

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
January 22, 2025
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

RYAN SCHWEBACH-COUNTY CHAIRMAN
KEVIN MCCALL –COUNTY VICE-CHAIR
LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Others Present:

J. JORDAN BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER
MISTY WITT – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY
GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III
DON GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR

1. **Call Meeting to order.**

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Calls the January 22, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

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

Invocation lead by: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner

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

4. **PROCLAMATION: None**

5. **CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS: None**

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

A. PLANNING & ZONING: Interview of Applicants and Potential Appointment to the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board.

Tim Oden: I submitted a short biography with my application. I closed the land survey business at the end of 2023 after 40 years of land planning, civil engineering, and land surveying, experience here in Torrance County. I was a member of the Torrance County Planning Zoning for 10 years in the late 80s, and early 90s, at which time, they adopted zoning in Torrance County. It was a pretty big deal for the zoning ordinance to be initiated in Torrance County at that time. My wife, Mike Gustin, and I are real estate brokers in the United Country Farm Home Realty in Moriarty and are currently actively engaged in the real estate business. I still do water rights consulting. I've always consulted in water rights commercial water rights and farm water rights in the valley and Edgewood. I've owned water rights. I've owned and operated water systems and regulated some related sales of water systems. My children are grown and gone. Since I've closed the business, I have no more conflicts of interest to sit on the board. Torrance County has always been good to me, and I thought maybe it was time to give back. I've studied the southern Torrance County Economic Development Plan a little bit. I don't see much implementation there. I think there's a lot of room for economic development in the County. I live in the city of the limits of Moriarty. I discussed with Don Goen if it's okay to apply as several qualifications there are to be on my hands, but I want you to know, make no mistake, I live in the city limits of Moriarty in Torrance County. I have some ideas about economic development in the County and tourism attractions and some ideas that I think your planning department could take the lead on some of these things and be a little more proactive on planning, and not just sit in those chairs and listen to applications and go up or down on applications. I'd like to see them become a little more proactive on some projects to help the County and do some things with the Commission's direction.

Thomas Conklin: I am a resident of Torrance County. I live on West Martinez Road. My background is mostly in law enforcement. I have been an investigator and involved in public safety, and public service since I was 18. I had a slight break after I retired from law enforcement in Ohio, where I ran my own forensic investigations company. In New Mexico, I went back into law enforcement at Central New Mexico Community College where I was a lieutenant and started their Investigations Bureau. Currently, I'm employed by the state of New Mexico.

I'm a Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to the investigations unit as an Arson Investigator/Fire Investigator, I share the previous applicants, thoughts about economic development. I think there are ways to develop the County and increase the tax base. Keeping in mind, our farmers, ranchers, and other residents. I also was a Death Investigator for 10 years with the office of the Medical Investigator out of Albuquerque. We dealt with people's concerns and different things regarding Planning and Zoning. Some residents have concerns about the zoning issues in the County. I think I would bring a fresh perspective to the Planning and Zoning Department. I have no conflicts of interest. I have no excess baggage that would be detrimental to the position I've applied for. I have two kids. They're grown. One lives in Ohio, and one lives in Florida. I'm currently engaged, and planning to get married here this spring. I included with my letter a copy of my professional resume.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: In your own words, what is the purpose of the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board?

Thomas Conklin: Planning and Zoning plans a community, as far as economic development planning, where housing developments, if any, come in, make sure that they meet the guidelines of the Planning and Zoning Commission or Department. Also, keep in mind water. Water is a concern throughout the Estancia Valley as well. I have a well, I'm concerned about that as well. We don't want to overdevelop areas that would depend on groundwater. We have some areas that could use help, some properties, and disrepair that don't meet standards and codes. One of the things I deal with as a Fire Investigator is the building codes and electrical codes, and we have some issues with some properties. Bringing those up to standard only enhances the property value and enhances the neighbor property values, which would help increase the County tax base.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to table item till next meeting when the third applicant can attend.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:
(Comments limited to two minutes.)**

Tiffany Wong - Innovation Law Lab: The following is a translation of a recent recording by Javier Guzman Perales who is seeking asylum and being detained by ICE and Core Civic in Torrance County Detention Facility. My colleague, Ian, will be playing the original reporting. “Hello. My name is Javier Guzman Perales. I am an immigrant held in Torrance. I've been here for a month, and I don't know anything about my process. This statement is simply about what the treatment of us migrants is like here in this institute, this detention center. Our complaint as inmates is about the conditions often that they have us in. The food is very bad. It's very little, and it's very spicy. We want to have that minimum guarantee that we can be well, that we can eat well, that at least we can arrive at night after working and can have a hot shower, not cold water. Imagine what the weather is like right now, here in Torrance, it's snowing. We come back from working all day to bathe with cold water.” Apart from Javier's comments on the inadequate meal provisions and basic infrastructure, I want to emphasize in particular something that might easily have been missed at the time of the reporting, Javier had been detained for a month and had not been provided any clarity from ICE about what's going on from his case or what would happen with him. We're seeing this with greater frequency at TCDF. People are languishing for longer and longer periods, separated from family, out to work inside the facility, as ICE refuses the very basic and timely follow-through required for their cases, we underscore, yet again, the need to end counties' complicity in this inhumane treatment of TCDF and as Commissioner Schwebach and last meeting stated it doesn't matter who the president is. End the inhumane treatment at TCDF. Thank you.

***Comments by Zoom**

Ian Philabaum - Innovation Law Lab: As Tiffany said, I'll be playing the recording of the recent statement on behalf of Javier Guzman Perales seeking asylum and detained by ICE and Core Civic in the Torrance County Detention Facility. (audio played in Spanish) Thank you very much.

8. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the December 30, 2024, Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

B. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the January 08, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE & PURCHASING: Request approval of payables.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve payables.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

**11. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:
None**

12. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

- A. MANAGER:** Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025-05, A Resolution Repealing and Replacing Resolution 2019-46 and Adopting the Torrance County Investment Policy.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: As discussed during our last meeting, we're proposing an amendment to the Torrance County Investment Policy. In 2019 the board approved resolution 2019-46 which adopted the initial investment policy. The real majority of that policy document has stayed the same. The one area that has changed, or where we are recommending changes to the investment policy is section eight of exhibit A, the Investment Committee. As originally designed, that committee had five members, the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer, the County Manager, and two members of the public. We would recommend keeping five voting members but adjusting the membership to include the Chair of the Board of Finance, which would also be the chair of the Board of County Commissioners or their designee, the County Treasurer, the County Finance Director, and the Deputy County Manager, to include their perspective as part of the process, as well as the County Manager and a member of the public, which we refer to as a community member. The other area where the previous investment policy needed a revision, was regarding that community member. It didn't necessarily talk about any qualifications to sit on that committee and take those positions. It also didn't discuss term limits. In Section Eight, we also indicated some baseline provisions for the community member, including that they have to be a resident of Torrance County, and they have to have a minimum of four years of education or experience related to private or public finance, investment management, banking or a related field. They would also serve two-year terms beginning on January 1 of every odd number year. There's always a process of evaluating that community member on that committee, though there will be no term limits. If there is an appointment that is doing well and functioning well with the committee, they would not have to vacate their position, should the board choose to continue to appoint them. The real impetus for this was ensuring that we could re-establish the Investment Committee and begin that process from a County perspective, getting recommendations from the Investment Committee, having the Board of County Commissioners convene periodically as the Board of Finance to discuss County investments, where we are, and potential options. That's statutorily mandated. We want to make sure that we

could, this spring, re-establish that investment committee and begin the process of reconvening again periodically, at least twice a year, as the Board of County Finance, specifically with some of the additional revenues that the county will be receiving in the coming years.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How's that person selected? Who selects them based on what applicants?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: The community member would be appointed, very similar to the Planning and Zoning Board. The Treasurer would request letters of interest from members of the public. Those would be reviewed and evaluated, and the Treasurer, who chairs the Investment Committee, would make recommendations to the board on the appointment of that position, and the board of the County Commission would have to confirm that appointment. It mirrors the Planning and Zoning Board in that regard. As far as appointments are concerned.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Under section four of delegation authority, the County Treasurer has ultimate authority. Is that by statute or by this policy?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: That is by statute.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We had discussed bringing a professional advisor in. Where would that individual be, and how would they relate to this board?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: That was the first item that we wanted to address once the Investment Committee was re-established. It would be that committee that would look at our current investment policy and would make a formal recommendation to the Board of Finance to bring on, should they think was a prudent idea, a professional Investment Advisor. Should that person be appointed, they would work hand in hand with the committee to look at those investments, and then periodically, probably once a quarter, the County Treasurer would report back to this board, as the Board of Finance, to discuss where we are and request some direction as far as planning and processing. In terms of the discussions we've had about getting that person on board, looking at current policy, it seemed like the Investment Committee would be the mechanism and the avenue by which those recommendations would be made, and we could start that process. This doesn't hold us from not going out for professional advice.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-05.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

- B. MANAGER:** Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025-06, A Resolution Supporting Certain Provisions of New Mexico Counties' 2025 Legislative Priorities.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: This stems from our last meeting, where we discussed New Mexico Counties reaching out to us to determine whether or not this board would support their Legislative Priorities for 2025 going into the session. Based on those discussions, we created this Resolution, which outlines support for all of the provisions that were outlined from New Mexico Counties, except Equitable Disclosure for Nonresidential Property, which was part of that last discussion, because we did get the understanding that there was no consensus that there was support in that regard. This Resolution would cover all of the additional items outlined in New Mexico County's legislative proposal. That was the only item we struck.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-06.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

13. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

- A. LEGAL:** Request Review and Approval of the 4th Quarter Restrictive Housing Unit Report to be Submitted to New Mexico Counties.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: The report in question is in front of you, and was not included in the packet material, specifically because it's mandated to contain personal identifying information of people who are currently in restricted

housing. We are required to receive Board approval on this report. This report is provided to New Mexico Counties as they cover our insurance and our liabilities. They monitor restricted housing reports for every County. The board is required to review this, and if approved, we will send this document to New Mexico Counties for their review as well.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Has this increased?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: I can't say I was not able to review the previous report. This is the first one that I've seen since I've been here.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Numbers are higher.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve the 4th Quarter Restrictive Housing Unit Report to be Submitted to New Mexico Counties.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

- B. MANAGER/GRANTS:** Request Ratification of Grant Agreement TS05342 Provided by the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the ENDWI Project, Buckle Up/Click It or Ticket Project, and Selective Enforcement Program Totaling \$13,200.00.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: This grant agreement, we are requesting ratification due to time restrictions and the mechanism by which this had to be signed online. I did execute this grant agreement last week. This is a comprehensive traffic enforcement set of grants for ENDWI, Operation Buckle-up, and the STEP program. They are recurring grants that we received from the Department of Transportation for traffic enforcement.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve the Ratification of Grant Agreement TS05342 Provided by the New Mexico Department of Transportation

for the ENDWI Project, Buckle Up/Click It or Ticket Project, and Selective Enforcement Program Totaling \$13,200.00.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

C. FINANCE: Request Approval to Pay Prior Year Invoice to Core Civic in the Amount of \$166,680.00 For Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 ICE Transportation Costs Invoiced in Fiscal Year 2025.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: If you recall a few meetings ago, we had a similar invoice. We are receiving some deposits from ICE at the federal level. When I received those deposits, I reconciled them against invoices we received from Core Civic. I did not have corresponding invoices; I reached out to get those invoices and found that they were prior-year transportation costs that were omitted from the original ICE invoices in those fiscal years. We have taken this up the chain with Core Civic and spoke with Core Civic management to let them know of these issues and the issues that they are causing for the County. They should be streamlining this process from the report.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Do we have the money set aside for all of these?

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: Yes, this is pass-through money. We receive money from the federal government for the ICE program, and then we pass that through Core Civic. Even if they're late, we still have the money.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

D. FINANCE: Request Approval to Pay Prior Year Invoice to Core Civic in the Amount of \$57,420.00 For Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 ICE Transportation Costs Invoiced in Fiscal Year 2025.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: This is the same as the previous agenda item.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

E. MANAGER/DWI: Request Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Torrance County DWI Program and Pinwheel Healing Center, LLC for the Provision of Substance Abuse Treatment Services to Uninsured Individuals Referred Through the DWI Program.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: This is an MOU that was on the agenda from the last meeting. We requested to table it at that time because we made some tweaks to the Memorandum of Understanding specifically regarding what would be provided to us as far as program reporting and invoicing. We can evaluate that information and ensure that you know services are being provided to Torrance County residents. This is one of two providers located in the Albuquerque area that our DWI Coordinator can make referrals to for intensive outpatient programming, individual counseling, and community support services. As people come into the DWI program, we would make those direct referrals. We would get invoices based on the current Medicaid rates for those individuals who weren't insured to receive those services, and that would be funded through the DWI program. So this board is aware I'm presenting this item today because we did have a recent turnover with our DWI Coordinator in that position. We have a new person coming on board. They accepted their offer letter today. They should be starting in a couple of weeks. We wanted to ensure that, they could hit the ground running, and we have at least two providers to provide those supportive services once they come on board.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding Between the Torrance County DWI Program and Pinwheel Healing

Center, LLC for the Provision of Substance Abuse Treatment Services to Uninsured Individuals Referred Through the DWI Program.

Linda Jaramillo -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

F. SHERIFF: Request Approval of Payment for an Unauthorized Purchase in the Amount of \$130.23 to Occupational Health for a Physical Examination of a Deputy for the Law Enforcement Academy.

Reecie Eckard – Sheriff’s Executive Assistant: We had a deputy who went into the LE Academy in June, he required an additional physical, and there are expenses for him going into the academy. When the deputies go to the LE Academy, they are required to have special uniforms. This happened before I worked at the Sheriff’s Office. I’m trying to get everything cleaned up.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve the payment.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

G. SHERIFF: Request Approval of Payment for an Unauthorized Purchase in the Amount of \$896.75 to Academy Uniforms for Uniform Purchases.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve payment.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

H. FACILITIES: Request Approval of an Unauthorized Purchase in the Amount of \$5,717.50 to the Sustainable Handyman for Painting Services Provided at the 7th Judicial District Court House.

Richard Lesperance- County Facilities Director: The Judicial building needed some painting done. I got three quotes for that project. I got approved for Sustainable Handyman for Painting Services to go ahead and do the job. They were the lowest quote. I went ahead and scheduled it. We did it and forgot to make a requisition. Services were completed in October.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve payment.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

14. DISCUSSION

A. MANAGER: Admin Building Update/Presentation

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: I'm working on the new administration building. Here is an update on what we've been doing since the last time we met. We made some additional cuts. Currently, the building stands at about 30,000 square feet, and we've removed about 35% of the offices internally. We're going to have some general open space for cubicles to be purchased, and employees to sit. We've reduced the amount of the budget for several things, and currently, the estimate is around 14 million. In addition to the internal cuts, we've reduced the amount of masonry on the exterior and replaced it with metal panels. The sills below the window are metal panels and a metal roof. In addition to the building cuts, we've reduced the site by about half. The pavement area has been reduced, the landscape area has been reduced. Currently, we're showing about 112 parking spaces that do include the secured area for the fleet vehicles off the maintenance portion of the building. The site is towards Alan Ayers Street to reduce the amount of utility coming into the site, the street does not have sewer piping. I've been in touch with New Mexico Environmental, and I've done some preliminary design work on an on-site septic system. As the Architect, we can do that work and be checked by an Engineer. We have on-staff, Civil Engineers, who

can also do that. We have spoken with the environmental plan reviewer and also the inspector who handles this area. He was fine with the company doing the septic design and getting with the County Manager to determine exactly how we want to handle the disposal field, traditional piping chambers, etc.

The plans currently are to make about 60 to 70% complete, with grading, and drainage underway. The architecture is about 75% complete. MP& E, about 50% to 60% complete. The Geotechnical investigation has been released, they'll be on-site to do both Soil Investigation for the foundation concrete pavements of the building, as well as the per crate for the new septic tank. We anticipate getting a little further with the drawing set and then bringing on a contractor to do a preliminary cost estimate. Getting with the local contractor to give us a cost estimate, to make sure we are close to our original estimates. Following that, we'll finish up the documents we've scheduled about the middle of March for completing documents. Those documents will then be issued to bidding, and we are currently suggesting that the bidding take place by invitation. We'll vet contractors done similar size work around the state, and we'll invite them with a letter of invitation and distribute the plans to them to bid on. Anticipate about a three to four-week bid process, review the numbers, and negotiate, then schedule inspection activity. That's currently where we are with the project schedule to complete documentation in March, the bidding period, and then construction possibly in April, or May.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The septic is not part of that 14 million, or is it?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: It'll be part of the documents. It wasn't part of the original cost estimate. To answer the question, no.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The 14 million covers the building, turnkey on the building, and site development, which we have cut back.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: We have not reduced the estimate based on the cutback of the site. There are some savings there, but it did not include an on-site septic system.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: My understanding, is we have city sewer, there. If there's not, I would like a conversation with the city.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Have we explored the option of city sewer?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: I have not explored it.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: This septic information was new information to me this morning. I was under the assumption that a water and sewer line was running down Alan Ayers, though I hadn't confirmed that officially. That's something we're going to have to look at and address. That's part of the process that we've also had discussions with Wilson and Company about, is having that sit down with Estancia to discuss entitlements, the review process, and utilities. Those are discussions that need to be had sooner, rather than later.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: The estimate did include bringing sewer in from Alan Ayers, but it did not include a separate design. There is water on Alan Ayers. There's an electric overhead that will need to bring down a pole transformer and then bring it into the service. We're anticipating about a 1200 amp service for the facility.

Donald Goen-County P & Z Director: I had some discussions with the Director of Public Works for Estancia. The residential development, across from the proposed site all have septic. The prison has an evaporation pond. They're not on the city sewer. I confirmed the placement of the water pipe, the size of it, and so on. We have city water and power, to the property line. No sewer in that area.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: In my experience, this is going to be a massive system.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: The plumbing count for the fixture units is 83 fixture units. I count out a septic tank in the neighborhood of 6500 gallons.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: With my experience of building a pumpkin patch, I disagree. I've got a bathroom with about 20 outlets, and it's bigger than that system. We are open 14 days a year, but they treat me as if we are open 365 days a year. They treat me the same way they're going to treat this.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do they solely look at outlets, or do they look at traffic?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Look at the number of plumbing fixtures you have in the building. Each plumbing fixture, toilet, sink, or whatever has a unit number assigned, based on the flow. A toilet might have a

three because of the flush, 1.6, or a two-gallon flush occurrence. Those add up. Based on the number of those types of fixtures, you multiply it by that fixture unit, and you calculate the total of all those. For the building's current designs, 83 fixture units. You're looking for the daily flow rate. They require that the septic tank be 2.5 times that flow rate. That's how I arrived at the 6500-gallon septic tank. I'm going to get that verified.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Two things, I think we either need to see what it's going to cost to get city sewer there or jump ship on these 25 acres and find somewhere that we can tie in the city sewer. Maintenance of a septic tank for the life of this building is going to be burdensome.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Having worked in this building for 26 years, we are in dire need of a new administration building for our employees. I want to try our hardest to get this done as soon as possible. I talked to Senator Stefanics, and I sent an email to Lord, and I gave them all of my reasons from first-hand experience working in this building. Stefanics said she'd get back to me today. I've worked under these conditions, and they're harsh. In the winter, it's cold. In the summer, it's hot. It's just time to do this.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I don't think any of us are denying it's time. We wouldn't have gotten to the point we are today if we didn't agree with that. I was under the assumption there was city water and city sewer.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: This is a prime example, also, of a \$14 million estimate. There's another quarter million, but we're going to find two or three more. It's easy to get to 16 million, which we better map out how we're going to pay for it. What are other potential cost savings that do not hamper the effectiveness of the building?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: We talked about the roof material itself changing. We do not have anything roof mounted on this building. This building, because of the sloping roofs, the mechanical units are going to be mounted on the ground in a yard at the back of the building. That can be a potential savings. The amount of glass in the building could be a potential savings. We do have clear story glass that lights the internal spine or the hallway of the building. That's a potential decrease in the amount of removing it altogether. We did decrease the hearing chambers slightly in the plan, removing some doors. We could remove some of the toilets that are scattered throughout the building, each

department either shares or has its own toilet facility, a single-user toilet, which can be a cost savings.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: How can we change this process procurement-wise? I feel it's important we get a contractor on board sooner rather than later because those contractors will be able to have that discussion with us. Instead of you giving us a complete plan that a set of contractors bid from. I would rather bring a set of contractors in sooner than I can say, instead of this HVAC system, I can save you money by using this HVAC system.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: I'd like to get a preliminary framing plan done and then turn it over to a contractor. We are close.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: What is the percentage cost of what is estimated in furnishings?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: 8%.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The conversation I remember is that most of our furnishing is up to date and we're on the plan to reuse it. This has all of the communication, the networking, everything within that 14 million.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: That is correct, the PA was removed from the project.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Why cut it back when we know we have to have it?

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: We were exploring the options. The PA system was throughout the parking lot, and the building, we cut it back to see what we needed, only in the Commission Chambers, and lobby. We can get a third-party contractor to do that.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What you're asking right now is for us to be confident on the floor plan.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: When we move forward with that 14 million estimate, we now have a couple of decisions to make. One, where can we

cut that cost? Where can we find that money? When we bring a contractor in that's actually in the game of building businesses, they're going to be able to fine-tune stuff. For example, the PA system. This is a 15-year commitment. I'm saying we need to think it through, and I'm still committed to moving forward, but I need all the options possible. The last option that we had briefly discussed, and it's not top of my list, is potential phases. Phases have not been discussed at all. It is not even practical?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Is it practical? No, not in my opinion, we've discussed this with the group moving forward through the design being a single phase, build-out.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I think one of the other considerations that we've had some discussions about is the uses of this facility, beyond that. I think there are some other long-range discussions. Certainly, this is, at least in my experience, with these types of construction processes. This is an ongoing process. The septic tank was one hurdle, and I'm sure there will be others along the way that we want to be transparent about and have these discussions with the board. From our perspective, we can go back, get estimates for the septic tanks, have discussions, and give some options, but, there will be some back and forth through this process.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What about flood insurance?

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: We can talk to New Mexico counties and see what that will look like on our policy.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: When we started this process, we had that ten million in our mind, and we've already exceeded that greatly. I think here in the last 15 minutes, we've talked about a lot of quarter-million, half-million dollar increases that I think we still haven't seen. I think you're right in saying that we could get to 16 million real quick. I think the two of us have some hesitation that we're going down a larger road than we first thought we were going down. I'm a little apprehensive myself. You keep cutting asphalt and that kind of thing. I appreciate that, but the price tag keeps going up, it seems, instead of going in the opposite direction, that has me concerned, and it's not a good time to be building right now. When we borrowed \$10 million we were committed. It's gotten big real fast. It's a process. I'm worried about where we're starting.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: The sooner we can bring on that contractor to confirm these numbers, we'll all feel better.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: What were the issues with the \$11 million bid?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: It came down to square footage.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Are we committed to moving forward with this floor plan, bringing in a contractor to nail some of that down? If the state comes up with \$3 million, I'm a lot more comfortable. \$3 million is a chunk of change for Capital Outlay.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I will start working on that. I think we must get a new building for our employees. I know there are roads that we need to fix and all of these other issues. When I came in 1997 this building was old, and it's just slowly deteriorated, and we're pouring more and more money into patching, that's wasting a lot of money. I think in the long run, we'd save money by not having to patch so much and fix and it will last us a while before we get into that. We're pouring a lot of money into this old building.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We're not denying that. It's that it's not our money, it's taxpayers' money to be spent.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You had mentioned an Invitational bid, explain that.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: There are various ways of bidding on a project like this public project. Do a basic design, bid, build, or design all the documents, we put it on the street, advertise it, and anybody who will build in this building can bid on it. They go ahead and review the documents and put together a number they suffice in terms of insurance, licensing, and experience, all that they're able to bid. The invitation is upfront. The contractor vetted for the type of work they do, and the schedules they hold can follow up with some of the clients that they've had building. It's a vetting process. Once that happens, feel comfortable with the number of contractors, an invitation is written and becomes part of what we call the front end of the project manual. It goes out to those various contractors, and then they go ahead and review the documents, put together numbers, put together all the paperwork in terms of insurance, bonding, etc., and

submit their bids. I'll work with the County Manager, and we'll develop a letter. We'll get it out to the various contracts as soon as we can. We can have an interview process too, if you like, bring in contractors.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: To sum up the process, it's qualification based on the invitation on the front end, making sure that people that are being provided this bid have done similar works, and you've been able to vet those works through their clients for projects, rather than having it open-ended and getting bids for people that maybe do similar work but have not dealt with the project of this scope and scale. That would be the difference between the two.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I want to be careful in doing it in a way that a contractor that gets involved early loses the ability to bid it because they were involved on the early end of it. I think we need to be very careful. I want to follow the law to the T as well as what we can do to get a contractor involved but not exclude them from the bid process.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: It is possible, but that language and documentation have to occur up front and almost have to be agreed upon.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: You have to be careful with that, in procurement.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: There is a predevelopment process, and then there's the development process.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: When we're looking to hire a contractor for pre-development.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: I'm not sure hire is the correct word. I think we're going to enter into dialog with some of the contractors that we do business with that are building for us around the state and see if they will do. Our intent at Wilson and Company is to bring a contractor on board that we have a relationship with currently in the state, building buildings for us in the state.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is this process now, is that within our contract with you, or we're going to see something additional?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: We can try to get it within our contract now, with no additional monies being spent on additional service for this service. In other words, if the contractor will do it free of charge.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Before we move forward and commit to extra funds, you'll make us aware of it.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Correct.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: You're saying you're going to do that internally?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Yes.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Therefore the County's not involved. What I understand about the procurement process is okay. It's when the County starts soliciting contractors.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Yes. There's another delivery method, CM at risk. That's a contract Manager at risk, you could bring them on board contractually, and there's a fee for them to review the plans and work with the team, and they end up being the contractor that builds the facility.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm not willing to jump in, eyes closed, without having a plan on how it's going to get paid for, and I don't think until we get some of that information, we're not going to be able to narrow it down. You start guessing \$2 million one way or another, that's \$2 million, and that's where we're at today. Can that be accomplished? Can we get it close enough to say, right now I'm figuring you budget 14 million? I'm figuring plus 25%. Can we get enough information to say if you tell me 14 million plus or minus 5%?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Yes. We can get that information from discussions with a contractor.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: With you committing to that is that one of those things that you with Wilson and Company will do internally?

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm not opposed to the \$14 million if that's where it is, and we honestly look at how we can cut costs and still be affected. But if we're at that number, I got to do some hard thinking on how we're going to do it. Expenses have changed, and square footage has changed, I've accepted that. From where I started, where I had my funding lined out, within this County, we're 4 million over. That's the difference. Let's figure out how to find the rest of the money. What I'm not willing to do is gamble or other services, longevity. In all fairness, we've talked about two roads, Capital Outlay and cutting money. There are a dozen other roads we can go down, which we have yet to explore. Getting that plus or minus 5% will help you make those decisions.

Scott Neiss -Architect with Wilson and Company: Wilson and Company, we'll go ahead and talk to the contractors we have relationships with, share the plans with, them, and see where we're at and where we can cut from their point of view. We're going to be there for summer construction. We'll be there when the ribbon is cut.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Thank you.

B. MANAGER: Annual Report for Valencia Shelter Services

Kaitlin Cole - Victim Services Coordinator: I last presented to you guys in June. I wanted to do another overview of VSS services. All of our services are available to any client that comes to us. Some of these services may not be at our Torrance County office in Estancia. If a client needs any services within VSS, they're available to anyone. We have clients from other states that come to VSS. We do have our 24/7 crisis line, and this crisis line is connected directly to our emergency shelter. Our agency is also what is considered a tri-service agency, we cover not only domestic violence, but we cover sexual assault and child abuse. In our emergency shelter, women and children can enter this shelter under any of those circumstances. Many shelters only cover sexual assault or only cover domestic violence, whereas ours, can bring in any victim under these circumstances. We do have transitional housing when we have anyone who enters our shelter or needs housing resources. We do have a housing department that can provide those resources, and if they are able and eligible to enter our housing it's a two-year program that we help victims be able to get back on their feet. We offer counseling and legal advocacy. This is the program that we have most directly in Torrance County. We have advocates within our Estancia office. That is the program that I

oversee. All of my advocates try to make sure we're all Torrance advocates. We do have a couple of advocates who are specifically Torrance advocates, but all of us take time to make sure that we're in that office or work with Torrance clients. We offer offender rehabilitation as well. We have multiple clients from Torrance County that we work with for our offender program, and we have a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center. This is where we do forensic interviews for child abuse cases. All Faiths has been the main provider for forensic interviews, but we have already seen an uptick in our agency taking on forensic interviews for the Sheriff's Office, mostly due to All Faiths not having a bilingual forensic interviewer right now, and also just being understaffed, we have already provided more forensic interviews in this last two quarters than we have the previous year. In July we recently opened up our SANE Unit at our main office. This is a Sexual Assault Nursing Exam Unit, where we can provide exams for those who have been in DV situations, have been strangled, or have been sexually assaulted. They can get an exam by a nurse specifically contracted or working for us, and they do not have to go all the way to necessarily, like a hospital to get this. One of our big goals is to be able to have a traveling nurse eventually, and a space where we could provide that within Torrance County.

I wanted to provide a picture of fiscal year 24 versus fiscal year 25 this last quarter one and two. We finished up quarter two in December. In fiscal year 24 we didn't necessarily have these services for a full year, VSS did not come in at the very beginning of the fiscal year. Keep that in mind when also looking at these numbers, the previous fiscal year, 23 to 24 we served with Torrance County DV, specifically that grant, we served 58 people, and we provided a total of 204 contacts or services. What this means is we try to provide a wraparound of services, it's not just a one and done. I meet with you to de-escalate a situation, and what resources can I provide you for this appointment, and the next appointment, and let's prep for your court hearing. Then I will attend your court hearing with you. We provide in-depth services that help clients heal overall, not just meet with you one time, and then we're never talking again. That's why those numbers are very different, because we see clients sometimes long term, depending on the situation. All of our services are available to Torrance County residents and clients. I also wanted to paint a picture of how many people serve overall in the County, not just with the Torrance County DV-funded grant. For fiscal year, 24 we served 148 people. We provided 674 different services, and we were able to shelter 10 people within our emergency shelter within that fiscal year. When we go to fiscal year 25 which is where we're at right now. This is quarters one and quarter two. July through December, we have already served 39 people and provided 163 services. We are projected to serve more people and provide more services than we

did the previous year, and overall, our service response to the County and the residents as a whole, we've served 73 people and provided 471 different services, whether that's legal advocacy or a forensic interview. We have already sheltered seven people in our emergency shelter in these last two quarters. We are projected to go over the 10 that we did the previous year.

I want to break down what services we have been able to provide, specifically with the County DV grant, versus other services we provided, but we utilized other funding resources to be able to provide those services. Overall, with the Torrance County DV grant, we mostly provide advocacy and crisis intervention, advocacy can be victim and legal. Legal being like court accompaniment, helping do a restraining order versus victim being helping do referrals for counseling or doing a compensation application. We do the MDT coordination. That is our multidisciplinary team. For all of the child abuse cases that are done within Torrance County, we have an MDT Coordinator who tracks all of those cases where they are currently. We meet with the DAs, and the different law enforcement involved, and see where this case is at. What do we need? So on and so forth. Then we do have our 24-hour hotline that is partially covered by Torrance County DV. Other services that we have provided to residents within Torrance County include MDT case tracking. We have provided multiple forensic interviews now for residents of Torrance County, and we have provided individual and group counseling. Offender services are covered by a different funder. We have provided SANE services and emergency shelter. Overall, we have used a total of 10 different funding resources to be able to provide these other services outside of the County grant. Throughout 2024 we have met with many different partners and within the community. We've met with every single Police Department and provided training. We are looking to schedule another just annual training to go over all of our services and our lethality protocol for DV calls. We have met with adult and juvenile probation in the last year. We've met with CYFD, and we've met with YDI. We have stopped at some of the hotels. We've met with the District Attorney's Office. Stopped at health clinics, and we also stopped at the District Court multiple times. We've had one-on-one meetings with the Hearing Officer Campbell, and we talk and communicate very often with the District Court Clerk.

We also have a new position that we hired within the agency, which is an outreach specialist. She has been working hard, meeting with YDI in the last two weeks in Torrance County getting a lot of different outreach and tabling events that she plans to attend. Having her will be very helpful in getting more outreach done. Some of the challenges over the year have been staffing. Hiring directly from Torrance County has been a little bit difficult, and then we have some staff on

leave. I will be on leave starting on Friday. I do have a lead advocate who will be stepping in, as a Clinical Director. My Torrance advocate who lives within Estancia is currently also on maternity leave, we are having to fill the gaps where we can. VSS has had a lot of restructuring in the past six months because we brought on new programs. New programs have met new positions, new policies and procedures, and vacant positions. We are almost fully staffed. We have done a lot of growth within the agency to provide so many more services, it's just stalled a couple of other things. As for services, I did reach out to some partners that we've worked very closely with who are all there and are going to make a statement on our work together. Deputy Cervantes, Deputy Long, and Amanda Spalding from Torrance County Compliance are all going to just make a small statement.

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: I'm here to talk to you about my experience with VSS services while on duty. They are very helpful. They always answer the phone for any type of question, even if it's something that's outside of their field. They've been able to provide me with resources to reach other services for certain clients, or victims. I worked the night shift, I come at different times of night, several times a night, and I've never had an issue with them, and understand that we do have those services available for residency because we are so rural. We have nothing out here, but with them, at least it's a light for an individual.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: When somebody calls you for help, are you the first one to respond, and do you carry through or do you call VSS and make arrangements?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: When the victim or whoever it is, it's called a call for service. Normally, let's say for this purpose of domestic violence call. When we arrive on the scene, we have to make that determination of what's going on. What are we going to do for this victim, or suspect, or what the situation is in its entirety. A lot of people don't have family nearby, or they don't have good relationships with those family members. With VSS, it's something that we call while we're on scene and explaining the situation, they may put them in a hotel or by transportation, or whatever the case may be. They're like the middlemen for us to be able to help them out a little bit more, aside from going to jail or being separated from the night and figuring it out. They give more of a step up for providing those services for them, to help.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: We don't have a shelter here in Torrance, but we can put them up in a hotel for their safety.

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: Yes, there's been other situations where we've been able to transport or have somebody transport those individuals. VSS has all these other programs that will assist them with whatever their situation is.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How long have you been here with Torrance County?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: Two years.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Walk me through from a deputy's perspective. If somebody calls in domestic violence, you come to the scene and assess the situation. When does VSS become involved? When you're dealing with a victim and giving them options?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: VSS provides us with a mentality form. It has a series of questions that we ask the victim. It ranges from, have they ever been choked? Have they been abused? In that line of questions, based on that, there's a criteria, we can call them directly that night for emergency service, or it could be follow-up services. Whenever we call there, we have that paperwork that's filled out and submit it to them. They have a copy of it and provide them a copy of the report. They do all follow-ups.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm also on the assumption, in your experience. The majority of the time, when you encounter these cases, you're dealing with a victim who is probably very torn psychologically and mentally on how to make the right decision, what their rights are, what their safety is, and all of that. What kind of support do the Sheriff's Department and/or VSS offer to walk them through that? Because if you make a phone call and nobody answers on the other side, the victim's first response would say, "I'm moving on. I'm done". That was a missed opportunity. Has that ever happened within the Sheriff's Department?

David Frazee-County Sheriff: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do we know why or how often it's happened?

David Frazee-County Sheriff: No, I don't know.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: There could be multiple reasons.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: In some cases where children are involved, are the children taken with the person who's being abused and protected?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is it different case by case, when you're dealing with a minor? Does that stage differ on what law enforcement can and or should do versus an adult? Are you obligated to remove a minor who is involved?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: CYFD gets involved if minors are in danger.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Is that mandatory training to attend?

Deputy Cervantes - Torrance County Sheriff's Office: I'm not sure if it is mandatory.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The Sheriff is saying it is not mandatory. County Manager, walk me through the MOU we have with VSS. Tell me exactly what that entails.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: The MOU, sets a relationship between the County and VSS to provide roughly \$60,000 a year to list out and provide most of the services that are provided by VSS for County residents. There is not a ton in terms of meat and potatoes about that MOU. It is about two pages long. A summary of it is the County is providing \$60,000 to take over domestic violence services for this County, and these are the services that will be provided. There's not a bunch to it.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I remember when VSS came in because it was in-house. I can't exactly remember why we went with VSS.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: It's my understanding that it is for the CYFD grant. It was a preference that it go to a nonprofit versus an in-house employee.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is that common practice within the state?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: It is common practice for these services to be given to a nonprofit in the state for

reasons that the nonprofit must adhere to VOCA and VAWA protections that are federally mandated, or victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, that certain protections of confidentiality need to be outside of the administrative law. That's the preference and the best practice of CYFD, and the choice as to why I was approached by David River to support Torrance County. David River is the DV Unit Manager. From my history, I've been doing domestic violence work for over 10 years, primarily in Valencia, doing it in Albuquerque, but from my history of being close to the DV unit before 2015 the turnover was always an issue for this program. My understanding was that the funding was to support three advocates at a part-time status to were also doing victim services and offender treatment and shared a phone line. With all that demand of service, they weren't able to keep up with the contractual demands of CYFD and the ability to continue that program, and why Dave River approached me because they didn't want this funding to not be supported by anybody in the County. They understood that there were still victims here who needed support and service.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We had the housing before. Why didn't David come to us?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I don't know the answer to that one Mr. Chair.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I want to talk a little bit about what direct services you have within Torrance County. Do you provide staff here?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: We have shared staff. The whole advocate unit is made up of five advocates for this service area. They have created a schedule where they do rotation days here at the main office in Torrance. They share that responsibility until we can hire the second position of the Torrance County advocate and or the other Torrance County advocate is back from maternity. Once the advocate is back, from maternity leave, we'll have the full position again. They work in Torrance one day a week.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do the advocates meet in person, or is it usually over the phone?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: It's the preference of the client or the situation.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I have heard we have had some issues in the past, primarily due to staff, is that corrected?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Yes. I also feel that with any nonprofit taking over services, these are normal differences that we would see in transition. Again, Caitlin did say that we didn't take on the full fiscal year 24. Integrating and making sure that the numbers were correct, changing the website information, making sure that we got the outreach completed, the hiring the Outreach Coordinator who is not supported through Torrance County funding, but leveraged through other funding that we can provide in the agency. I think that a lot of these issues will be addressed in time. But again, we've also had this in the transition period.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How long has this transition period been?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: About six months from when we had a full turn to our agency and then also trying to engage the community.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Was it six months since the MOU was signed?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: No, it's been longer. Six months of active collaboration from community partners, meaning that we've done the outreach and we've done the attempt, but sometimes some of the agencies, as you can see from our long course, deal with many other calls, not just domestic violence. It's also trying to get on their training calendars. It's trying to collaborate in that effort and being aware of the lethality assessment, what's the point of it? Where does it come from? The scientific backing gets certified so that they know the process and procedure.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Historically, the Sheriff's Department or law enforcement is the first point of contact to get the victim in touch with VSS, or some type of organization.

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Survivors of Torrance County do not seek law enforcement support just because of the old fear of ICE and the detention center and all these things and so sometimes they just come straight to our office for support or call the hotline. We've had a couple of emails from survivors here in Torrance who have sought support, and we were able to help them. Having multiple avenues and being able to access them is the point because not every survivor will seek service through law enforcement.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Does the \$60,000 cover the housing of the victims?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Mainly staff, and then it does have a little bit of hotel accommodation, dollars for the clients.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is this MOU coming up for renewal?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: It would come up for renewal at the end of this fiscal year.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: This presentation is very general for me, I prefer a little bit more stats specifically to accounting on numbers you have, how many you served, and how many haven't been served that requested it. Do we have that number?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Not readily accessible, but I can get it.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is it data that's kept? That's of concern to me, because, in my mind, our goal in this is to provide a real need for our case of residents of Torrance County, and if there are individuals that have reached out and not been served, why? Is it the fault of our end for the lack of training with our Sheriff's Department or the availability of finances? We need to know the why. Prior, we had a little bit more direct communication in the whys because it was a staff here. We now have a third party, and checks and balances are a little bit tougher to acquire. Are we getting accurate information and how can we get some assurances that the information is accurate and correct?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: I think at this point it might be helpful if the County created a reporting element where you have specific questions about what it is that you'd like us to answer because I think what we provide is customary for other organizations or other grants, private or for federal dollars or state dollars. Specifics would be helpful for us and the team so that we can get you that data.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You service Valencia County and Torrance?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Torrance, Socorro, Catron, and Valencia.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How large is your staff?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: 36 altogether.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How long has your nonprofit been?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: Been in existence since 1981.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It's expanded to these other countries for the same reason?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: We were asked to support it. We never go anywhere, we are not invited or asked for support. In Socorro, particularly, there is a DV project out there. It's a nonprofit. So we provide sexual assault support and child abuse support. They provide us with a building and some space, and then we're able to leverage between the two agencies.

Amanda Spalding - Torrance County Compliance Officer: I oversee the ones that are on probation or pre-trial for domestic violence. I'm on the opposite side. Your officers deal with the victims and stuff like that, and then they may arrest them. Offenders may go to court, and then the offender comes to me, and then I monitor them on the offender's side. Whenever they are convicted, when they're on pre-trial. They still have to check in with me every week to make sure that they're not running they're not violating restraining orders. They have conditions of release that they have to follow. My job is to make sure that they are following these conditions. Are they violating the restraining orders or anything like that? Every once in a while, the court will require them to complete a domestic violence class, which they do through VSS before conviction, depending on the severity of the charges. Now, if not, then they're just on a pretrial status. Once they move to a probation status, then they're with me. The probation is no less than a year, and sometimes more. I've seen them up to three to four years' probation. During that time, they have to complete a 52-week class about domestic violence and stuff like that. VSS does offer that they are who I use. I send the referrals over there, and they've been amazing with me. Whenever I got in connection with the assets, when

I came into this position, they were like, instant on providing me training. What do I need to do? How do I need to do this? What is this class all about? Because I came in with a blindfold. They walked me through the whole process, step by step on how to monitor the clients more productively. I have a caseload of about 130 people that I'm monitoring.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What kind of time frame for those 130 people who are on your case over the last six months, 12 months?

Amanda Spalding - Torrance County Compliance Officer: They have probation for three or four years. I was up to 200. January and February are your busiest months because of the holidays and all that other stuff and court hearings. A lot of them that came on to probation, last January, February before that, are now being released from probation. They've done their time. I was able to drop off quite a few and release them from the courts and the probation process over this last month. The majority of them were completed. Some of them were unsuccessful discharges for whatever reason. For Torrance County, right now, I have 49 on probation for DWI and domestic violence is neck and neck with that same I think I'm at like 37 that is on probation for domestic violence. They are required to complete a 52-week class on domestic violence, one of the issues that we were having prior, was communication. They struggle with staffing; nobody is fully staffed. One of the things that was getting by is some of the public defenders, public defenders or private attorneys, were kind of sneaking in and doing this, you are being convicted of domestic violence, but we're only going to give you 180 days probation. By law, they have to do that domestic violence class. They can't complete that domestic violence class in 180 days. That's when I went to the judge and said, this is because it is required by law that they complete the 52-week class. To clarify this 52-week class are services through VSS. I don't know the success rate, because I haven't been here long enough to be able to put that number together, because of the fact it is a one-year class, and I have not been here a year, to see if there are any repeat offenders. As far as repeat files, I have not seen any when it comes to domestic violence. DWI, yes, I've seen a lot of repeat offenders. When I get somebody on probation with me, or even on pre-trial, the first thing I do is go to my closed case file and see if we got a frequent flyer. If I do, I pull that file, that way we can keep all of the caseloads in order.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Do you see success rates with the people who do attend these classes?

Amanda Spalding - Torrance County Compliance Officer: Yes, I do. I also see a turnaround in their attitude towards the system. When they first came on with me, they were very like the victim is the problem. I've even referred over to them females that were the offender. It's not always males that are the offender. They'll come in kind of like sometimes, with the attitude that the offender is the problem. By the time we get into just a few of the classes, their demeanor, and their attitude, even towards me, you can see a change.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What's the cost of the class?

Stephanie Wood - Executive Director for Valencia Shelter Services: We have a \$35 intake fee, and then \$10 per class. If we identified that they're indigent. We do try to leverage other funding to work on it. The fee in the curriculum is something that they put weight on because it's paying in an onus. It's buying into the idea of change in that particular curriculum. We want to make sure it's accessible to individuals. The classes are Zoom for accessibility because individuals have to work. They are required to show their face and participate.

David Frazee-County Sheriff: When I came in here this morning regarding this particular incident, I was prepared to say, let's remove this service that we didn't need. From my perspective, all I've had is some bad news about the services they provided, although when I was in the back talking with my deputies, I was advised that they use the services quite a bit. They find it very helpful. The reason I had that stand in the beginning is because we had a domestic violence incident and a lady needed a place to stay, we called VSS, and they told us that they did not provide that service to Torrance County, so we were left with nothing. As a result, I put that lady up in my house in the mother-in-law's quarters. She stayed a day; I took her to the Gray Hound bus station and sent her back to El Paso. I gave her a little money and sent her on her way. She's doing very well. At this moment, she writes to my wife and me periodically. Based on that incident, I had a very negative opinion of VSS. Another incident has come to mind that we needed their services, and they wanted us to transport the victim to Las Lunas, but they weren't able to come out. Those are the only two incidents that I know of that are negative, and I didn't even know anything about the positive, because I generally don't get out and handle the domestic violence issues. From what I've learned this morning; I think my deputies would prefer to keep the service if we could. That is very beneficial. Thank you.

Deputy Long - Patrol Deputy: Calls for service day to day. I'm the one that interacts with the problem. I can try to paint you a picture and say that when I

arrive, it's hectic. Kids are crying, dogs are barking. Nine out of 10 times the female has a busted lip. She's very disgruntled, lost, and doesn't have anybody. We are that voice. We are face-to-face. This is my testimony, if I didn't have VSS, I would have sat there and I would have felt like my hands were tied, more so than they are in this culture that we're in now. For them to provide the services that they have provided. It's an excellent resource. I feel there hasn't been any time that VSS has let me down. I could give you an example. About a month and a half ago, we responded in Echo Ridge territory. Spoke with a female. She had a sister. The sister just had a newborn baby. The older sister wanted to kick out the younger sister with the newborn baby, and she had nowhere to go, and nobody was going to put her up in a hotel. Nobody was going to try and reach an extended hand for this young lady. I called VSS, and after hearing the whole situation, they were able to help out that young lady. If not, it would have been her, a brand new infant, and her boyfriend in a broken down car, maybe doesn't even have heat, that they would have to go there for the night. VSS stepped up and put them up in a hotel. I'm not saying it's a permanent fixture. It's a temporary solution to try to find that permanent solution. That's what they do. They give resources when you feel there are no resources to give. I feel like if we were to take away VSS, we would be at ground zero. As the Sheriff said, putting up victims in his household, like to me, that's kind of ridiculous. I think as a society, we need to do better with these people that we come in contact with. They don't have the financial means to try to get themselves out of a situation when VSS comes into play, it's to fill the gaps that are identified.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Back in the early 70s, I was a victim of domestic violence, and back then, there were no resources like this. I had my family, but I was so ashamed of what was going on, but I made the break myself. Some people can't do that, and I sympathize with them. If there's anything I can do to help, I will.

C. MANGER'S REPORT:

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I wanted to advise the board that we will be heading up to Santa Fe for the Legislative Conference. We took a break. I know the Commissioner did as well, but we will be up there starting tomorrow through the next couple of weeks to do some meet and greets and also lobby for our capital projects and begin that process.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1. Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: None

2. Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: None

3. Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner, District 3

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I attended the Legislative Conference opening session, yesterday. I'm going back today to meet with my fellow Commissioners from other Counties and meet with Liz Stefanics, she said she'd call me today about the Capital Outlay. Are there any limitations or am I free to talk to our Legislators?

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: As long as you stay within the realm of what the Commission and our ICIP lists, I think you're free. We've had some issues in the past where there's been an individual Commissioner who had an agenda item that they wanted to bring forth. I don't think it's wise for you to operate as a County Commissioner and do those personal or regional-type items.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: As Commissioners, the number one rule that we have to remember is that a Commissioner has no power, has no authority the Commission does. That being said when you're talking with your Legislators, they must understand who you're representing. When you start saying, I represent the Commission, which is perfectly fine again, go to the ICIP because that was approved by the Commission. They'll ask you this question. What I've seen in the past is some individuals who have attempted to represent the Commission. They get the year of the legislature. It's a good idea. They want to go for it, and then all of a sudden, you get to the ICIP and it's not on there, and the legislature starts gathering up these funds and says, Commissioner came to me when we said, "Where is it on ICIP?" The Commissioners were made aware of it and said, "Hang on a second. We didn't approve any of that. That's not on our list." The Admin Building is number one on that list. Mr. McCall's worked very diligently since he's been on this Commission.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

16. **Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:**
February 12, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

17. **Signing of Official Documents.**

18. **Adjourn.**

Action Taken:

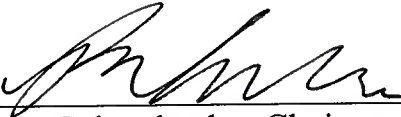
Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to adjourn.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.


Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Absent: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

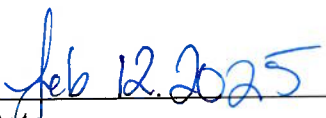
The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.



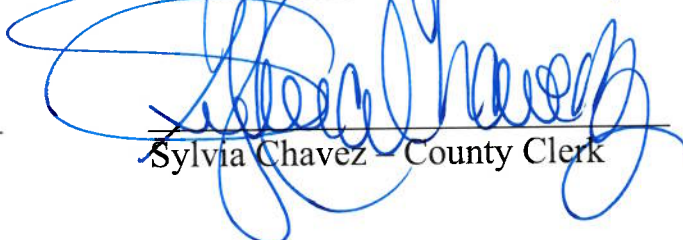
Ryan Schwebach – Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Date



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

The video and audio of this meeting are available upon request.