That's all I have.

B. Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) Project Requests. -NONE

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the July 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE & PURCHASING: Request approval of payables.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve payables.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Second the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. MANAGER: Approve Restrictive Housing Report – Second Quarter 2023

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: The folder that you received is additional documents for the Restrictive Housing Quarterly Report. This is for the second quarter of 2023. This is a requirement by state statute that this be reviewed by the commission and approved. That's why it is before you today.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Is this document generated by TCDM?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: That is correct. We received this from the Torrance County Detention Facility.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: As I read through this document, I see something that I think would be valuable to the commission as to how long these people are being held in restrictive housing.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: On the back side of the first page. There are the dates when they are placed into restrictive housing and the date that they're released.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Very good. Thank you.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: For future reference. I can pass this onto the individual that printed this out to put it all onto the same front page so it will be easily tracked straight across.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: As I read this, there are no females.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: That's my understanding, we have not had any females in the last quarter.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I find this odd.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: I can check and see what the historical data was showing or whether that would be something that would normally occur.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Looking at this, the majority of these are waiting for prehearing.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: As long as we're not missing the female side of the report, I'm fine with this.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: When I was down there last week, they had five female prisoners in that facility. So that probably would be a reason that we have none listed on restrictive housing.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: You said there were five?

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: There were five females in the entire facility.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: I can also confirm with Core Civic to make sure that this includes the females and not just solely a report on men.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve Restrictive Housing Report – Second Quarter 2023.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE-NONE**

11. C. **SHERIFF:** Discussion and possible approval to purchase 20 Harris Radios with necessary accessories.

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: Lieutenant Ballard was planning to be here for this; however, he has court today. He did provide me with some bulleted information. I'd just like to go ahead and read Lieutenant Ballard's bulleted items. There's five of them, and they are lengthy bullets. Attached **on following page** is Lieutenant Ballard bulleted information.

Cheryl Allen

From: Kent Ballard
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:18 AM
To: Cheryl Allen
Subject: RE: Agenda Item for Harris Radios

- The last time there was a significant purchase to upgrade and/or refresh the radio inventory was prior to 2007 during the Pete Golden administration when the department purchased new Motorola HT1250 units for the entire department. Several of these original Motorola HT1250 radios are still being used by deputies. Even under ideal-use circumstances, these radios have a service life before components will start to fail. As these problems arise (e.g., LCD screen going out, knobs breaking off, etc.), we have tried to repair them with parts off of some of the Motorola HT1250 units that were taken out of service for problems of their own.
- In 2011, the Sheriff's Office received numerous second-hand Motorola XTS3000 radios from the U.S. Marshals Service after they upgraded their inventory. These radios were 3-4 years old when we received them. These are the primary radios that are currently being used by the vast majority of deputies. As these radios get older, the rate of failure has begun to increase. This is most often the LCD screen going dark. This causes a problem where it is difficult to determine what channel the radio is currently on without memorizing the numbers (1-16) on the top dial. This series of radio is no longer in production as Motorola has upgraded to the APX series. As such, we have had to "cannibalize" older radios for parts to keep others operational. Additionally, we have purchased parts (e.g., knobs) from Ebay more than once because it was the only place we could find "new old stock" parts to keep these radios up and running.
- Since 2011, five (5) new radios (both Motorola and Kenwood) have been purchased individually at various times as the budget has allowed.
- We are a smaller department with a large area to cover. As such, radio communication with Dispatch and other law enforcement personnel is critical. Over the years, several upgrades have been made to the Torrance County Regional Dispatch infrastructure to improve radio performance, but nothing substantive has been done to update or refresh the individual radio. Technology has changed since 2011. If there is a decision to utilize the ever-expanding New Mexico Public Safety Radio Communications Network, which is digital rather than analog, the current radio inventory would not be compatible and would require replacement.
- The proposed dual-band Harris radio models were chosen due to the fact that they are completely compatible with our current analog infrastructure AND would be capable of upgrading to digital with no additional hardware.

Kent Ballard
Detective Lieutenant
Torrance County Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division (C.I.D.)
Office – (505) 544-4908 Cell – (505) 705-4033

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: Those were Lieutenant Ballard's comments, and the total cost, what we're requesting is for radios and accessories. Which is for 20 portable XL-200P radios. The brochures and specs on those radios were included within your packet. The cost of this is \$126,333.32. Previously, advanced communications had submitted a quote to us which was in the last fiscal year, which we had included towards the end of the year. But we were unable to purchase those at that time. This time, I had to get a revised quote from them, and they graciously did not increase the quote. It remains at this current level. We are hoping to possibly use the Capital Outlay funds in order to make this purchase.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I know this is a lot of money, but as we found out in the debriefing, Ms. O'Dell hosted after the Echo Ridge fire, our radios in the Fire Department are analog and were not able to speak to other agencies. FEMA required post 911, that we start making these types of conversions to a digital radio.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We're talking about \$6,000 A radio. What is the life expectancy, and warranty? I'm seeing three years extended warranty. Is that's total coverage?

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: I don't know.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: In the grand scheme of radios, for law enforcement, are there only a couple of suppliers or are there several of them.

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: These were chosen because they would be compatible with both the analog system and then with the new digital system that the state is moving for. These are the radios that, Matt Propp, the previous Emergency Manager, was wanting to purchase. What I have been told is that the Sheriff's Department thought that this would be a good option for us to continue with.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We need to upgrade the radios. I'm not arguing that. I just would like to know what's out there. Is this the best price for the radios? Is this dependable? I don't know what else is out there. And if you guys did your due diligence, and this is what you pick, I'm okay with that. Knowing that we're not just taking the first one that comes along.

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: I know Matt Propp had done quite a bit of research into the radios before he had suggested them several years ago. Ballard liked these radios as well. His thoughts are that they would be durable and be able to meet the needs for now and in the future.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Mr. Ballard is the one that did all this research, correct?

David Frazee-County Sheriff: Yes.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: I know it says multiband. When I'm going through the specs, it says dual band. Is it simultaneous, or does it need to be programmed for analog and then switched over and programmed again for the digital. When we had the meeting with the state, they came to talk about the P 25 Project and switching over. There were certain radios that can do analog and digital at the same exact time. But then there were other ones. I believe they were the ones that Chief Dirks had purchased that were capable of both, but they had to be programmed or

switched between the two. It wasn't just like pushing a button on the radio. There are dispatchers here as well. They could probably speak on it. I just want to make sure that those would be capable of that.

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: I've talked to Ballard about these radios in the past few days. This is something that would require additional software to move over to that. However, the bigger piece to that is Dispatch is not compatible with that statewide digital system at this time. So, it would require Dispatch to upgrade their consoles to be able to move to the state system, is my understanding.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Walk me through this. Currently, until we upgrade Dispatch, these radios, they cannot communicate with dispatch. And now the other emergency state entities are digital.

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: Some agencies have moved to digital.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Does an officer have to be there to flip on a switch depending on who they want to talk to? How does that work?

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: It depends on the area. Right now, they must switch based on the area that they're in.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Do we have a repeater system that we're using? Will this equipment be compatible with the present repeater equipment? So that if we go to a state channel, then we can talk to any of the state agencies through our repeater with these radios.

Christine Romero-County 911 Dispatch Director: No, Dispatch and all of its repeaters would have to be upgraded to digital. Right now, we are using analog.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Base on a meeting that I attended with the State Fire Marshal's Office, and I believe our Emergency Manager was there too, and may be able to speak to this. My understanding is that if you were to communicate with any other agencies, particularly with the state, there is a dedicated number that they switch to on the radio that they will be able to communicate with at that time. There may be some issues that may have occurred. The Echo Ridge fire was an example of one where everybody was talking at the same time on the same radio frequency. And there were issues, where one person was trying to say something during a moment that somebody took a breath. In regard to simultaneously being able to do that, it is a very good question that our Deputy County Manager brought up. Maybe that's something in the future, that would be more relevant. But right now, we have a lot of work that must be done in Torrance County to get to the place where we would be able to use that capability.

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: One of the things I would like to point out is that they were looking at how long we've been using our current radios, which is from 2011. Most of the ones that we're using are from the US Marshals. We are still using radios from 2007. If you look at the longevity of these radios, if we buy just analog radios now, then when we go to the state system, we will have the ability to make that transition. Whereas if we get these radios we will have radios already in stock, and we can make that transition to continue to use the radios we purchased now.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Unless analog radios are going to cost about \$50,000 instead of \$120,000. There is a possibility we're putting \$120,000 on a system we're not even going to use, and they're outdated by the time we get our system up. I don't know if that's the case, but that's how I'm seeing this. Can anybody answer that?

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: I don't know the answer to that.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This is one of the agenda items that they had wanted to bring forward earlier. We have put it off until today so that we could get some more information. But with the additional questions that you're asking, we can defer this to the next meeting and see if we can get more answers in regard to what you all are requesting.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Before we go and spend this money, I want to make sure that we've got the right radios to move forward.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: After learning what's going on with dispatch, I feel that we need to at least get a ballpark of what we need to do there, with timeframe and that sort of thing. Please understand that I'm not opposed to any of this. I just want to do it right.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Another reason it was on today's agenda was we wanted to make sure that the funding opportunity was transparent as part of the budget cycle, and the approval of the Final Budget. I wanted to let you know, and the Sheriff's Office that my recommendation was going to be that this didn't come from ARPA funds, as we previously discussed or what they were initially requesting. But it comes from the budget. We believe that there is money available there currently. So even if the commission were to approve the final budget, we still have the money available within the budget to have this approval afterward.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Most of the ARPA funds, are in motion already. Ballard's is one with all the answers to this, is that correct? Is that what I'm hearing?

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: If I could make a couple suggestions, number one, have the sales company here to present as well. Number two let's get some demos, and let's demo them in our area.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm sure they'd be willing to do that right off the bat. That's a good idea.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Yes, it is a very good idea.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I would like dispatch, whoever is the guru and understands dispatch and its technology to see how it connects, whether it's a sales rep, or whatever. I'm sure there's going to be a price tag with that little project at some point.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Yes, and I would caution us in purchasing this equipment, to have a plan for equipment that will work with these radios and when it's going to be installed. So, we can look forward to it over the next five years.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: The silver lining in this, is that this is off the New Mexico Statewide Price Agreement. So, we'll be getting 25% to 26% off MSRP.

10. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

A. FINANCE: Motion to approve Resolution 2023- 22, a Resolution approving Budget Adjustment Requests for the FY 2022-2023 Budget.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: In conjunction with inputting our fourth quarter report, these are the budget adjustment requests that we are presenting for the FY 23 budget which we wrapped up as of June 30, 2023. Our reporting is due July 31st. These requests were not budgeted in the LGBMS in the state system. We're correcting that information with the expenditures that we've incurred this year. We're requesting that these general fund revenue expenditures and the additional funds, fire pool, EMS allotment and so forth to be added to correct what we had.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do you have a handout that goes with this?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Yes, sir. It's going to be attachment A. For the public in attendance, this is up on the screen as well. I will be starting at the top with the general fund revenue, with licenses and permits. We had a budget of \$25,000 that we expected to receive, we received \$29,447.75. We are requesting an increase to that line item to correct that. Same carry over with Inter-Governmental Grants distribution. We had \$665,000 budgeted for it, and we received an additional \$30,530. We requested an adjusted budget of the revenue to \$695,530. With the taxes, it was projected at \$7,250,476, We received an increased amount of \$2,077,468.97. A request for an adjusted budget of \$9,327,944.97. Charges for service budget of \$133,927. An increase of \$293,579.29, with a requested adjusted budget of \$427,506.29 for a net effect increase of \$2,406,026.01 for the general fund revenue.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: What kind of things would be in the charges for service?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: It's in your additional documents. You'll have one labeled 10 C, and you will be able to get the answer there on the very first page for \$44,000. It will say charges for service, and that will include animal pound fees, probate fees, rental fees, share fees, impact fees and other charges for service.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: For the other charges for service, this is on the state system. This would be all of our other small revenue line items we have in the general fund whether it'll be IPRA fees, and all the other things that are not specifically spelled out are all kind of lumped into one on the state side. Noah if you'd like to pull up the detailed report from Tyler, that's the one that would show you exactly all the other fees that are tied into this one and this is just based off actual revenue collected.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This may also include from the Treasurer's Office, the \$75.00 for delinquent mobile homes, and that is a significant amount that comes in. I don't know if Madam Treasurer Sedillo is on Zoom, she may know the amount that they are receiving annually on that one.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: The reports is generating right now, and I ran it for all revenues for the County.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Would fire allotment and local PILT be part of that?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: That would not be included in this.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Why did we under budget a lot of this to begin with?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: From my interpretation of what was in there, some of it was missing and spread out. We are trying to break up some of the allotments.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, part of it was changed by the Finance Director and part of it is the Tyler System.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Part of it is the Tyler System, and part of it was also going back to the way he was inputted. We had three different pieces of information. We had the County Budget, LGBMS Budget, and then the submitted budget in the system. They were not matching. So, this is the last portion to make them all come together for the fourth quarter.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I've got to be honest, when I see these major changes, it makes me leery. It makes me leery because it makes me question, what else is not necessarily accounted for and presented in a manner that this commission was accustomed to?

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: This is the fourth quarter. So, is it safe to say that these numbers are times four? Or is this the adjustment to get to that?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: This is the adjustment from July 1st to June 30th.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: In the past at least two of the Commissioners have been familiar with seeing these done sporadically throughout the fiscal year with the changes. With the conversion that we've been going through with the software system, this has been a difficult thing to get all the revenues to communicate with the Finance Department, and from the Treasurer's Office. Once we were able to get all the final revenue numbers, that's when we knew exactly what needed to be adjusted in the final report of the quarterly and the budget.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Answer a few questions for me, I'm looking at PILT revenues increase of \$289,000. Why? Why was that not budgeted to begin with?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: I could not answer that. I just know that that's the money we received.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How about an \$820,000 increase in fire allotment?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: That was for what we received from the State Fire Marshal after the budget. That was just another one that didn't come back with the budget adjustments.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, for the fire allotment, we didn't budget the grant during that fiscal year that the grant came to fruition.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: Correct if I remember correctly, the application was due around June, and we didn't get the award until later in the year. We just didn't come back after the award with a corresponding budget adjustment.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: In the past when we received those grants, a lot of times we adjusted the budget at the same time. This year we didn't. Why?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: The biggest issue was the system conversion and trying to get the new Tyler system functioning.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I hope you guys understand my point of view. I've heard about issues with the Tyler system over and over. Are we done with the issues? Are we looking at accurate numbers?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: The numbers are accurate, as reported. There are still issues with the system. That was one of the issues that I was trying to explain and show. Once the system is properly set up, this quarterly reporting should be almost instantaneous. Taking our account numbers and matching them up into the state numbers is going to be a couple of clicks of the mouse. That portion is not set up. We do still obviously have little bugs in the system that we're working with Tyler. We are calling the tech support and letting them know. But I'd say we are probably 90% done, and it's just really working out the kinks now.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: In hopes of your approval today of this report and everything else on the agenda before you, this last portion of this report was manually done, because our numbers from the state reporting are not talking to our members yet. When we clean that up, it's going to be those few clicks of a mouse, and that painstaking process is going to go away.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It makes you feel good when you look, and there's another 2.4 million in income.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: As Manager Barela stated earlier, one of the issues that we had with respect to the revenue recording was getting the Tyler Eagle System to talk to the Tyler Encode System. That was where Treasure Sedillo had been trying to go through and manually get this portion working because it didn't work the way it was supposed to. I'm not sure if she has that 100% worked out. But at least she's gotten it to where she's not going to have to go back and look at nine months' worth of revenue and try and journal that in. So that revenue should be reported on a more regular basis.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I hope you're right. I hope that the system is close. You made a comment, Mr. Chairman, that it's great that for once the 2.4 million offsets, \$815,000 in expenditures, but next year's fourth quarter, could we have it the other way? That's what bothers me. I'm glad it's in this direction but we could be hit next year in the fourth quarter with an opposite outcome.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: If you remember from the budget meeting, Mrs. Sedillo said that revenues were up because of better collection by the Assessor's Office and the Treasurer's Office, and that she would have those fourth quarter numbers for us. She was seeing a trend upward in our collections, as a result, in our revenue. I understand your

concern. This is trending upward and, unless we have a bunch of people moving out of the county and quit paying their property taxes and, the various other fees and taxes, we're going to see that pretty much continue upward as collections.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I tend to agree that it has been the trend. I'm always uncomfortable when numbers change to this percentage.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I understand that. Is it an anomaly? Is it a mistake? Or is this really a trend? And you'll have to watch carefully to see what that does going forward.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: The previous Finance Director, also historically had been extremely conservative in budgeting gross receipts. He just wanted to make sure that the county had enough money to cover everything. I think he was not wanting to put a dollar amount that was going to be too high, and we wouldn't reach that. That's why you see in the local tax increase of over \$2 million.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Let me put this in perspective. Firstly, I do think these numbers are accurate, and they're going to be. However, I've been here for four years and I'm accustomed to a very conservative budget. We just passed a budget where we've increased it by a lot. Which I was comfortable with, and now suddenly, these numbers change in our favor. Now we're budgeting against something that is no longer conservative. I'm having to adapt to this and forgive me for being a little cautious. I'm just trying to get a better understanding for this Commission.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We will see whenever we go to the final budget, that the budget is still conservative, and it is comparable to what was approved in the last fiscal year. I know this is what you're looking at right now, and you don't have that to compare to now. We are still being conservative.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: With the Tyler conversion, what we're seeing now, is going to be a one-time deal. In the future, it's going to be real time information as the grants come in, we're going to adjust the budget. Everything will be interconnected and working.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Correct. If you could pull out the two-page handout 10 B. It's going to be the State of New Mexico, Local Government Budget Management System report recap, FY 23, for quarter four. The middle pages are going to be a revenue column and an expenditure column for this previous year that we're currently discussing. If you jumped to the last page the actual activity of our revenues was \$46,493,207.94, our expenditures \$40,967,720.15. Those are actual, so our revenues are exceeding our expenditures. I don't have the exact number when we last presented it to you, but this number has increased since we've last had a discussion and your approvals from the last budget talks. This commission has been very apprehensive about seeking and setting in motion the Wind PILT. I believe we are going to start construction in the fall. There's going to be additional revenue, I believe that goes through 2026 or 2027.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: It's obligated, isn't it?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Yes, so more GRTs are going to be coming with it too.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: At the very last it says adjusted balance of \$21,000,000 or a little over. What is that?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: That is going to be your cash in the bank so to speak. We started the year with \$17,500,000, and we are ending the year with \$21,057,000.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: These are actuals.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: These are year to date actuals. Then with respect to the final budget, we still budgeted the same GRT numbers at \$2.1 million. So very conservative, there's going to be an increase. That would be one to monitor. If I remember correctly, the previous Finance Director had stated, when he was budgeting the GRT, that this was going to be the first year where we didn't have PILT. So, he went back to the pre COVID GRT that was coming in. The other thing that happened this year is we had the internet sales tax come in. That's another thing that was added to our GRT. That's why our GRT increased from what was budgeted from \$2.1 million to \$3.2 million. We are keeping that in the low \$2.1 million in revenue on the final budget, because at the time, we didn't have the updated numbers. The only number we increased, and that was based off what the Treasurer recommended was \$4.6 million on property tax collection. And then this year, we're budgeting \$5.5 million on property tax collection. Even year to date, we collected \$5,585,431 and we're budgeting to collect \$5,530,586.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: So, I'm going to go back to that balance, what we're ending the year with. This commission set in place to go from the state standards of three twelves in reserves to five twelves in reserves. Is that not where that difference is?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: It is part of it, but that balance has not been touched. It was there from the previous years from my understanding. We haven't utilized it; it's just been there.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: As our budget increases, our expenditures increase. Then our reserve has to increase accordingly.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Based off the percentage. Yes, that is correct.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Since a lot of this discussion is about the increases in the final budget, would you like to take a moment to compare that as you're talking about this?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It would make me feel more comfortable. When you start looking at this, there's so much in here. I do pay attention to trends; I do pay attention to. When that gets mixed up on me it makes me very cautious.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: That's understandable because we are changing the shape and direction of our budget. We must make sure that all types of fundamentals are there to support that.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: This is the Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2023-24. It's operating because it's already been approved at the interim level from DFA through the

LGBMS system. I would recommend you make cross reference to your fourth quarter, either your detail or your summary report and compare those numbers at the bottom. I guess the main point now is that we are starting off with more assets, but the key point is our revenue from last year. This is our actual \$47,134,793. This amount was last year's and is based off of our fourth quarter. Last year, we had revenues of \$47,134,793. Off the last page of your detailed summary report for the fourth quarter expenditures we have \$58,974,562. This year, with this proposed budget that the Commission has approved as interim, the operating budget is \$48,059,170. We're proposing less expenditures this year by roughly \$600,000 in this budget.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We had \$10 million more in expenditure than last year.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: Historically, going back through all the LGBMS budgets, this governing body has always approved more expenditures than revenues. And historically, they have always brought in more revenue than expenditure on actuals. This is going across all funds.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I don't remember approving \$10 million in deficit.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: DFA would not approve our quarterly reports if any of them, especially the fourth quarter, was in the negative. We are not operating in the negative on our cash balances. One of the things that I wanted to show in getting to the Local Government Budget Management System is this spreadsheet that you have in front of you. It shows our cash beginning balances, and our cash beginning balances are not part of the budget that's given to you. The budget that has been presented to you has shown this is how much we expect to receive in our revenues. This is how much we expect to have as expenditures. That is supposed to balance out, and it does. We're not taking into consideration the cash rollover we're having from one fiscal year to the next.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I've never seen it presented like this.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We're showing you new ways of looking at things and hoping to get all the information across to you in a more transparent way.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: In the meeting that I had with the Deputy County Manager, County Manager and Treasurer Sedillo, they did explain the rollovers to me, and now I see how those numbers are going to work.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: Keep in mind, also that there are also expenditures on there that we have on the books that might take us several years. That might be your legislative appropriation. Some of the funding that comes in is put in there so we plan for it. We might cut a PO for design service. Like the road shop, that's been in the books for how long and now it's being built. Essentially, what the county is doing is floating the legislative appropriations of \$900,000, because we've already spent the funds. We're waiting for the reimbursement. We're going to get a million dollars back this year that we spent last year.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: An example would be the ARPA funds. It came in one fiscal year that we'll have expenditures on that for the next fiscal year. So that revenue would not be hooked to this coming budget that you're going to be voting on for the final, but

we'll have the expenditure. That will be something that will appear as if we're spending more than we have. That is the rollovers we are talking about.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: So basically, there's a time lag in many of these entries that results in what looks to be a deficit. But as the actuals come in, that corrects it. Would that be an accurate summary?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: That is correct. Another good example would be the ICE payments. We could receive money from ICE this month or last month. We don't pay it out until we receive the invoice and sometimes with ICE, they're several months behind. So, then we'll get this lag with two invoices. So, that's several million dollars that we're spending, that we've already collected for.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Is there a better way to boil it down for the commissioners?

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: One of the things that I had recommended moving forward was starting to bring these state reports to you, every time we file a quarterly report. That way, you're used to seeing these numbers quarterly. Then that paired with having the budget adjustments at least monthly. If not, at the very least quarterly. Just so that you can see it, and not get hit with a year's worth of budget adjustments all at once.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: That would let us analyze trends in revenues or expenditures, quarter by quarter. It makes sense to me.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It doesn't entirely make sense to me; I think I have a grasp of it. We do need to move forward one way or another.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I have faith in what our staff is telling us with these numbers, but I certainly agree that we must be watchful and keep track quarter to quarter.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: With the recommendation that Deputy County Manager Torres made, we are going to be bringing you those reports quarterly or even if you want to have them more frequently at your pleasure. We can do that also.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: At this point, I'm going to want it more frequently. Until I understand and get a handle on this. You're asking us to move forward, and we need to move forward. For me, I'm confident it's all there. It's not getting this county upside down. I'm not as confident as I was the last time we did this.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: I know from the time that I worked in the County Treasurer's Office as the Chief Deputy Treasurer, the County Treasurer, used to present the Treasurer's report monthly before the Commission. If we just made it a habit to do a monthly financial report before the Commission, I think that would also help in this process of understanding exactly where we are regarding the budget. So, Noah, I would like for us to put something together monthly and do a monthly presentation. Even if it's just handing out a balance sheet or some kind of report on our budget.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Yes, ma'am. In analyzing this budget and going through the quarter report, there was money that was budgeted that was extra, that was never going to be tapped into. There was one for \$300,000 for utilities and electricity on the Commission line item. That money was never going to be touched. I don't know why it was there. We've been looking for and cleaning that up. I want you to have a little bit of faith in the work that we're doing. I just want to make one last comment, that we have budgeted more revenue this year and less expenditures.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The revenues that we have budgeted are based on actual.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Yes.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: Except for gross receipts, that is very conservative.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I remember the conversation that we did anticipate gross receipts to take a significant jump. But we did not stick that in there.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: That concerns me if we're running that far off from actuals to budget. That's hard for me to sit up here and feel comfortable when you're almost that far out extended. I think you can get yourself in trouble by not knowing those numbers. When you're just kind of guessing and projecting. It's no doubt that I'm very apprehensive about the monies that were proposed in the interim budget. I asked Deputy Torres to pull out a kind of extract of our revenues as to what is passed through in grants and state monies. I think that's important because we get the money, and we never touch it. It just passes right on through. That's a huge number of \$46 million. I think it's important. The \$18,906,000 is our money, including gross receipts, property taxes, the County Road Fund, etc. Monies that pass through our account are \$27,586,000. Like prison funds and fire protection funds, law enforcement protection and grants. As we focus on that \$48 million number, I'm focusing more on the \$18 million, because that is what we can control versus the other pass through that it just goes right on through our county.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I would say there are no guarantees in life. That's your concern, but if we're going to budget on the \$18 million and change revenue, then we're going to go back forty years.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Back to your point, Commissioner. That is what we're budgeting because the others are just passing through. We don't even get to spend it. We don't have any control over it.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We have no control over whether it comes to us or not. We have no control over whether it passes through. That the nature of that beast in my mind.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: But this commission, really in my opinion, should be budgeting the \$19 million.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I see what you're getting at. And I agree with you.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: If we're budgeting off \$19 million, we're going nowhere.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Historically, that's what we've been budgeting.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: The county has been falling farther and farther behind every year with that type of budget. And now we're in a position where we're having to spend a lot of money to catch up.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's not entirely accurate. The reason being this is your first budget cycle. For Commissioner McCall and I, our budget cycles have been presented in a whole different way. In the past, when we were looking at these budgets, I could go back and look at the overall expenditures. Going through that, we could see the trends in certain reserves. Prime example, we always budgeted the Sheriff's Office the full amount of a maximum pay possible for a deputy. We knew there was rollover money in there. I always thought, the money that wasn't spent that year, we would roll it over into the general fund. Turns out, we weren't. With it staying there, the fund just kept growing, which I don't agree with. We can start budgeting very closely to where the expenditures are, and in revenue, have a cushion. With what we're doing now the wiggle room is gone. That's my hesitation. And I think I'm seeing it more and understanding it more. I'm getting more okay with it. I do have confidence in our staff with what they're doing.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I think, Mr. Chairman, that your experience and Commissioner McCall experience are invaluable. Without coming into this process with the old ways in my head, I'm more comfortable with what I'm seeing here.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: With the first item that we're discussing with the budget adjustments, these budget adjustments are just being placed in there, as it sits on LGBMS. When you go on to that system right now, we have this little error message that says actuals are exceeding budget authority. Because we have these overages, we need to make these adjustments to go on and we don't get an audit finding saying we exceeded our authority on the budget. That's why I'm putting these increases for the actuals. Just to make sure our budget matches. We'll remove that and remove the potential of the audit finding.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I want to speak on the interim budget a little bit, because I've been very apprehensive and somewhat taken back by what was approved that late night. I put all of the budgets aside and overages, and all the actuals on what we've been spending and added it up very quickly and we were \$1.5 million in new numbers and new money's being spent. Then I pull up the \$19 million that we really have to spend. That's almost 10% of an increase in one year, and it frightened me. When you increase a government budget by the monies you have to spend by possibly 9% to 10%, we'd better be taking notes and doing something maybe a little different.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: When we were talking about the increase, it was an increase in certain line items. It was not an increase in the overall budget. What the expenditures were for FY 23. We did not exceed those expenditures, even with the increases of the salaries, increases of other line items funds did not exceed the expenditures that were approved by this commission for 2023 budget.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: If we're looking at the annual rate of inflation, I think we can use a figure a little less than 10% increase in the budget. We're looking at around 5% to 6.3%, inflation. So, there are a lot of costs that are going up that we have to meet. And that's all there is to it. With diligence and oversight quarterly, I think that we can address your concerns, as the actuals come in.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Don't get me wrong, I knew that. And I understand that I own a business. I get it, and I see it, but to see it to that level, in one jump, concerns me.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We do pay attention to the budget as department heads and elected officials submit the requisition requests. We're watching the budget per each one of the requests for purchase. I know that it's not very common, and we brought it before you in some of the line items for the interim budget that we felt needed to be increased because of the cost. For example, Animal Services was one of the departments. Most of the departments are still staying well within their budget and below their budget. We are monitoring it at each step of the process as well.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: It was the six new employees that really got to me for a county that's not growing in population by much and is not changing in land mass.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The six new employees are a huge chunk of that increase in the budget. I've also looked at this county in many ways, and I'll use P and Z as a prime example. They're understaffed, and I feel that it was necessary. It may be a long time before new positions are added. I look at where we're going to be three years down the road. I honestly believe if we don't add those positions, you're going to be faltering in many areas, and that was my driving factor.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: At the end of the day, that was the one employee, that I said, would better the quality of life for Torrance County citizens. If we can clean up some of these abandoned properties. I had no problem with that. It was all the other fluff.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: In the private sector I watched our crews be reduced. Then I saw maintenance and different things fall by the wayside, because the workload was beyond what the assigned personnel can handle. As Commissioner Schwebach has said, three years from now, we're going to benefit from this, and three years from now it would cost us more money to start these positions up.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's my belief but there's no guaranteeing that. I've said at the last meeting what we just did was a rolling of the dice. I'm rolling the dice on our employees, on what's coming to boost morale to compensate for inflation. It may not be there the following year; it depends on how things go and how these departments beef up.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I love our discussion today because this has really been something that's been weighing heavy on me because I've been looking at creating an Economic Development Department. I would have gone for a Beautification Department where we mow weeds and pick up trash to improve the quality of life in this county. I can get behind that. Or even a Teen Center. I keep going down these roads of what would increase the quality of life. If we want to do an Economic Development Center, or Chamber of Commerce to entice business and get new employees and businesses coming in, I'm all for that.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I think this is a proper time for me to explain a concept that you may be able to relate to in what you just stated, “Quality of life for the individuals, for the citizens, for the taxpayers”. That is the aim. And what I've seen visiting with staff and with admin. in the past two years, they have been behind in a lot of areas, because they're putting out fires. To get to those projects, we must have management in position to manage it. In my business, I've had to turn down a lot of work because I don't have the manpower. This is where I see the potential and the intent for our county employees. I hope morale has picked and hope you are seeing the vision of what I'm looking at. I will be pushing this, because it's achievable, it is attainable. We must have the manpower. On the flip side, I'll apply this to my operation also. If you dump money on employees and positions and you don't get a return, you must adjust. You must back out of it and that inevitably means losing positions.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I see this as an investment in the future of Torrance County. In improving the infrastructure, and that will spread out to improving quality of life. With any investment you watch the ups and downs all the time. But the long-term trend is always up. I say, “Have a little faith but pay close attention.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Then are we ready to move forward.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Yes.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Yes.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-22.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. FINANCE: Motion to approve Resolution 2023- 23 , a Resolution approving the FY 2022-2023 4th Quarter Report.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: This is the report we've been discussing in conjunction with the previous discussion. It is a two-page handout, in addition to a supporting summary report and that is your fourth quarter report.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: All of the adjustments that you've approved on the previous resolution are included in this report.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-23.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. **FINANCE:** Motion to approve Resolution 2023- 24, a Resolution approving the FY 2023-2024 Final Budget. (Public Hearing)

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to enter into a public hearing to discuss and give the public time to talk upon resolution 2023- 24. FY 2023-2024 final budget

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Entering into Public Hearing at 10:45 AM

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We do have one person sign up for public comment for the public hearing. It is Danelle Johnson.

Mike Garcia-County Attorney: Swore in Danelle Johnson.

Danelle Johnson: I'd like to thank each one of you for this focus, that makes us learn so much about the details of the budget. We have got to get down in the weeds so that we can understand this. As a citizen, I tend to look at this and say, well, why didn't they do this and why didn't they do that or why is it happening this way? I try not to be that way because there are many, many reasons for the decisions being made. The reason I love this County, is because of the commitment of the people in this county. I was able to ride with Leonard Lujan to look at vacating a road. I was able to get some insights into that area by riding along with Leonard Lujan who has worked for this County since he was a teenager. For the salaries that we pay, he does it because he loves the County, as does everyone in this room. As I look around and count everybody, I thank you for your willingness to go to the micro level, and to grapple with learning state budgeting. If we depended on the money that is generated in our area to run the public-school districts and government, we wouldn't be able to do it with the way the formulas are set up. The quality of life is what it's all about and I thank each one of you for your commitment to the quality of our lives because that is what has kept us as a great place to live. And I commend you on your willingness to continue with this battle.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We do have a department head. Christine Romero.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We had spoken about this before. I think it would be more prudent to pull this out of the public hearing. Usually in the public hearing we listen, and then we make a decision. Is there anyone else for public hearing?

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: There's no one on Zoom for public hearing.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to end the public hearing for resolution 2023-24. Approval of the FY 2023-2024 final budget.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Mr. Chairman, will there be discussion amongst the commissioners following the ending of public hearing?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yes, public hearings is designed for the public an opportunity to present their concerns, gratitude, that sort of thing for the Commission. When we exit public hearings, then it'll be like anything else. We will present a motion and a discussion.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Thank you, I'll second the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We are now back in regular session for item 10C to approve Resolution 2023- 24 , a Resolution approving the FY 2023-2024 Final Budget.

Returning back into regular session from public hearing at 11:04AM.

Christina Romero 911 Director: First, we wanted to know if you had any questions for us.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I've been told that, during our hearing, you all were trying to get on Zoom, and something failed on our end. So now here's the opportunity to present and discuss with the Commission, about your department concerning the budget.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director Our biggest thing was what our raises are going to be. It's my understanding that those with less experience were receiving a \$4.00 an hour raise, and the remainder which includes those with 15 plus years' experience will only be receiving the \$2.00 countywide raise. We were wondering what the reasoning was behind that.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The initial reasoning, firstly the \$17.00 to the \$19.00.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director That's not what our question is. I'm almost positive that the figures for three of the dispatchers that are up there for FY2023 are not correct. They were \$17.00.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: There were four employees, and their rate of pay was \$17.00 and one of them was \$18.06. They were brought up, because during the Commission deliberation they wanted to bring up that starting pay to \$17.00. Then once they pass their certification it will be \$19.00. If they were uncertified \$17.00, once they pass, it would be at \$19.00. The reason the Commission ended up doing this was to give them that boost. Essentially if you hire someone they would be brought up to the same rate of pay as

those who have been here a little bit. They wouldn't have been receiving the same cost of living as everyone. The Commission was just trying to correct that disparity.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We were increasing the starting salary because we don't have anybody applying.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We were looking to bring parity amongst the positions throughout the county. We were looking to bring parity amongst all of the employees in the county who are in similar positions or in positions of similar responsibility, so that you don't have this big swing from one person from one department to another.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So back to your question.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director Which positions are the certified 911 dispatchers being compared to. As far as responsibilities, liability, and knowledge?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The \$17.00 is a start pay. Once they're certified, which is essentially on the job certification, right?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director No, the certification comes from the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy after they attend the Public Safety Telecommunicator Certification Course and pass that, then they are certified by the state.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Then their pay rate goes up to \$19.00. How long does that take? What are they doing before they are certified?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director They must go to the academy within one year of their date of hire.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What's their job description at \$17.00? Are they shadowing a certified tech or certified dispatchers?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director Yes, they cannot be working solo under any circumstances because they are uncertified.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That was the reason for that because we've been carrying these vacant positions for a very long time. We're hoping to correct that. Now your question is the \$4.00 versus the \$2.00?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Previous to this, I think it was \$15.00 an hour instead of the \$17.00. That was not reflected in the beginning of that. So, it would show an increase overall of a wage correction of \$2.00 an hour increase, and then the cost of living of \$2.00 on top of that. That's why she's asking why \$4.00 for the lower level with less experienced versus the higher level with more experience and more years in the County as well.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We put \$2.00 on top of the \$15.00 to attract, and then a \$2.00 general wage increase across the County on top of that. This is not a \$4.00 special circumstance to people who are very junior and just coming in. They would get the

same \$2.00 general wage increase that everybody else does. We must bring it up by \$2.00, as Commissioner Schwebach explained, to try to attract people.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: I understand that but without bumping all the salaries up, then you're narrowing that gap between someone with very little experience versus someone with a lot of experience.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Did we keep or remove the years of service within dispatch?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This was a discussion that we were talking about during the interim budget meeting. It was brought up as to whether this Commission wanted to remove the salary schedule. I believe Commissioner McCall wanted to visit with our director, so we were going to wait to have that discussion. Currently, it's still in place, unless the Commission votes to remove it.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's why we have the different pay rates that reflect years of service.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This is exactly where they would be in the salary schedule. If you increase the salary schedule by \$2.00 it will also go according to how many years of service, they have. That's how they're placed in and where the discussion came in. Do you want to remove them from that salary schedule? Or keep them in it?

Currently, those that hold those positions are placed in this salary schedule, and that was increased by \$2.00. It's all those positions other than the 911 dispatchers. For those that are the dispatchers the salary schedule was increased to the starting rate of pay that the Commissioners had approved and then it was built across for longevity. This is not updated, because the uncertified should be at \$17.00.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Correct, I have not updated it. The difference would be the dollar amount.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: So, we will add \$2.00 on top of this.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: Yes, and there's two separate functions. One, you would approve at base pay increase for starting dispatchers in addition to the COLA. Those are two separate items.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, we have two supervisors and one director.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: We also have two Trainer/NCIC Coordinators slash Dispatcher positions as well.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: In getting ready for this meeting, I looked up the definition of a cost-of-living increase and a general wage increase. A general wage increase is one that's given across the board to all employees without considering longevity or experience. What I would call what we appropriated is a general wage increase. That doesn't address your concerns about narrowing the gap, but it should make sense by the definition of a wage increase, rather than a cost-of-living increase.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What are you proposing?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director, I think it should be fair, and everyone should get the same amount. We've already lost one that has 15 years of experience to Santa Fe, and her last day is today.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Does anyone know what Santa Fe is paying?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director Yes, she will be getting \$40.00 an hour for her experience. They just got new raises put in place. Depending on your certification, years of experience, and your training, that is what they're going by. They start at \$22.00 an hour. So, the people at Dispatch that didn't get that extra raise that the newer people got, can all go there for \$40.00 or more an hour. They also do a 10% shift differential, and there's a \$2,000.00 transfer bonus.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We can't compete with Santa Fe.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director We understand that.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: In the past we have also been told that we can contract our 911 services to Santa Fe or to Albuquerque, is that correct?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: I know that if we end up having to shut down dispatch, we will have to look for alternative dispatching services that require a contract with another agency.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Now that's not the best situation, but it's doable. It's not just Dispatch it's also everywhere else. In this department, we've had those vacant positions for a long time and that's why we raised the salaries. At what point do we say the labor pool is just not there. At \$40.00 an hour, that's tough to compete with.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director That's why all we're requesting is that it's the same for each position because that is really not fair to those that have a lot of experience and have been with the county for the entirety of that experience.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: How much overtime did you use last year?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: I don't know what that figure is. What I was told was that it may not exceed what we were budgeted for in salaries.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I know that's a true statement. With overtime, they still didn't go over what is budgeted for salaries in Dispatch.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It is usually a bounce in between four and five vacant, right? Is that correct?

Selena Carroll supervisor: We are so short-handed, that Christina, the Director, along with Ben and I, the supervisors, are full time dispatching on the floor. There is nobody else that can dispatch if we lose one more person. At that point, we'll have to look into scheduling

differently. We don't know what that plan would be because it's never happened before. Dispatchers may have to be working solo during the night because we don't have enough personnel.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: When you start talking about working solo. We're walking into dangerous waters.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Exactly. Right now, we only have one that isn't certified, and she's brand new. Even if we hire some of the applicants that we currently have, we'll have more, but they're still uncertified, and they cannot work by themselves. So, it still rests on the shoulders of those that are certified to pick up that overtime.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How many hours are you guys putting in?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: This week I'm over 50 hours.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is that average for you?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Yes, and I must be on the floor physically dispatching, while I'm still trying to do my supervisor job. I also still must train. While I'm dispatching, I'm training the new person that we have now, also holding calls for IPRA and scheduling while doing all those things.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Are we not getting any applicants.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: We just started to get some. We currently have six applicants. Some of our biggest struggles are, they can't pass a drug test, or they can't pass a criminal background check. We hire them and then realize that they are not capable of doing the job. It's not a job that they're able to do with recreational marijuana. It's difficult because of the safety sensitive position.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: With the new applicants, they haven't gone through the vetting process yet. That's been typically the past with a lower salary. I'd be curious to see if the higher salary produces people that would pass.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I see you have a lot of vacancies and you've had vacancies the whole time I've been here. We've got to get that starting pay up. I hope the \$2.00 could turn into \$4.00 as soon as that position is filled. It's advertised as \$17.00 the day they get hired; it'll go to \$19.00.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: That would not be correct. They start at \$17.00 with \$2.00. Then when they get certified it goes to \$19.00.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: That's usually at least six months down the road.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: So, potential for another two on top of that, because of the certification.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Right. We don't like to send people to the academy until they've got some knowledge and experience under their belts and then we send them off.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How's the academy paid for?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: The state pays for it.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We were trying to help you get some vacancies filled. As the director, that's your department and we were just trying to help you where we saw the immediate need is.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: We appreciate that.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: This is something I've seen all over the private sector as well. Are you expanding your recruitment to a bigger area?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: We currently have a billboard off I40 facing eastbound traffic just prior to the Edgewood exit, and also looking into doing a radio ad.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I don't know if this is allowed but in the private sector, we were able to recruit through job fairs.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: We do all of those. I was just at the car show in Edgewood they had at Walmart for Father's Day. I'll go and set up a table wherever I can.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: This is not a problem that's going to go away or be solved easily.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: When did Santa Fe change their pay rate?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: It was changed this fiscal year.

Selena Carroll supervisor: I spoke to everyone that got the \$4.00 raise. They're all satisfied. It's just Jewel, me, Christin, Ben, and Heather who didn't get the raise.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What you're wanting to address more is a longevity structure. You are at how many years?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: There were five because one left, and she was 15 years. Selena is 15. Ben and Joelle both have 20 and I have 21 as of the beginning of next month.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I just looked up Santa Fe County and they're posting \$19.79 through \$20.59 as a basic.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: That would be uncertified.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How is she getting \$40.00 an hour?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Because she will be a supervisor and plus, she gets the 10% shift differential for working graveyard.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: I'm just going to give some information in this. In your deliberation for the salaries, Santa Fe County and Bernalillo County were considered in that discussion in raising the base pay. Furthermore, and correct me if I'm wrong, my understanding is Santa Fe County is in a collective bargaining union. They're part of the Union.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We have to come up with a way to help correct this problem, and we can't afford to pay more. We allowed the public sector to pay not a bonus but a premium or incentive based on hours worked. For lack of a better word that is a bonus that would be prorated based on experience and hours worked throughout the year. Are we allowed to do that legally?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: I have heard of other Local Governments putting it into their budget as longevity pay. There was a total amount that they dedicated to this and then split it up according to how many years of service in the county someone had. I would have to research that to see exactly what that would look like and whether that specifically would be allowed.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I would agree that your dedication and service should be recognized. It's the way to go about it. As we've been talking here, and we're out digging around in weeds, but we're digging around in the weeds for money as well.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This is something that we were trying at one point to also address by putting the salary schedule in place. That it would be an automatic increase not coming back before the commission just as a cost of living, but an automatic adjustment in their salary once they hit certain levels of service, and back before COVID hit in the cost-of-living increase. The steps were much smaller, you look at it now, and it doesn't seem like it's much at all. But back then it was pretty good, because there was nothing else said to give them automatic increases. That was the intention of the salary schedule.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: If you step back, six months before we changed the increase in pay, and before we added the \$2 was that satisfactory?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: No.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Why wasn't that brought to us, is my first question. Second question, is this step-in pay satisfactory to staff?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: No.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Why wasn't that brought to us? Because what we're dealing with is a department that has been vacant for a long time. And we have consistently tried to do things to get those positions filled. I see one discrepancy with the \$4.00 for unexperienced, that's an issue. But I also saw the competition. We can go to work for \$40.00 an hour in Santa Fe. With all of that being said, it seems to me that this entire pay structure is not adequate. Longevity is not adequate.

Juan Torres-Deputy County Manager: You also did not approve in this budget, the HR Directors to do a salary survey. That is also something that could potentially be looked at to fix this.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Where I'm going with this is we have had the same structure. We've had the same vacancies, nothing's changing. I think it's safe to assume nothing's going to change now.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: In answer to your question. It was supposed to be brought to you when we had our department budget meeting, we proposed a 15% increase in our old department's salaries.

Noah Sedillo-County Finance Director: That is incorrect. You proposed a 10% increase at that meeting.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We're not going to go down that road right now. What we have is what's been presented. We have a director that has clearly pointed out to this Commission that her department is struggling. You say you work 50 hours a week? How much of that is overtime?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: 10 hours.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That is based on a 40-hour week. So realistically, within budget, what you're looking at, is what you're taking home is with overtime. That's the realistic number. Am I correct or incorrect?

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm not ready to move on this Commissioner. Until we start addressing that nothing's going to change. We must look at that thoroughly because that's the reality. If there's that many vacancies, we keep bumping up the pay. We got some applicants, but now we don't have qualified applicants. We need to analyze how to get the qualified applicants in there because in the meantime, you are depending on that overtime, and I appreciate what you do. We must compensate for that too. It's a threefold situation and I don't have the information to do it.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: Since the pay went up the hiring rate went up. We have been getting applications.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You haven't gone through them yet.

Christina Romero-County 911 Director: I'm going through them right now, and trying to set up interviews in two weeks,

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: My suggestion to this Commission is that we approve what we have in the budget right now because we must move forward. In the meantime, this whole department, like any other one, can be corrected at any given time. We got to have more real time discussion with HR, and with whoever's involved on what's happening with these applicants exit interviews. Find out what's really going on, because I suspect there's probably more than just a pay structure, whether it's working environment,

whether it's facilities, whether it's location, I have no idea. We're also talking about dumping a lot of money on upgrading your system. That's going to be more than six figures. So, we're looking at a lot more than just filling vacant positions and making pay equitable, we're looking at overall. When I started looking at those kinds of numbers, I needed to see options. I don't think Santa Fe or Bernalillo are a good option. However, it'd be nice to know if it's available. I suggest we pass this now, for the sake of moving forward with our budget. It's been too long, with too many vacant positions.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Before we move on, I have a short statement to read into the record. Noah, would you call up slide one, please? As we've heard today, there were a lot of numbers thrown around on May 24th, and they were hard for everybody to keep track of. I've gotten questions regarding the COLA increase and a general wage increase. We discussed hourly increases for similar jobs and different developments for departments to achieve parity throughout the staff. What is on the screen is my position on cola and wage increases. My experience on wage committees in the private sector over my career has taught me that cost of living increase is different from a general wage increase. The cost-of-living increase is calculated by the Department of Labor and Statistics for 2020 and for 2024. My Social Security COLA increase was 8.7%. Inflation reached 6.3. My research found that according to Business Weekly magazine, employers across the county are having to give COLA increases at 1.2%. To attract and keep employees a 4.2% increase on an \$18 per hour wage is about 75 cents. The department has requested a number rather than any percentage so their staff would have the greatest benefit. That is where the .75 cent increase, My came from the general wage increase we all agreed to bring our employees to a competitive wage with New Mexico counties and the private sector. The slide you see is a discussion of cola increases by the County Manager and the Deputy Manager and it's from the meeting minutes. And highlighted are the Deputy Manager and County Manager's remarks about the budget and budget briefing which each one of us attended individually. When you scroll down a little there is a quote from Deputy County Manager Torres which aligns with what I remember from my budget briefing. There is discussion of cola increases by the County Manager and highlighted is the Deputy County Manager's remarks about the budget briefing, which each one of us attended individually. The \$3.25 cent number is mine, and it reflects a \$2.50 cent general wage increase with a .75 cent COLA increase. The numbers attributed to the other two Commissioners reflect a lower general wage increase, but the .75 cent COLA increase is reflected in how those numbers add up and are represented there. Gentlemen, I want to clear up any ambiguity about where this commission stands on the .75 cent per hour COLA increase. It was my understanding going into the May 24th meeting that this would have been included in our wage package. Was that .75 cent increase lost in the complexity of a marathon meeting? Or is it your position that there will be no .75 cent per hour COLA increase?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I have no recollection of the COLA discussion with the increase. The direction in my thought process was a straight increase to \$2.00 across the board.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Okay, then that clears that up.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I believe this will be the third increase as Commissioner that has been given to employees as well. Over the last four years, we've been consistently giving smaller incremental jumps.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to approve resolution 2023-24 As presented, approving FY 2324 final budget.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted no, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. APPROVALS

B. SHERIFF: Discussion and possible approval of the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety for \$16,317.50 to support the Torrance County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Program.

Cheryl Allen-County Sheriff Executive Assistant: We're seeking approval to accept the agreement that have been submitted by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. For the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. We all know it as JAG and this is for fiscal year 2024. The award that is presented in the agreement is \$16,307.50. It includes overtime of \$13,917.50 and confidential funds of \$2,400. The match is technically zero. However, in our application, we wanted to present the Sheriff's Office commitment to this community is to fund our Community Policing Program, which includes patrols and focus on with the Deputies for reducing property violent and drug related crime. But it also includes a public component and we wanted to show our commitment toward this Community Policing Program and our involvement with the public. We had outlined on the application where the Sheriff and I were salaried employees, and we can spend additional time manning tables at different community events. We are going to be doing that and we'll be organizing that within our salaries. That is the in kind of we'll be providing, but it's no cost to the employee and to the County since we are salaried employees. In this grant, we did initially request \$69,462.75, in that we did include a request for two things. That was \$37,228.75 for a crime scene scanner, and that was not awarded, and for promotional funds for things that we could distribute at the open house and community events. That was \$2,000. We figured we would not get this. The thing that was a hit is that we had requested \$27,834.90 for overtime, and that was cut in half. I had emailed our program director with DPS regarding a reason for that, and he's out of the office and I couldn't get that answer at this meeting.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'll make a motion to approve.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. PLANNING & ZONING: Appeal of Planning and Zoning Board decision at the June 7, 2023, meeting to deny summary review: create Type 3 subdivision at Lot 21, Block 1, Woodland Hills subdivision. Aggrieved party: Investment of the Southwest, Agent Tim Oden. (Public Hearing)

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to enter into Public Hearing.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Enter into Public Hearing at 11:48 AM

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I would like our attorney to describe what we're about to do for the Commissioners and the public.

Mike Garcia-County Attorney: This is one of the items we talked about last week. Or last week's meeting regarding Quasi-Judicial hearings. This is one of these two items, or both Quasi-Judicial hearings coming up. And in a nutshell, what the law requires on that is that you as Commissioners are sitting as judges, who are not legislators, you're not administrators, you are judges. You have to apply the applicable law to the facts in an impartial manner as they're brought before you and you cannot base your decision on anything outside of the record that you might have just heard, hearsay and probably shouldn't even have personal knowledge, of any of the facts or any of the situation. I don't have much to add to that. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. But it's just something that's a bit different. We don't see this very often in our meetings here.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I did have one question. So, we have two items. Do we move out of public hearing, and back in? Can we do both as we progress?

Mike Garcia-County Attorney: I'm sure you can do both. The point of the public hearing is that the testimony be sworn, and really that's the critical element of all of that if it goes to District Court, so the evidence is based on sworn testimony,

Mike Garcia-County Attorney: Swore in Don Goen.

Donald Goen-County P & Z Director: I do.

When these two actions came before the Planning and Zoning Board, there was a single presentation done with two motions and two votes, the result of those, which was identical. The one that you announced there, Mr. Chairman, for one lot going into two and then there's a couple of intervening parcels that was two lots going into four. The applicant met all the requirements under the subdivision regulations for a summary review. In addition to that, it also met district minimum requirements under Section 11 of the Ordinance for district minimum standard. Now, what it states, specifically, under that section 11, for rural residential, is that for areas that are on a community water system, that the minimum lot size is one acre. All six of these lots will exceed that. The smallest ones are 1.5. They're above the district minimum standard. Considering them being on a community water system. One of the things that I had requested from the applicant, which they did supply, was and it's in your packet, there is the letter of intent to serve from the New Mexico Water Company. If you're adding additional parcels, you're adding additional burden on the water provider to meet their service requirements. As per the letter, they assured us that when and if these lots were developed, that they would be able to provide that water service to

them. The actual vote was a deadlock, which meant no action, which is the same as denial. That's the reason for the appeal here today.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Was it a full board at the time or were there absences?

Donald Goen-County P & Z Director: It was Gail Langell's last meeting, and she didn't attend. That's how the result ended up with two and two. They met all the requirements of the subdivision regulations. They were also in compliance with section 11 of the Ordinance. The way that I stated in the introduction there at the meeting was that, under those two provisions, this action was allowable, because it was a tie vote. So, it was denied. At this point in time, I would like to yield the podium to Mr. Oden, who is the agent acting on representing the Investment Company of the Southwest.

Mike Garcia-County Attorney: Swore in Mr. Oden.

Tim Oden: My name is Tim Oden. I'm the President and General Manager of Oden Associates, and authorized Agent for Investment Company of the Southwest. In these two applications before you today, Don gave a very good, general description of the application and why we're here. Woodland Hills Subdivision is about halfway down Martinez Road. A subdivision of about 136 lots that was done in the late 90s, it has as a water system, and it's experienced quite a bit of development in the past couple of years. There were two lots one in each of these applications that were left large, initially in the 97 plans for various reasons. They were oversized and one has the water tank on it and it's very hilly. The other is down in the bottom right that faces Martinez Road. These are the only two oversized lots that remain. All the rest of the other subdivision lots are one and a half to two acres. The developer wanted to go ahead and make these two lots the same size, shape and conformity as the rest of the subdivision. That was the reason for the applications that were reviewed by Planning and Zoning. As Don stated, there was a decision rendered by the Planning and Zoning. We feel like the application deserved an appeal because the vote taken by the Planning and Zoning Board was not just supported by factual evidence. Factual evidence being that it met all the requirements of the County Ordinances.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Who wrote this appeal.

Tim Oden: I wrote this appeal. These are the basis of the appeal, which was required by the Ordinance to come forward with an appeal to state the reasons why. So, there's three reasons that are stated in this write up.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: If we can page six. My understanding in this issue is that Mr. Oden met all of the requirements of Planning and Zoning. But the ordinance was misapplied by the board by two members of the board on that night. On page six of the minutes of the Planning and Zoning. There is a conversation with Mrs. Johnston explaining the board's responsibility to enforce the Ordinance. If by her vote, today, she was increasing the availability of lots and a potential buyer came in, would she be acting in the public good. And if she was taking that into consideration in applying this law, is it a misapplication of her duty. Her duty is to make a judgement based on the ordinances and the material that Mr. Oden presented is not to make law out of an ordinance in that setting. I think that after reading this paragraph and having looked through this, I would have to agree that two members of the board misapplied that Ordinance. And so, in my understanding, we have some options, we can send this back to the board and make them look at the law and apply it properly. We can take no action, or this commission can approve. My position is that this should be approved but it was denied. There was faulting in a denial. And

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to go back into Regular Session.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Returning back into Regular at 12:10 PM

12. DISCUSSION

A. MANAGER: Superior Ambulance's request to amend contract with Torrance County to include a county-funded subsidy.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: This is before you just as bringing it to the attention of the Commission, no action today, just to have it on your radar. I did receive a contact from Chris Archuletta from Superior ambulance stating that they genuinely need a subsidy if they're going to be able to remain functioning in Torrance County, because the costs of everything are increasing. They've been operating in the negative. He's finally at the place where he feels like this is necessary. But he did provide me with some figures. I want to vet everything out completely before I bring it before the Commission. I want to have actual figures. And what are some of the options that Torrance County will have if this Commission does not approve a subsidy? His current request is \$25,000 a month.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Was there anything else that goes with the request?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Continued services as is I'm going need a little more info. That's why it's on here for discussion and not for action.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: If you don't have anything else, I don't think there's any more discussion.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Can you give me an update? Did we modify the contract to one unit verses two?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: That is correct. Previously, the contract that we had with superior ambulance was for them to always have two ambulances available in the County.

B. MANAGER'S REPORT- NONE

C. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1) **Commissioner McCall, District 1**

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I would like to make the public aware of the junior livestock sale on Friday August 11th at 6:00PM and the fundraiser barbecue between 4:00PM and 6:00PM and the auction will start at 6:00PM at the County Fairgrounds.

2) **Commissioner Schwebach, District**

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The kitchen is ready for the fair at the fairgrounds. The tank farm next to the big tanks north to Moriarty, their construction is over. It's a minor inconvenience right now. But it's going to be over soon, they're going to be done which is going to bring some good paying jobs to the valley. If you're one of the individuals that have to travel north, be patient, they're doing a very good job, in my opinion, because of the scope of work that they're doing. That's a huge project. Really getting down to crunch time with what they're doing now. A lot more truck traffic which is temporary.

3) **Commissioner Schropp, District 3**

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I continue to go through the prison and check conditions. I have written a letter, an op ed, to the Albuquerque Journal supporting the systems and the personnel working there. A few days later, someone with great credibility came to me and said there were problems there because I wasn't a fluent Spanish speaker. That evening, I got an email from Congresswoman Stansbury which was forwarding a report from a non-governmental organization immigration law would outline problems. I went to speak with the warden about those, he assured me that they would be looked into and handled. But during our conversation, he did make one disturbing declaration to me that Core Civic is a business and they could close up and leave anytime, which I didn't think was appropriate in the context of our conversation. And I would urge Commission and County to begin looking for other sources of revenue. As we were talking earlier, things happen, things that are unforeseen, and we're way too dependent on the money from Core Civic.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion move into executive session to discuss three items.

A. **MANAGER:** Discuss pending vacancy of the Deputy County Manager position, closed pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1(H)(2).

B. **MANAGER:** Discuss Torrance County's contract for services with Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority (EVSWA), closed pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1(H)(6).

C. **COMMISSION:** Discuss investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee, specifically Fire Chief, closed pursuant to NMSA 1978 §10-15-1(H)(2).

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Second the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Entering into Executive Session at 12:17 PM

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to exit Executive Session and return back into Regular Session.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Second the motion.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Entering back into Regular Session at 2:25 PM

14. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ABOVE**

A. **MANAGER:** Discussion and possible action regarding pending vacancy of the Deputy County Manager position.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: County Manager will move forward with direction.

B. **MANAGER:** Discussion and possible action regarding Torrance County's contract for services with Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority (EVSWA). **NO ACTION**

C. **COMMISSION:** Discussion and possible action regarding investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee, specifically Fire Chief. **NO ACTION**

15. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting: August 9, 2023, at 9:00AM

16. SIGNING OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

17. ADJOURN

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Rolled Call Vote: District 1 voted yes, District 2 voted yes, District 3 voted yes. All Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:26PM



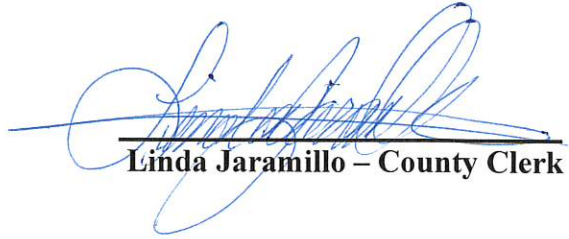
Ryan Schwebach-Chairman



Kevin Pham-Clerk II

8/8/23

Date



Linda Jaramillo - County Clerk