

**FINAL COPY**  
**Torrance County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**June 12, 2024**  
**9:00 AM**

Commissioners Present:

**RYAN SCHWEBACH – COUNTY CHAIRMAN**  
**KEVIN MCCALL – COUNTY VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**SAMUEL SCHROPP – COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Others Present:

**JANICE BARELA – MADAM COUNTY MANAGER**  
**TRACY SEDILLO – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER**  
**MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
**LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY CLERK**  
**GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I**  
**DONALD GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR**

**1. Call Meeting to order.**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Calls the June 12, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

**2. Pledge led by:** Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman

**Invocation lead by:** Samuel Schropp– County Commissioner

**3. Changes to the Agenda:**

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Under discussion, 13A, and B, move those after 11A. We have two individuals who are speaking on behalf of these topics. Out of respect for their time and their appreciation for attending the meeting. Then items 12E, F, and G are going to be discussing possible new

positions. I would like the Commission to discuss those three items together before deciding on any of them.

4. **PROCLAMATION: None**

5. **CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:**

A. **MANAGER:** Employee of the Quarter - Deputy Alex Schwerdel

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I have the honor and privilege to present an award to the employee of the quarter, Deputy Alex Schwerdel. This is an award that the Commission approves quarterly. We take nominations from the staff. This is someone who has gone above and beyond their regular job description during that quarter. The person who is awarded this gets one paid day off. He was nominated from his office. An email from a constituent here in Torrance County, who was a victim of a crime was forwarded to us.

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding service provided by Detective Schwerdel of your department. I had the unfortunate experience of a crime occurring in my home. At a time of stress and worry, Detective Schwerdel exhibited remarkable professionalism, responsiveness, and dedication to duty. Upon reporting the crime to your department, Detective Schwerdel acted swiftly and diligently sparing no effort in his work to recover the stolen items and to pursue the case against the individual who was responsible for the theft. His tireless and diligent efforts resulted in noteworthy time recovering the stolen items within a few short hours of the initial report. What truly sets Detective Schwerdel apart is not only his proficiency but also his compassion and commitment to the residents of Torrance County. My experience with other law enforcement agencies taught me to expect that my crime report would largely be ignored. However, it was the absolute opposite. As Detective Schwerdel responded with a sense of urgency and efficiency, he also took the time to keep me informed throughout the entire process. His regular updates provided reassurance and demonstrated a genuine concern for the crime that had occurred and was important to the Torrance County Sheriff's Department. In addition, Detective Schwerdel's demeanor was consistently friendly and approachable, making an otherwise stressful situation much more bearable. His professionalism and dedication reflect positively on the Torrance County Sheriff's Department in instilling a renewed sense of trust and confidence in our county's

law enforcement agency. In summary, I cannot overstate my deep appreciation for Detective Schwerdel's exceptional service. His exemplary conduct exemplifies the highest standards of law enforcement and embodies the values of integrity, diligence, and compassion. Please convey my sincere thanks and commendations to Detective Schwerdel for his outstanding work. His dedication to duty and commitment to serving the residents of Torrance County are truly commendable. Thank you once again. Very respectfully, Kate Overage.

**David Frazee-County Sheriff:** Detective Schwerdel exemplifies the best of Torrance County. He started with our department in October of 2018 as a patrol officer, as most of them do. What stood out about him is he would go to the scene of a crime, and take a report but he didn't just take the report and turn it in. He took it personally. It was a challenge for him to solve that crime. He went and he said he would solve the crime, took that challenge, and did what he does best. He did that for several years. He was noticed by Commanders, and they decided that maybe he needed to be moved from patrolling to Detective. He was moved into the Detective Division where he's the right-hand man to Detective Ballard. Together, they are a remarkable team. He has learned the people in the areas that commit the crimes, he knows their MO and takes a case with very few clues and solves it based on the fact that he takes a personal interest. The one thing that makes him outstanding is his compassion. He does in fact, keep all of the victims apprised at every step of the investigation to its completion. He keeps everyone in the loop that's involved in that case. He certainly exemplifies the Sheriff's Department and what we are trying to do. Thank you.

## 6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

**A. PLANNING & ZONING:** Discussion and possible reappointment of Christina Estrada to a second term on the Planning & Zoning Board.

**Donald Goen-County P & Z Director:** Tina is up for reappointment for a second term. From the Planning and Zoning standpoint, she is valued. She gives well-thought-out opinions and applies the ordinance as written, regardless of her personal feelings. From my standpoint, I would appreciate her serving another term. They are limited to two, three-year terms.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** We have someone who wants to do this job. We can't let them get away.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve the reappointment of Christina Estrada to a second term on the Planning & Zoning Board.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk:** I wanted to thank everyone in my office who helped with this successful Primary Election. Sylvia Chavez - Chief Deputy Clerk, Senaida Anaya - Bureau of Elections Administrator, Kevin Pham, Mackenzie, Genell, and all the precinct workers who worked professionally and did an excellent job. Thank you.

**Albert Beckwith–McIntosh Resident:** Several issues with the water. We have more people coming into our community. The water we didn't have, we have less of now. Trash has built up in our neighborhoods to where it's disgusting. Thirdly, I was told that McIntosh has periodic crime watches by the police department. I'd like to see a report in writing of all the times officers have patrolled McIntosh to check on crime. Thank you.

**Chad Hamilton – Resident:** There is a portion of the road that is impassable and dangerous. I've been told for several years that it's a private road and coming to find out it is a public road. Their school buses are backing up, trash trucks are almost flipping over every time they are doing their job. Paramedics, Fire Departments, and police can't get out there. The road is between Shondale and Rio Vista. It's a quarter mile of road, over time I and others have destroyed. We would appreciate this road being made passable. Nobody wants to claim it. For the last 15 years, I've been told it's a private road. I talked to Planning and Zoning, verifying it's public. My concern is if a school bus is backing up on this road and my child gets hurt, who's responsible for that? If your house burns to the ground, is the

county liable for your damages? My mother-in-law died in 2013, It took paramedics 45 minutes to get to the house, and they got stuck.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We will look into it.

**David Sibby – Resident:** I have the same comments as my neighbor. I'm 73 years old, I had quadruple bypass surgery and if I needed an ambulance, would they get there in time? At least grade the road. Thank you.

**Cathy Alvin – Resident:** I wanted to bring up something that's come to our attention. Torrance County has issued a temporary conditional use permit for a 63-unit greenhouse cannabis grow facility off of South Highway 41 to A90 Madrid. Everyone's wells are dry. This has been an ongoing problem with not only the county but with the State Engineer's Office. Six million gallons a year pumping out from this facility is going to run us all dry. The City of Moriarity was taking new permits to get water and is no longer taking permits. This leaves a huge problem for McIntosh. We need something done about this.

**Kathy Garcia – Superintendent at Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument:** It's a pleasure to have moved here. Salinas Pueblo has a great community impact in Torrance County and the rest of New Mexico. We have seen a \$2.5 million economic impact on this community in 2022 alone, that is to hotels and restaurants. I'm here to introduce myself and say that we remain committed to serving our community, to learning how we can improve our services, expand our reach, welcome visitors, both international and national, but also offer quality visitor experiences that relate to the community and the culture of Torrance County. We understand that what we do at the monument directly impacts the surrounding area. My office is open to learning more from you and with you and learning how we can work together. We see ourselves as both a National Park unit but also a community National Park. I look forward to being a part of the community and what we can do to further make a positive impact here. Thank you for your time.

**Tracy Master – Resident:** A couple of weeks ago, Commissioner Schropp made a post regarding a situation he witnessed at a local grocery store in which the customer didn't have enough EBT funds to cover a purchase. Prepared to pay the difference, Mr. Schropp didn't do that, because the clerk who was working and barely making minimum wage, took care of those groceries. He lamented this person in her kind heart, doing this at a company that makes millions and millions of dollars. This is something maybe we all should think about doing sometimes. His comments caused me to think about a few things including the fact that only a select few Torrance County employees are receiving pay increases this year. I am not objecting to those pay raises because you have some dedicated employees. But you need to do more for all the employees, especially those on the lower end of the pay scale. Last year's two dollars an hour raise was appreciated and helped many people. But it didn't help some employees. What it did do is make at least two people that I know of ineligible for food stamps. Now they had a little more cash but ended up behind after buying groceries. The raise also caused at least three employees to lose their Medicaid benefits and now requires them to pay insurance. I'm sure this wasn't the intent or that anyone even considered this. But last year's raises put some employees in worse situations than they were in before. It's unacceptable that county employees should make so little that they need to rely on EBT and Medicaid. There's no reason that any of them should have to go to Bethel or any of the other food banks to be able to feed their families. Torrance County needs to do better for its employees.

On another note, I've waited 11 weeks since I talked to you about my situation with WAVES without hearing a resolution. I made an executive decision and I start seeing clients next week. Thank you.

\*Comments by ZOOM

**Alexandra Flores, Italia Quintana, Melony Lomeli:** We are representing a collective of students working with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. Our purpose here today is to address the ongoing mistreatment and alarming conditions faced by the people in the Torrance County Detention Facility. Currently, large numbers of people are being detained in Torrance and some have been there since January. We would like to address a few concerns that we observed during our recent visit to the detention facility. Recently, some colleagues and I interviewed

people who are actively detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility. These people warned us of mistreatment from facility workers, broken living conditions, lack of access to medical care, and inaccessibility to any form of communication. These conditions are concerning, and we hope to share some experiences to bring awareness to their living conditions.

We talked with one man with a physical disability that impairs his legs, causing him to rely on crutches for mobility. When he requested to see a medic, the doctor insufficiently addressed his urgent medical condition. Despite his disability, this man continues to have to partake in physical labor within the detention facility to receive funds for phone calls to lawyers and his family. Other people detail that the calls that they can afford are often dropped or cut short when the person expresses concern over their living conditions. Many people are fearful of speaking out against unfair treatment as they worry about facing repercussions, guards may restrain their access to food, personal hygiene products, and showers.

We urge the community of Torrance County as well as the County Commissioners to take a compassionate stance alongside the people facing these inadequacies by acknowledging the conditions that they face. We hope others will take issue with these inhumane conditions and reassert our shared humanity. If you're interested in helping or learning more then the New Mexico Immigration Law Center as well as other organizations working alongside them provide educational opportunities as well as ways to volunteer.

**PJ Podesta- Legal service provider with Innovation Law Lab:** I want to contextualize the group letter you all are about to hear read by one of five authors detained, who shared the letter with us on Monday. They've all been detained at TCDF for several months. They were forced to flee home and have in the US received positive credible, fear determinations and their asylum cases which shouldn't lead to release unless there is some particular factor ICE chooses to consider against that. These men and also as they put it, half of the detention center, have spent between weeks to many months locked up at TCDF, and the conditions they and so many others have cited without any meaningful communication with the ICE officer responsible for their cases. It simply cannot be credibly claimed as some have attempted that locking up these men in this way is in the service of the safety of communities in New Mexico or elsewhere in the US, nor as Ice and Core Civic have demonstrated with impunity. Can we imagine that

these are simply a few things to be ironed out here. These are profound problems at TCDF, and they are endemic. However, calling them problems is a tricky thing and depends on your perspective because the truth is that the cruelty is the point. ICE detention is a system meant to punish and deter people from exercising their lawful right to seek protection. There's no time today to discuss this fully. US officials across administrations since at least the 1980s have openly made this clear. Torrance County does not have to be a party to such a system. The right thing to do is to end the county's facilitation of this arrangement at TCDF by refusing to renew the contract involved. Thank you.

**Ian Philabaum:** I have a recording in Spanish to share with you all thank you so much for providing an interpretation. (Recording was played a sentence at a time for interpretation.)

**Arely Cuevas – Interpreter:** Good morning today is June 2024. He wants to formally make a complaint about what has been going on. He wants to make complaints about the way they have not given them proper stuff for hygiene, and proper medication. They have left them in holding cells for more than six hours. They have been treated badly over the race. He continued by again saying they do not give them water. They refuse their phone calls on Sundays. They get a phone call, and they are told they cannot have that phone call. He starts by talking about Officer Flores who he says is responsible for most of the detentions there and he's responsible for the mistreatment. He wants the government and the relatives of people who might have a family member in the facility because of the way these people are being treated. Example: he gives the name of Jamie who is recovering from surgery and should be in the process of being released and he has not yet been released. They have not given him the proper medication or accommodations that he needs. Mario is another detainee who has been there for over four months, I believe he said, he was taken away from his wife and family. He is told on a positive that he is to be released and again he's still detained. He gives other names of those who were also detainees who suffered from ulcers and other medical issues. They all have a positive note to be released. Again, they are being ignored and not taken into consideration and he's concerned.



**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. COMMISSION:** Request approval of minutes of the May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve minutes of the May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**B. COMMISSION:** Request approval of minutes of the May 16, 2024, Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve minutes of May 16, 2024, Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**C. COMMISSION:** Request approval of minutes of the May 22, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve minutes of the May 22, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. FINANCE & PURCHASING:** Request approval of payables.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve payables.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:**

**A. FINANCE:** Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2024-21, Budget Adjustment, superseding Resolution 2024-19.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** This resolution came to you last Commission meeting; however, we had two main changes to it. For the first one on Schedule A, we had to add the state-required reserve. This is just for LGBMS system reporting. It does not affect the internal County budget or the way it's recorded in our accounting software. LGBMS did request we add that line item to this resolution. On Schedule B, we received the New Mexico Summer Enrichment Intern Program Grant, which was added to this budget adjustment.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve Budget Adjustment, superseding Resolution 2024-19.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach  
– County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### 13. DISCUSSION

- A. GRANTS/SENIOR SERVICES:** Presentation of the annual report from Presbyterian Medical Services on programs and services provided to senior citizens in Torrance County, to include discussion of successes, challenges, plans, and draft Operating and Use Agreement for FY2025.

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** I provided a little bit of history on PMS, it's my understanding the Commission wanted to learn a little bit more about the organization and what we do. A copy of our org chart from our senior leadership down to my level. My region runs from Cuba to Tucumcari. We run clinics, senior centers, Head Start programs, and home visiting programs within my region. The timeline of programs gives you what PMS has done throughout the state. The first program in Torrance County was in 1989, with the opening of Hope Medical Center run by a private board at that point. They requested PMS to come take over Estancia Head Start in 1995. The Mountainair Family Health Center was built in 1997. UNM was running the program at that time. They did not want to be in Torrance County anymore. They asked us to partner with them. We built the partnership to get the new clinic built in 1995 in Mountainair. We opened other Head Start classrooms throughout the county, and then in 2002, was when Bob Ayre, who was then the County Manager at that time, came to PMS and asked if we would be willing to run the Senior Program. We started running the program in McKinley County in 2001. That's how the partnership began in 2002. I was the Administrator of the two clinics at that time and then started to run the Senior Program. I directly ran the program for about three years. Lisa Lujan is currently the Administrator of the Senior Program. We opened a school-based health center in Moriarty Elementary School, we are doing telehealth services. It's a new model for us. We have 11 or 12 brick-and-mortar school-based health centers throughout the state. We had nine visits. I think five of them were behavioral health visits and four primary care visits to start the year.

We run the senior programs in three counties. They've approached us in several other counties, but we have declined to do that, because these programs are tough, and they are not well funded. That was one reason we've come to the County to see if any funds can help operationally. We do have an Operating Use Agreement, which is what we're requesting to renew. That's for the use of the buildings because all the centers and vehicles are County-owned buildings. After all, they're all purchased with Capital Outlay Funds. As the fiscal agent, the County owns all of those. What happens is, that because we are not county employees, we have to insure those vehicles, they are dually insured, they're insured by the County, and they're insured by PMS. With the buildings, you have your liability insurance, we also carry liability insurance and worker's comp, because those are our employees in those buildings. Those are some of the things that frustrate me because, they're expenses that I wish we didn't have, by having to duly insure some of those things in the agreement. This is a template that we received from AAA. It's a standard agreement that's been used everywhere, we mark off kind of what the County is responsible for, and you have consistently paid for the utilities, maintenance, and vehicle maintenance, as well. We cover the internet and those things that we need to run the program.

Home delivery routes: Moriarty route is 56 miles a day, round trip. Estancia route is 69 miles a day. The Mountainair route is 71 miles a day. Multiply these numbers by five. That's how much mileage we're putting on these vehicles. It's a large territory that we're covering every day. Fuel costs and so forth. We'd like to invite any one of you to come and ride along on our route. It was heartbreaking to go out to some of these homes and see how some of our seniors live and get by. Sometimes they grab your arm because they don't want you to leave. After all, you're the only person they see in a day. At least we know they're getting at least one hot meal. Some of them qualify for two meals, they'll get a hot lunch, and then they get a frozen evening meal and frozen meals for the weekend. That's how they're all assessed based on their nutritional needs, and how many meals they get in a day, or a week. We've been thankful that we didn't need to come to the County and request any money. I'm still hoping we may not need it because we're constantly looking for added grants to help support. I believe when Lisa and Greg came to address the Commission, a month or so ago, we had provided some information that we were projecting about a \$125,000 loss by the end of the year. We did receive an additional \$73,000 which has closed that gap significantly. We are right now trying to figure out how we might be able to work with our Head Start program to cook meals at a reduced cost because we're struggling with staff. We have four vacant cook positions. We also got notified yesterday that we

received \$4,500 from the United Way for this coming fiscal year. Those help close the gaps.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** This is all new to this Commission. I need a little history. Why did the county come to PMS? What was their reason?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** Honestly, I wasn't involved in those conversations. I'm assuming because of the issues we're facing right now. This is a hard program to keep staff it's an entry-level, minimum-wage position. We have tremendous turnover.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** How does that funding work within your organization? I assume the Senior Center portion is different than your medical center?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** Yes, it's a separate budget. They're also broken down by congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and transportation. We have to do time studies because we have to figure out how much time our cooks take to prepare congregate meals versus delivered meals. The delivery drivers help prepare meals because they're in the kitchen. It's the most complex budget I have ever dealt with.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** When you receive these grants, is there an administrative fee that's pulled off that goes to PMS as a whole?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** There is no local indirect, there is a little bit of corporate indirect, but my salary, my Fiscal Manager, and my Administrative Assistant, which is part of the Central Region Admin, in all of our other programs, there's a local indirect, which is what covers us. For the Senior Program and the Home Visiting Program, because those budgets are so tight, we don't incur any of that in those two budgets. There is the PMS indirect because that covers our accounting office, IT, and all of those other departments that help support the programs as a whole, but we don't let any of the local indirect in there.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** What is the cause of operation in the red? What is the cause, lack of funding coming in, higher demand, or just increased costs?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** A little bit of everything. We've had a higher demand for home-delivered meals, following COVID. People got sick during COVID and now qualify for home delivery, and they don't come

into the center, because of packaging costs. Sadly, Oliver Trays has a corner on the market, and the state is now negotiating with them.

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** Every year we prepare a real budget. We were funded about \$70,000 more this year in FY25 than we were last year. Every year, AAA wants a real budget. We do a budget that probably would be more like \$550,000. We could pay higher wages and, do some of these things we need to. Then they come back and say, we're only going to give you \$484,000. We have to back up and fit it into that number. They did get some additional dollars this year. That's why we got the \$70,000 additional into our operating budget. We got \$55,000 which was specific for capacity building. That's going to go into salaries. Hopefully, we can fill the vacant positions, by getting them a higher wage.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Commissioners, after listening to PMS, and how they are organized. Are we comfortable working with them?

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Let me first say thanks for being here. I'm pleased that there is a contract. Are you intercepting the funds that we would get and should get for the Senior Citizen Program? If we were running it ourselves?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** If you were running it yourself, you would contract with AAA. We became the new contractor.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I want to address the double insuring of the vehicles and buildings. With a proper MOU, this can be addressed with the attorney involved. I think that there is some waste.

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** The draft contract shows that PMS is an independent contractor. They're not going to be employees of the county. The other part of it has both of us covering insurance. From the attorney's perspective, it's good to have as much insurance as you can.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We all know, it's insurance companies making the money on it. I suggest we bring both insurance companies to the table and find the wording for a specific policy to cover this. I think it's doable. I think it's worth looking at.

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** For us, it's going to be New Mexico Counties. The truth is, if there was ever a lawsuit, each party would be on the hook for its negligence.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We're looking for liability, if we have a negligence lawsuit, it comes in no matter what insurance policy we have. On liability, whether it's with slips and falls or minor things like that. That's what we're looking to cover.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** My experience with two insurance companies, if it's not clear, who's the primary and who's the secondary, they're both going to the blame game. Therefore, maybe some more clarification within the contract as to who's primary and secondary.

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** If their folks are driving, we want their insurance covering it.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** In my opinion, these insurance companies are in the business of making money. We need to look into it.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I am in favor of keeping PMS.

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** We've never come to the County for any operational funds. This year has been rough. We will continue to look for money. If there's a way the County can have a line-item budget, just in case, where if we're running \$10,000 in the hole. Typically our clinics, who are revenue generators, can cover that gap. I know when one place where we dropped the ball, is in our Operating and Use Agreement. We were supposed to be coming quarterly to report to you. There's a big gap as to why you aren't aware. We can give you an update on how many meals we've served and, and those kinds of things. We make that commitment that either Lisa or I will be here once a quarter to present an update.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** If we get reports when I'm in Santa Fe talking to our legislators, I can be a little more mindful of your needs and wants.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** We've all read about administrative costs, insurance, and health care. The AAA money that we're getting, does that go

to administrative costs in this program, or is PMS taking care of those costs for this entity?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** Within the PMS structure, there is a local indirect and a corporate indirect. Our local indirect does not impact the Senior Program in the Home Visiting Program. So Lisa does not get charged in your budget for my time, my Fiscal Manager's time, and my Administrative Assistant's time. There are those costs that are fixed by the organization, that's our accounting department, our payroll department, our IT. It's an 8% cap of indirect that comes off of that grant.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Other than the grant money, are you all responsible for your administrative costs? Do you have to generate revenue for that, or is that part of the PMS umbrella as well?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** There is money generated through the Senior Program by requested donations. It's not mandatory. We've seen that number decline over the years. Historically, we had been collecting around \$18,000 a year. We're on target this year to collect about \$15,000. We can't force it to be a requested donation of \$1.50. There's no other revenue that's generated through that program. It's all grant money. That's why we looked for additional grants. We applied for Albuquerque Community Foundation, but we just found out that we did not receive that. We're in the process of doing an application with Khan Alma, which is another foundation, and through United Way we were funded \$12,000 yesterday.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** When is the contract renewal?

**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** It expires June 30, 2024. The new contract will start July 1, 2024, this is a five-year contract.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** It does not sit well with me that our seniors are not being taken care of. I want a budget that will show us what will make it work. I want that brought before this Commission. We can decide how to fund it, and how to visit with our state and federal representatives.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I want to clarify a little bit what the Chairman said, our senior citizens are being taken care of and we appreciate you. We would like to see them taken care of more.



**Angela Coburn - PMS Central Region Director:** I get it. There's always more we can do.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Yes, we do have funds. We all know if we start funding it, the people in the background don't have to, they need to be held accountable, just like we're being made aware of it, we're trying to be accountable. They need to hold the same accountability. That's why I want to build up in a form that goes both ways. We can't expect this job to be done on bare minimum wage, on part-time work, and with run-down vehicles. Our county requires it. We have to bring common sense into this. Email your operating budget for this year to the County Manager and we will look into this more.

**B. VALENCIA SHELTER SERVICES:** Presentation of Valencia Shelter Service's Annual Report, plan, needs, and discussion of draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for FY2025.

**Katelyn Cole - Victim Services Coordinator at VSS:** This was our first year taking over the county's grant. We serve a lot more than Valencia county, we now serve Torrance, Socorro, and Catron County for our child advocacy center. We have now rebranded and renamed ourselves to just VSS and serving Central New Mexico.

All the services that we have at VSS are available to Torrance County. 24/7 Crisis Intervention Line, which is connected directly to our emergency shelter. Our emergency shelter is located in Valencia County, we have transportation to help get anyone who needs shelter to Valencia County. We have our transitional housing. We have a housing department that works with HUD and another funding source. We provide counseling, both group and individual. We provide legal advocacy; legal advocacy is the program that we have within Torrance County. She is online and provides legal advocacy, does court accompaniment, helps file restraining orders, and motions, and gets any other paperwork they need to file, like divorce and custody. She also provides any needs that they have, whether it's clothing or food, and helps them apply for Victim Compensation. She also gets them a hotel for emergency shelter if our shelter is full, or they have a need, where they need to still be here, whether it's work or school. We have our offender rehabilitation program offered to Torrance County as well. This is over Zoom for all of our participants. Those who are offenders of domestic violence, sometimes

are court-ordered, and sometimes they self-refer, this is a 52-week, one-year program for them to learn how to break that cycle of violence. We have Torrance County residents who participate in that. We have our sexual assault prevention education. We have an accredited child advocacy center that does forensic interviews for child abuse cases. We have our SANE unit. This is a Sexual Assault Nursing Exam unit. We work as a satellite for Albuquerque SANE. As of July 1st, we will have our own SANE unit, Nurse, and Medical Director. Our nurses are looking to be travel nurses. We are going to look at being able to have an exam room, if someone does need a domestic violence exam or a sexual assault exam they would travel here for the exam.

I wanted to provide you with some numbers. I provided both what we have served under the grant specifically, but then wanted to provide you with the numbers we've served in total. Under the grant, we have served a total of 53 different clients, they were served specifically with that funding. In total within Torrance County, we have served with other funding sources 137 people. The contacts are the number of services provided to those individuals. Under the Torrance County DV grant, we have served 181 different services and contacts, in total for the year for Torrance county residents, it has been 553. We have provided emergency shelter to 10 different residents within Torrance County. We do crisis intervention and our agency; the Child Advocacy Center runs the multidisciplinary team for child abuse cases for CYFD and law enforcement. We facilitate those team meetings with the DEA together with law enforcement. We see where the cases are, what is going on with them, and who's currently working with them. The other services that we provided within Torrance County, with other funding was the case tracking for those cases. Our facilitator for MBT tracks every case. There are a lot of cases, unfortunately, of child abuse. She tracks every single case meticulously, including for Torrance County, to see what hearing is coming up where the case is currently at in the court system, and she tracks it from beginning to end. We have provided travel, transportation, individual and group counseling, and offender services, SANE services, and emergency shelter within Torrance County. I started here in January. Since January, we've been working hard on getting things set up in our office here. We have been trying to do as much outreach as possible. A lot of outreach has been with law enforcement. We have met with Torrance County Sheriff's, Moriarty, Estancia PD, and Edgewood. We have provided training for them. I provided you with a survey that is done with domestic violence victims to determine how likely they are to be killed by their offender. Our goal is to have law enforcement complete these surveys with each domestic violence victim and then return them to us because a lot of times victims don't reach out for help themselves because they're scared and for a multitude of other reasons. We reach

out to them ourselves. Currently, within Valencia County, LLPD, and Valencia Sheriff's, Bosque Farms, all them send us those surveys. We consider them referrals and we contact every single one multiple times to see if they'd like any services. This is something we're working on with law enforcement, because ultimately this also helps them because if we can get these victims to help, hopefully, they can stop getting called out over and over again to the same house. We also provided you with those brown bags. These are also provided to law enforcement. These are meant to be inconspicuous with our services and services for domestic violence as a whole and education as well. Anytime an officer is called out they can provide a victim with just one of these lunch bags for them to see what services we offer and get help if they want to.

We have been working in the office that we're currently in. We have three offices in that building. We have been working on making it cohesive with our office in Valencia. Getting new equipment up to date, just making it also a little more comforting for those with trauma. We try to make it as inviting for them to come in as possible. When you think of a shelter, you probably think of cots on the ground. Our emergency shelter within Valencia County is a home. It is a four-bedroom, three-bathroom, full kitchen, living room, backyard with basketball courts, swings and a playground. We try to provide our victims who have undergone terrible trauma with the safest home that we possibly can. We have been working on recruiting. Currently, we have one full-time advocate here. My Lead Advocate and I come once a week. We are working on hiring another full-time advocate to provide support to all of the residents and provide support to our current advocate. Ultimately, we offer a lot of services that the county's DV didn't previously offer. We have the shelter and the child advocacy center. We have been working on streamlining how those procedures work. How do we get people into hotels, so that our advocate doesn't need to be on call 24/7? How do we make sure everything is mirroring each other, and we're providing the best services possible? That's what we've been focusing on since I joined in January.

Our future long-term goal is to have exams available within the county so that victims are not having to go all the way to Albuquerque, or if they choose to Valencia. We'd also like to eventually have a Child Advocacy Center available here. So child abuse victims don't have to go all the way to Albuquerque for forensic interviews, we'd like to eventually provide them care for you all. We would love to eventually have prevention services within the schools. We have a Prevention Advocate at our main office that's working on getting into schools and teaching about dating violence prevention because it's also a huge problem for youth. We would like to provide in-person counseling services right now, any

counseling services have to be over the phone or via Zoom, and our counseling right now, funds are also very small. We have one counselor who is also the supervisor. We do get interns and currently have one intern. It's a small department and the need is huge.

If someone needs emergency shelter, we have a shelter van that we can transport. We work out what works best to get them to our shelter, but we would transport them even if it's our advocate here and meet halfway with one of our shelter advocates, or if it's the middle of the night or a weekend, we put them up in a hotel for a day until we can get them to our shelter.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Thank you, I like the rebranding.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Is there anything you need from the county?

**Katelyn Cole - Victim Services Coordinator at VSS:** Pushing law enforcement to get those referrals to us and reach out to us. So people know we're here. Get law enforcement to give us the victims, and then we'd take it from there for them.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Thanks for being here.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I wanted to say two things. One is we wanted Katelyn to present and thank you all for your great work here because this MOU was also up for approval at the next meeting. Also, I wanted to reiterate that Valencia Shelter Services would love for you all to come out and visit their complex in Valencia County. We can arrange that with County Manager Barela because once you see the space you understand how all the programs work together and how it can be beneficial to Torrance in the future.

## 12. APPROVAL

### A. CLERK: Canvass 2024 Primary Election.

**Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk:** The 2024 Primary Election Canvass included the major parties, Republicans, Democrats, and Libertarians. I'm going to present with

the help of Sylvia Chavez - Chief Deputy County Clerk and Senaida Anaya - Bureau of Elections Administrator, they were instrumental in running this election. Sylvia will be your next County Clerk; she will be an excellent Clerk. The Independent party can still come forward for the General Elections and maybe write-ins. In my experience of 25 years of running elections, Sylvia's the winner. The turnout was low at 24%. This election nominates candidates to go on from their respective parties to the General Election.

The reports are the overall canvass by precinct. For every election, our precinct workers bring this pouch back in with a memory card directly from the machine. They bring this to us on election night. Whoever is entering accepts this, they enter these memory cartridges into our reader, and it populates the totals, and then you can see that at the Secretary of State's office website. Every precinct brings in their tapes and every tape starts with a zero count to show no votes before the election starts. These tapes have the totals per candidate. Then at the end of the night, they print an end-of-day report. Everybody signs because they're certifying that they were there and that everything was done properly. All tapes are signed by the precinct workers to show that everything was certified, and the tapes were correct. They give you all the totals. Today, we can review every precinct. You can read the tapes if you'd like. We double-checked that everything was done correctly. Everyone did an excellent job. I wanted to say that the money you gave me for the position of Bureau of Elections Administrator was very well spent. She took the initiative to pre-train our precinct workers. Do you want to go to every bag and check the tapes or I can read off the results?

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Read off the results.

**Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk:** Democratic Party - Joseph R Biden 497; Marianne D Williamson. 64; uncommitted delegate 48; Martin Heinrich 578; Melanie Ann Stansbury 576; William Burton Scott 288; Elizabeth Liz Stefanics 258; Fred Ponzlov 335; Anita Amelia Gonzalez 131; Ambrose M. Castellano 86; Libertarian Party - Lars Mapstead 1; uncommitted delegate 5; Catherine Ann Divitt 0; Republican Party - Chris Christie 24; Nikki Haley 75; Vivek Ramaswamy 8; Donald Trump 1116; uncommitted delegates 32; Nella Louise Domenici 1046; Louis Sanchez 378; Steve Jones 814; Ant L Thornton 443; Stefani Lord 776; Clint Wellborn 1039; Sylvia Chavez 1098; Kathryn Hernandez 1055; Linda Jaramillo 286; Mark Martinez 20; Nick Sedillo 159; Nathan M Dial 169.

The uncommitted delegates in the presidential are considered protesters. This is the first year this was a choice.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve 2024 Primary Election Canvass.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**B. DWI:** Request approval of LDWI FY25 Grant Agreement.

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** I'm here to request approval for the Local Driving While Intoxicated grant agreement between the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, the Local Government Division, DWI grant program, and Torrance County, and the amount of \$100,000.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve LDWI FY25 Grant Agreement.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** I just wanted to let you know that also part of the grant, there's the grant and then we get distribution which does not have to be approved. I just wanted to let the Commissioners know that we also will be receiving as part of the distribution \$108,682.

**C. SHERIFF:** Request approval of General Agreement between the National Park Service, an Agency of the United States Department of the Interior, acting through the Superintendent of Salinas Pueblo Missions National

Monument, and the Torrance County Sheriff's Office to provide mutual law enforcement assistance and conduct search and rescue operations in lands within the Park's boundaries within Torrance County.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This is a general agreement between the Torrance County Sheriff's Office, and the National Park Services, particularly Salinas Pueblo, and it's to provide mutual aid and any other assistance that may be needed on that property by the Torrance County Sheriff's Office. Based on this agreement, it doesn't look like there's any actual money exchanging hands. It's just giving permission for jurisdiction to be on that property in those instances. This is something that we do every year. It is a five-year agreement.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve General Agreement between the National Park Service, an Agency of the United States Department of the Interior, acting through the Superintendent of Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, and the Torrance County Sheriff's Office to provide mutual law enforcement assistance and conduct search and rescue operations in lands within the Park's boundaries within Torrance County.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**D. FIRE:** Request approval of the new Torrance County Fire Department (TCFD) patch and emblem.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** We did a vote with our personnel. These are the two that they came up with. The reason for the change is not only a rebranding, but if you'll notice, we look exactly like the large municipal Fire Department just west of us. This won't be a large purchase. We will start as we get new apparatus as we have to replace decals, etc. We'll do it one at a time. The blue one will be the shoulder patch and the other one will be the decal for vehicles.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve new Torrance County Fire Department (TCFD) patch and emblem.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** We will discuss items 12 E, F, and G together.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Our current EMS and Fire staff are dual roll/multifunctional. In other words, they can be on the ambulance, or they can be on fire apparatus. We're in the process of having every member who is full-time going through Firefighter One and Two. That's our goal, a virtual class, and two weeks in Socorro to go through the burned buildings. In the future, we hope to be able to do that here in Torrance County, save some money on travel, and be able to do it at a moment's notice and schedule them ourselves.

We are and will continue to be a combination Fire Department. We're continuing to increase our recruiting efforts to speed up our responses. We're asking to increase our area of responsibilities, first responders and EMS moving up north and south would be requesting six new positions. They will be staffed on an ambulance, but they'd also be cross-trained as a Firefighter. Their primary mission would be EMS, and their secondary would be Fire. We have checked with billing, for about 1000 transports, which was the last year we received \$512,000, with an 88% collection rate. 88% is very high, most services are mid-50s. Since we have mostly government insurance, we are around \$422 to \$500, a transport that we're getting paid. I said \$1000, it's \$1250. If we increase the call volume, by at least two calls a day, for our cost of these people that would leave us at a \$130,000 deficit, if we increase three transports in a 24-hour day that would leave instead of a \$95,000 deficit to hire 16 additional people. The way to offset that is we are working right now with a consulting group out of Washington DC for the GBMT program. The Federal Government pays us back for our direct costs for transporting any Medicare/Medicaid patient. Right now they have a cap of around \$200, depending on the types of calls that they pay, our direct costs are much higher. If we turn in every quarter, fuel, personnel costs, any use of maintenance, soft supplies, etc., the Federal Government reimburses us quarterly.



**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** What does Torrance County look like, currently?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Based on the EMS calls that we're doing right now, I'm not sure what the total cost is. They're still working on that right now. It's hard to get our unit costs. I'm guessing somewhere around \$75,000 to \$100,000 a quarter. We think those numbers can change. It's been successful in other places. The one catch is the Federal Government can stop the program at any time. It's been consistent for the last, you know, 10-12 years. There'll be some costs we have to pay our consultant to do that out of Washington DC. I've worked with that group before, and they are good. That would be an increase that would put on an additional EMS ambulance per day, we're 7.6 calls per day, which is a lot more than I anticipated. Some days are busier, some days are slower. The last time I was in an ambulance for seven hours. Our mission times are two hours, depending on where in the County we respond to. Putting on this additional unit for protection, and aiding patient care. The goal that we want to do is to decrease our response times, not only for EMS but for all emergencies, including Fire. Part of the ambulance group's responsibility is to supplement volunteers. As a Fire response, sometimes they can go out initially and get on the scene quickly. With fire, the faster you get on the scene; the more property you're saving more lives. About a month ago, we responded with the ambulance crew out of District Three and found a fire in the back bedroom of the mobile home and saved the entire mobile home. You don't save mobile homes very often. We want to look at decreasing the property loss. We use Firefighters and EMTs as the same and also help us institute our County-wide Technical Rescue Force County-wide Interagency Training. We want to look at a Hazardous Materials Response Task Force in which we have the equipment and supplies, and we need the personnel. We want to meet and exceed ISO a PA and the New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office Standards and guidelines for units. If I have an additional ambulance, it's not on an EMS call. They're cross-trained.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Under Chief Dirks, Jason Quintana was working on a deal to stage tankers in the mountain communities. I'd like you to revisit that and see if that's a practical thing to do.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** That's something that we can work on. I'm going to move on and combine these PRN which is another word for part-time, which is something new. Hiring part-time people who work a certain minimum number of hours per month. We'd use them to supplement the EMS and the Fire

staff predominantly EMS staff. They would be put on a dynamically deployed ambulance for 12 to 16 hours. We look at the 16-hour upshift because we don't have to have a place for them to sleep. They're on duty for those 16 hours. They move, they don't have a static station. They go where they are needed. The biggest thing is response, patient care, and saving property and lives.

We're asking for PRNs who will be other firefighters from other departments that already have Firefighter One and want to be officer-trained, EMS intermediate. I'd like to have a couple of MCs or maybe all intermediates, we will take a flat rate, it's \$24 an hour. This would be a day-out job. Most Firefighters have a day off job. This would be an opportunity for them. We have several career Firefighters who work on the other side of the mountains or in other departments and would like a part-time position that lives in our area that would be most beneficial for them. For the last 13 years of my career, I did all PRN. Insurance on your PRNs will be the standard that everybody in the department carries.

Workman's Comp and the liability we carry will be an additional cost. It's not a group policy. It just depends on how much and I'll find that information out for the Commission.

We have a blanket policy. It doesn't matter how many we have employed, it's covered. Going back to the question about the benefits, since they are part-time they would not be eligible for insurance.

Regarding the medical billing collections that we have, this fiscal year to date, we've collected \$277,207.98, which is running two ambulances, averaging \$138,603.99 per ambulance. If we were to add an ambulance at that same collection rate, it would be a total of \$415,811.97.

I like the concept of dynamic positioning, especially with the limited resources we have that let you move your equipment around to cover the County. I want to be where the people are. You can look at your history over a couple of years and pinpoint the number of calls and locations.

The firefighter recruitment bond, the FY 25 House Bill 88, just extended the period to June 28. They also increase the maximum cap per individual on that to \$75,000. That was \$60,000 or \$65,000. The purpose of and intentions of this fund are to offset the cost of new Firefighters in the interior recruits and help improve response times and food via ratings and supplemental system paid or volunteer organizations with additional training responders, we're putting the grant in. In the

middle, we have to change a few things, we have till the 28th once it gets approved. It pays completely 100% for the first year, second year, it's 50%. Third-year allocation is 25%. It's important for the Fire Protection of the town to have a few full-time members either in or on an ambulance or not be stationed at some of our stations where they can be ready to go. These things are not free, but we have to protect citizens and the environment as much as we can. We want to do the best thing that you can do.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Let's break this down. In what you have presented to us, let's assume we're moving forward with these positions. Is there enough equipment?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** We have enough ambulances to do that with one reserve. We have the funds for a CPR machine. We needed a power lead system, which we have the funds to do. We have six monitors. They're different, but we have six monitors to use right now. We have all the soft supplies. We have a red type three ambulance; it needs a new chassis. The apparatus: we have the equipment. There will be other things such as uniforms, and boots.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Are we putting the cart before the horse if we don't figure out where we're going to house them? There's housing and we're talking just operational costs. Are we talking about having to build new buildings?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** There are some areas we can lease, or purchase and I don't have the price for them yet. I can house four ambulances right now.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** We have the place to house the ambulances and we would potentially have the place to house the personnel. While the station that we're currently in we're having to conduct fire watch because we do not have a fire suppression system. That is going to be the problem with all the 10 buildings. However, I think if we are upfront with the State Fire Marshal's office and Captain Dial, we can continue moving forward with a Fire Watch program at whatever station they want, with the potential of placing a fire suppression system in the station's District Two was the one recently remodeled. I believe it was two years ago, CID did deem it residential. I know Captain Dial did have questions about its commercial use. There's not a vehicle that is placed in that building, it is just rooms and showers. Essentially, in a room, there's not even a stove. To offset that what we could do for safety purposes is to place toaster ovens, you know, stuff that we could use electrical, that wouldn't pose any threat for five. We have the means to

do it, we would just have to take the proper steps necessary. There are other options as well as a portable trailer, or bunkhouse that we discussed before, there are options.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Your forecasting income coming in from transports to offsets the majority of this endeavor?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Yes, in addition to the DMT, or the additional money from the Federal Government, which is not guaranteed. As long as it's available, you can do it.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** What you're asking of the county now is to set aside approximately half a million dollars. Is that right?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** I believe it was, if we're talking about the billing, I'm targeting the added individuals.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** The way I look at this is what we're risking. Whether you call it a risk or not, that's what we have to set aside. In anticipation that this comes through if it doesn't come through, then we're looking at a long-term endeavor or cutting jobs and services.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** According to the numbers that I provided you. The only additional amount of money that we would receive is possibly the \$138, 603.99 cents, and that is for one additional ambulance. The overall cost is what they're bringing in for the year, but we're using the money that we already are getting the \$277,207.98 to pay for our current staffing and all the different things that are needed. It's not that we're going to have this \$400,000 additional on top of what we're already collecting, that's paying for our current services.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Now we have the federal funding that we have never had. \$200,000, a quarter, best case scenario, we're committed an extra \$300,000 up to \$500,000 is what we're looking for.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I'm not ready to hire six yet. My suggestion today is to hire for part-time, till we get additional information from you and news as to apparatuses and housing. I'm a little more apprehensive about your stance in this in this regard. I need more time to add another half million dollars to the county's budget line.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I also recognize that what we have right now is not adequate. This looks like a pretty well-thought-out plan. At some point, I think we're going to have to take a big jump. For the sake of the remainder of the County, We need to have more hard dollars sense of what that looks like. I'm willing to put some into it. Let's talk a little bit about the timeframe with this grant, Fire/EMS, if we postpone is that still available three months down the road?

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Not sure, we do know that there's a lag time in anything that we do in government. We can submit for funding and then pull out if we don't move forward with the rest of this grant.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I would feel much more comfortable to have a little bit of communication with that operation before we move forward with that. We're going to move forward with the grant. Should we look at a larger number of part-timers maybe six? We can always go back.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** Six would be beneficial. One in vacancies, as we're experiencing right now. That would be two per shift.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We can drop those at any time converted to full-time. That's the advantage of that it takes risk off the county.

**Jim Winham - County Fire Chief:** I would like to say in closing up with any more questions that we do have a group of very dedicated members in our department. There's always the same one showing up all the time. I want you to know that the members that we have are going through the training, they have a lot of heart, and you know they're showing up as much as they can. So rest assured you have some pretty good people.

**E. FIRE:** Request approval to create six (6) new Firefighter/EMT positions at the current salary which is based on the level of licensure.

**No Action Taken:**

**F. FIRE:** Request approval to create four (4) Part-Time (PRN) Firefighter/ EMT positions, including setting salary.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve creating six (6) Part-Time (PRN) Firefighter/ EMT positions, \$24.00 an hour plus benefits.

**Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**G. GRANTS/FIRE/EMS:** Request approval to submit a funding application to the NM Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) to recruit firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to improve the personal capacity of the Fire Departments: requesting funding for 10 Firefighters/EMT positions.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve submitting a funding application to the NM Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) to recruit firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to improve the personal capacity of the Fire Departments: requesting funding for 10 Firefighters/EMT positions.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**H. GRANTS/SHERIFF:** Request approval to submit an application for the NMDPS Law Enforcement Retention Fund – Year Three (3); the award amount will be determined by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** we've applied for this grant in the past. It's a three-year grant and we are in year three, we have to apply every year. What we do is we just submit a roster of our current officers and all of their qualifications. Then DFA determines which of those officers will be granted a bonus, based on their years, their certifications, etc. We did submit this last year, and they determined who qualifies. We just have to let them know who is on our staff roster.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve submitting an application for the NMDPS Law Enforcement Retention Fund – Year Three (3); the award amount will be determined by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

**Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

- I. **GRANTS/SENIOR CENTERS:** Request approval of Capital Outlay Application to NM Aging & Long-Term Services Division of Torrance County Senior Centers; Estancia Senior Centers \$112,000 for renovations and improvements; Mountainair Senior Center \$105,000 for renovations and improvements; and Moriarty Senior Center \$141,780 for the planning and design of a new building.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This is our annual capital outlay request for the Senior Centers. What I've done is used the ICIP that was approved last year to determine the amounts that we requested in this application. What I did was I used it for the projects that we are currently undergoing in each of the centers. What we're going to do is probably in the next month is meet with Richard, our new Facilities Director as well as Angie and Lisa so that we have a very clear scope of work if we are funded the money so that we have a clearer picture of what each building needs. In our Capital Outlay Committee Meetings, we've been discussing how we're going to go about working with an agency for the new building, because as you know, there's property that needs to be acquired, etc. That's a different process. We are trying to finish up the Mountainair Senior Center, based on this scope of projects that we've been in for over three years. In

Estancia, we are going to be starting on some of the exterior improvements. In Moriarty is a little bit different because we need to plan all of those types of things.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve Capital Outlay Application to NM Aging & Long-Term Services Division of Torrance County Senior Centers; Estancia Senior Centers \$112,000 for renovations and improvements; Mountainair Senior Center \$105,000 for renovations and improvements; and Moriarty Senior Center \$141,780 for the planning and design of a new building.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**J. GRANTS/SUMMER ENRICHMENT:** Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Salinas Pueblo Mission National Monument and Torrance County to host interns for Summer Enrichment Program and authorizing County Manager Janice Y. Barela as the signatory.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** As you know, we have a Summer Enrichment Internship Program and Salinas Pueblo has always been a great partner in taking students and teaching them different skills and working with us to mentor them so that they have a very successful summer. We are just asking for the signing of an MOU so that we both know what our responsibilities and duties are.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Salinas Pueblo Mission National Monument and Torrance



County to host interns for Summer Enrichment Program and authorizing County Manager Janice Y. Barela as the signatory.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**K. FINANCE/FIRE:** Request approval to submit payment to Amazon of \$839.40 for the purchase of 12 New Physio-Control LifePak 12 Defibrillator Batteries: Purchase Order #35436 was issued on 7/14/2020.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** We have been made aware by Amazon that there were some old outstanding invoices from several years back. These two next items are going to be some of this cleanup. Our Amazon account is currently on hold until we get these items resolved. So that's why we're here requesting payment today.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve submitting payment to Amazon of \$839.40 for the purchase of 12 New Physio-Control LifePak 12 Defibrillator Batteries: Purchase Order #35436 was issued on 7/14/2020.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**L. FINANCE:** Request approval to pay Amazon invoice#1VDK-eG1L-H34T from June 1, 2022, in the amount of \$85.32; Purchase Order #37927 was in place at the time of order; items were ordered and received by Grants Department but the invoice was not paid. If approved, the invoice will be paid from Finance Office Supply 401-055-2219 since Grants is now part of the Finance Department.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** This is the same story as in the Fire Department. This is an old invoice that we were made, made aware of by Amazon is required to be paid before they can look at unlocking our Amazon account. In

our research, it was the same story where we got a partial shipment. The partial shipment was paid when the rest of the order came in. It was not paid.

**Action Taken:**

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Motion to approve paying Amazon invoice#1VDK-eG1L-H34T from June 1, 2022, in the amount of \$85.32; Purchase Order #37927 was in place at the time of order; items were ordered and received by Grants Department but the invoice was not paid. If approved, the invoice will be paid from Finance Office Supply 401-055-2219 since Grants is now part of the Finance Department.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**M. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Request ratification of State Homeland Security Grant Program application submitted to request funding to upgrade Torrance County Dispatch Center to State Radio System, upgrade Torrance County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) mobile and portable radios to be compatible with State Radio System.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** We have been looking at moving to the state 700 radio system. We've had lots of meetings, and lots of quotes from various situations. We have submitted the state Homeland Security grant application for a total amount is \$1,027,323. It's broken down into three projects. The first project is to upgrade Dispatch to the state radio system, which means all six consoles will be \$480,619. There was some discussion with the state Communications Director before submitting this application, as well as with Selina, our 911 Dispatch Director. The recommendation was to state in the application that we would accept half of that and do it as three consoles instead of six consoles because that's what they're primarily using at this time. We requested the full six but will accept three. For the Torrance County Sheriff's Office to move the mobile radios per unit to a compatible system, \$496,704. That is to move all 48 of their units up to compatible radio systems. Then the third project was to move their portable radios to add the software. It's a portable radio that they had purchased in the last few months. For those who do not have the software needed

for the system, \$50,000 to move to add the software to 20 radios. This grant does not have any local match. It's not an all-or-nothing.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve ratification of State Homeland Security Grant Program application submitted to request funding to upgrade Torrance County Dispatch Center to State Radio System, upgrade Torrance County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) mobile and portable radios to be compatible with State Radio System.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**N. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Request ratification of submission of the Emergency Performance Grant (EMPG), a grant funding up to 50% of Emergency Managers' Salary/benefits and 25% of Emergency Management Specialist's salary/benefits.

**Samantha O'Dell - County Emergency Manager:** This grant that we have been applying for every year covers 50% of the salary and benefits for Emergency Manager and then 25% for Emergency Management specialists. That is because she's half Emergency Management and half Safety. We requested \$56,003.39 as a total. We didn't have enough time from when the grant came out to get it on the agendas before the deadline.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve ratification of submission of the Emergency Performance Grant (EMPG), a grant funding up to 50% of Emergency Managers' Salary/benefits and 25% of Emergency Management Specialist's salary/benefits.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 13. DISCUSSION

- A. GRANTS/SENIOR SERVICES:** Presentation of the annual report from Presbyterian Medical Services on programs and services provided to senior citizens in Torrance County, to include discussion of successes, challenges, plans, and draft Operating and Use Agreement for FY2025.

\*heard after 11A

- B. VALENCIA SHELTER SERVICES:** Presentation of Valencia Shelter Service's Annual Report, plan, needs, and discussion of draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for FY2025.

\*heard after 13A

#### C. MANAGER'S REPORT:

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Starting Monday the Road Department will be working new hours, 6:00 am to 4:30 pm, due to increasing temperatures. Some of the projects that they're working on are finishing the fogging on Deer Canyon and Snake Hill, and they're starting a gravel project on Triple Seven in Willard. The fencing at the new road shop has been completed and they'll be doing the parking lot the first week of July. As far as some of our projects, the fairgrounds, we're currently sending someone out to start working on the Geotech survey. We'll be meeting next week with the architect concerning the new Admin building. Those meetings are now turning virtual as much as we can, we're going to handle it that way since the main architect is out of Arizona.

Regarding the funding that could be coming to our Fire Department, Torrance County's Fire Department/EMS, there has been new legislation that's been passed, it was Senate Bill 151. Title is the Emergency Medical Services Fund created. With this, they are creating a similar fund to the State Fire allotment. It would be for medical services. With this money, we have obviously, just as a front page to it. They're going to be using money from distributions, they're going to be taking from health insurance. Property insurance is going to the Fire Funds, they'll be looking at health insurance, title insurance, or anything happening with the titles in

the title companies. They have identified different funding sources, there's a certain percentage that individuals will be paying on top of that, on their tax that will be for this fund. The way that they have allocated is they're saying that no less than 75% of the money in the fund shall be used for the Local Emergency Medical Services funding program to support the cost of supplies and equipment, and operational costs other than salaries and benefits for Emergency Medical Services personnel. This money shall be distributed to Municipalities and Counties. On behalf of eligible local recipients use a formula established under rules adopted by the department. The formula shall determine each municipality and county's share of the fund based on the relative geographic size and population of each County. The formula shall also base the distribution of money for each Municipality and County on the relative number of runs of each local recipient eligible to participate in the distribution. The run rates for the shifts that the Fire Chief was talking about earlier will play into this as well. It won't go to the salaries, but it will help with supplies and costs for running those EMS calls.

Jobs we have posted, Tax Specialists One in the Treasurer's Office. We still have openings for EMT/Firefighters, Misdemeanor Compliance Officer, Administrative Assistant for the Torrance County Fair Board, Equipment Operator, Sheriff's Deputy, and Clerical Float.

Going back up to Senate Bill 151. This is related to taxation distribution, a portion of the premium tax from health insurance business to the Emergency Medical Fund making an appropriation and I believe they also went on further and talked about the title insurance

#### **D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

- 1) Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** My grandmother Mary McCall passed away two weeks ago, She was a longtime citizen of Estancia and taught fourth grade for 21 years. A memorial service will be on Saturday. She's going to be sorely missed. Saturday. Thank you.

2) Ryan Schwebach - County Chairman, District 2

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I don't have much in my report, other than thank you for the rain.

3) Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner, District 3

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** As everybody knows, Linda Jaramillo, won the Primary Election for the seat in the Third District. She and I will be working together over the next six months in a transition period. I would ask that everybody continue to bring their projects and complaints to me. I will be sharing them with Ms. Jaramillo, as well as working with her on what projects she wants to see in the coming year, we'll make this a smooth transition. She and I have talked about getting into the south and outlying parts of the Third District to see the roads and meet people. I got two calls and a couple of emails, thanks to Leonard Lujan and the crew that worked the Deer Canyon Preserve Road. I got a couple of calls from Red Kingston, asking if we can remember the Mountainair Rodeo project as we go forward on different asks for months.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Mr. Hindi reminded me that yesterday, we did have a pre-construction meeting for the Duran Water Project for the tank. That is coming along nicely. There are a few more documents that need to be taken care of before we get the notice to proceed signed. As soon as we have that ready to go, I'll be informing the Commission and giving updates.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

15. **Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:**  
June 26, 2024, at 9:00 AM

16. **Signing of Official Documents.**

17. Adjourn.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to adjourn.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

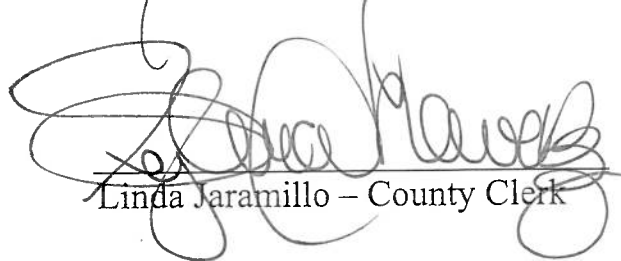


Ryan Schwebach - Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant

6/26/2024  
Date



Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk

The Video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Torrance County NM website. ([torrancecountynm.org](http://torrancecountynm.org))