

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
September 25, 2024
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

TRACY SEDILLO – INTERIM 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 September 25, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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

Invocation lead by: Kevin McCall– County Vice Chairman

3. **Changes to the Agenda:**

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: None

4. **PROCLAMATION:** None

5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:

A. Retirement Plaque – Tracy Sedillo, 36 years

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Words can't express what you have brought to the County. I truly appreciate it. I wish you well in your endeavors in retirement, I think we can say this whole Commission is thankful for the service you've given us, and it will be good for you to move on to whatever retirement looks like. Thank you.

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: I want to thank the staff, Department Heads, Elected Officials, the Commissions I have worked with over the years, and all of the residents of Torrance County. It's been an honor to work with all of you. We are one big, happy family in Torrance County, and I will miss you all a lot. We have cried together. We have fought together, we have laughed together, and these have been some of the best years of my life. Thank you.

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:

A. PUBLIC COMMENT (Comments limited to two minutes.)

Nathan Dial - Resident: Currently the County has put money into the McIntosh Senior Center at 16 East Willow Lake to use it for the Elections. The quit claim deed stipulates that the County will use that facility as a Senior Center. If not, it goes back to the McIntosh Senior Center Incorporated. In November, I'd like to get on the agenda to formally ask what the County's plans are for that facility. Are they going to use it as a Senior Center, or are they going to abide by the deed and try to give it back? If they can't, then they need to clean the title, because of the issue at that facility. There are many questions on that building about utilities, who owns it, titles, and whether it's a Senior Center. I gave everybody information with a lot of data and history on it. That building has been a point of contention for at least three managers, and it's one of the things that keeps getting pushed on. For clarity, one reason I'm pushing it as the Sheriff threw me out of there under the

threat of arrest by the guidance of the Torrance County Republican Party, which brought up more questions on who can use this building. Who controls this building? Who pays the utilities on this building? I know the County's put at least \$2,000 into it in the last 15 years. Other than that, it's in a gray area. Are they going to get rid of it and give it back to the original owners? Thank you.

Julie Fill – County Employee: I am an employee with the Torrance County Fire Department. I am also the President of the Professional Firefighters of Torrance County, the local 5441. I'm here because we want to ask you about the contract that we've been working on for the last four months that we certified over a year ago. It is time for the first contract. To get this done, we're asking you to provide the contracts or the funding for this contract. We feel that we deserve a fair wage and retirement plan that matches the other Firefighters of the state of New Mexico. This way, it will help us with our critically low staffing of the department that we're having right now. The county has given the Dispatchers a raise that they deserve, and we need to help put them in the realm where they are competitive. We are all here to take care of the residents of Torrance County together. Thank you for your time.

Lisa Gardner - Resident: I'm here once again for the citizens of Torrance County to request that a moratorium or ordinance be passed to stop the cannabis drug parks. At the last meeting, you discussed an ordinance that would be presented at today's meeting to start the process of getting some control in Torrance County. Last night, Larry Barker from KRQE did an investigative report on the cannabis industry in New Mexico. I hope you can watch or will take the time to do so. Here are two quotes from last night. “The industry is running amuck. Executive Director of New Mexico, High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, We have a storefront to the drug cartel when we pass recreational marijuana”. State Representative Bill Rehm said, “Torrance County was brought to the forefront with the Native American Development Company and Bliss Farms”. Barker reported both have been shut down but are still producing. Barker reported that since 2021 Central New Mexico, The Estancia Valley, has been overrun with at least seven multi-million-dollar marijuana plantations with international connections. Will Glaspy, Executive Director of the New Mexico High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area said these are large-scale operations that are packaging their marijuana and shipping them across our country. They're coming from the People's Republic of China.

They're setting up their operations here. There was a lot more information in the report, but the main takeaway is that in the short term, we as Torrance County are the ones that need to take action to put a stop to what is happening in our backyards. It is pertinent we pass an ordinance and don't approve any more applications until there is enforcement of cannabis laws at the state level. Thank you for your time.

John Humphries – Resident: I live at 331 Riley Road, and I'm coming forward today to say that I was pleased with the discussion at the last meeting about amending the zoning ordinance to strengthen the provisions on cannabis. I wanted to say that while the current ordinance is sufficient to deny the current applications, I think it is prudent to strengthen the ordinance to give the Zoning Board and the County more power to regulate these. Santa Fe County has an entire chapter devoted to cannabis and its strategic development plan. I think it makes sense that we have a chapter on cannabis in our zoning ordinance that is more comprehensive than what was discussed at the last meeting with a group of residents, my neighbors, including Sanchez and Jason Halton. I have been doing some work, brainstorming, and thinking of types of elements that could be included in a more comprehensive amendment to the zoning ordinance. I sent these to each of the Commissioners earlier this week. I want to draw your attention to some of these ideas that we've come up with, including, making sure they have a certified approval of water rights from the state engineer, stronger odor mitigation requirements, different ways of limiting the density, whether it's the density of licenses, or number of hoop houses per 100 acres, or the number of cannabis plants per 1000 residents, and also to look at the property value impacts. Require them to have a certified professional appraisal or something that would look at the impact on property values in a one-mile radius. We would also urge you to look more closely at the current provision for medical cannabis that requires it to be centered on 100 acres. Thank you.

Javier Sanchez - Resident: The group, sometime back, got together to have a discussion and brainstorm different ideas, including Johnny Romero and also Alan Moreland, the group put together a document. We took the time to put together a basic template, taking into account different existing documents that exist in other jurisdictions. It seems like something that could be of potential use to you folks. We're not urging you to take any particular action or any particular line of thinking.

All that we're doing is issuing an offering to you folks that might be able to assist you in the creation of some kind of an ordinance or an amendment to an existing ordinance if that makes any sense to you. We would encourage you to please review the document, and if it can be of use, by all means, use it. Thank you.

*Comment by Zoom

Tiffany Wang – Innovation Law Lab: I will be playing a comment from a man detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility. (audio in Spanish)

Ian Philabaum – Innovation Law Lab: I'll be reading the translation from the recording we just heard. Good morning I came to the United States on May 19, I entered with my wife and my daughter, we turned ourselves in, and from there, they took me to a place they call the refrigerator. It was there that they told me and my wife that they were going to set me separate from them. On May 22, they transferred me to Torrance, and on that same day. My wife, thank God, and my daughter, arrived in Portland. Truly, my separation from my family has been horrible for me. Since then, both mentally and psychologically It has affected me a lot. When I call my wife, she tells me that she loves me, she tells me that she misses me, and asks when I'm going to get out. It is true that one feels horrible in these moments not being able to be with one's family after so much struggle in one's country. Having been traveling through so many countries, going through the jungle, going through everything with one's family, so that they are safe in this place and then they separate me from them. I truly feel very, very awful because of the things that are happening. In my country, I've never committed any crime, and I don't have a criminal record. I do not understand why I'm in this place. The truth is, I feel very sad because I can't be with my family, and she misses me. My wife had an accident about a month ago, 20 days during which she almost lost her life. Imagine how I felt in that moment. I was here in this place where nothing could be done, and my wife needed me. Yes, it's horrible, this whole process here in this place. Thank you very much.

PJ Podesta – Innovation Law Lab: Two weeks ago, we heard public comments from dozens of advocates and people directly affected by the Torrance County

Detention Facility. In every one of the County Commission meetings since April 10, people currently or formerly detained by ICE and Core Civic at TCDF and advocates charged with their support have testified to innumerable physical and psychological harms at the facility, including suicide and more. Yet we see that approval of a three-month extension of the County's contract with ICE for detention at TCDF, currently set to expire in four days, is on the agenda for this meeting today. I want to express gratitude to members of the community, including the many people detained, who have expressed such appreciation for attention to the testimonies they have shared of their physical and psychological pain and their struggle for freedom. Thank you for refusing to plug your ears. Thank you to everyone who has started to imagine what economic development projects for the region will provide people with well-paying jobs and a high quality of life, while dispensing with the argument that TCDF needs to continue its lethal harm because of the jobs, many but by no means all, of which are held by folks who live here.

My organization and our partners continue to show up here with testimony of what's happening in TCDF because the people we support tell us that in the face of impunity from ICE and Core Civic one of the only things they can do is speak out and try to stop the harm from continuing against those who might come in the future. Their solidarity is breathtaking. The County does not have to continue approving of the impunity of ICE, which treats vulnerable people like bargaining chips, and Core Civic, which only seeks to line the pockets of its executives on behalf of many colleagues and survivors of TCDF who have spoken out, we invite you to learn more about and join the effort to end the harm at TCDF and work toward a thriving local economy. Instead, go to bit.ly/timeline to learn more and get involved. Thank you.

Amani Sarras - New Mexico Immigrant Law Center: I will read the following statement from a detained immigrant. Good morning. My name is Rennie Renee Melendez, I entered the detention center on May 9, and I'm still here. Unfortunately, they did not believe my credible fear and gave me an immediate depression order. I am Venezuelan, and there is no depression agreement with my country. I've been detained for four months, and I explained my case since I have my wife and two children in Miami, Florida. The person who received my family threw my wife and the children out on the street. Since my wife does not work frequently, she only earns \$160 a week. That money is not enough for her and my children have become ill. My wife finds things very difficult outside. She needs me by her side. The government will not release me but will not deport me either.

At the detention center, the treatment is very bad. The officers are very rude, and the food is not very good. I do not want to go back to my country because the situation is very ugly. I do not want to go to Mexico because my wife was kidnapped there. During the kidnapping, she lost a four-month pregnancy. We lost our baby. I'm not a danger to society, and I have no criminal record. I came here looking for protection for my family and me, and they have me here at the detention center as if I were a criminal. All I ask for is to be with my family and children. Please help me. Thank you.

Oona Bjornstad - Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at the New Mexico

Immigrant Law Center: I'm here this morning to read a statement from an individual detained at Torrance County Detention Facility who wishes to remain anonymous. Good morning with all due respect, I come before you to ask for justice for all of the migrants. We arrived in this country just to make a new life and to stop living through the trauma we face from authorities in our countries. For me to continue being imprisoned here, I would prefer to be deported. They treat us badly here as if we were criminals. They humiliate us. We don't want to continue being here in this place. It would be better if they told us you can't be here and deported us, rather than to keep us here in this situation. I ask you, from the bottom of my heart, to have more consideration for the migrants, we're human beings. Only us migrants know the work, the humiliation that happens here, imprisoned. They tell us we are detained, but we know we are imprisoned. There are many of us migrants here who have been here for more than two months. We ask you from our hearts, we have families who are worried for us, and we are here imprisoned where we do not eat well, and they do not treat us well. Thank you.

B. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. CLERK: 2024 Upcoming Elections

Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk: The 2024 Presidential Election preparations have been ongoing for months. Someone once told me what is not so hard running an election. You throw a voter list out there and people vote. If they only knew the amount of work planning and precision necessary to run a successful election it would blow their minds. I believe Janice Barela realized just how complicated it is to run an election when she orchestrated the recount.

In your packet, I included voter registration statistics for Torrance County for your information. It gives statistics by districts such as Congressional Districts, Commission Districts, and others. It includes voter statistics in precincts which will give you numbers of political parties, in all these precincts. Each ballot is unique to these voters. An example is Commissioner District One is in the northern part of the County, in the Moriarty and surrounding area, represented by Commissioner McCall. District Two is in the northern part of the county, beginning in the McIntosh area, and covering a part of the Moriarty area that stretches to Encino. This is represented by Commissioner Schwebach. District Three is the southern part of the county. It stretches from Duran, Willard, Mountainair, all the mountain town areas, and back into Estancia. This is represented by Commissioner Schropp. If you look at the stats for all three Commission Districts represent an almost equal number of constituents. It is our job to see that each voter gets their proper ballot, with all districts on their ballot, that they are allowed to vote for. Only Commission District Three will be on the ballot. Only voters in this district will be able to vote for Commission District Three.

We had 10,244 voters when I printed this report on September 16, with 2783 Democrats, 153 Libertarians, 5,046 Republicans, 102 others, and 2,160 no-party, Independents or Declined To State, all of these people are eligible to vote in this election. Others are people who registered under parties that are listed in our voter list for parties. One of them, as an example, is Chicanas for America.

I have included the ballots cast for the 2020 Presidential Election. The total number of voters who cast their vote was 7,332 which is 70.88%. We're in for a big election this time around, I think the numbers will match that. We had about 2000 absentee ballots, 1000 people voted Early/In Person here at the Admin building, and about 2000 at the early voting site in Moriarty. I have put plenty of Ballots On Demand and voting machines in all these precincts that have a high volume of voters to process voters quickly and efficiently and avoid lines. Moriarty is our biggest precinct, and we have a lot of voters going through there. The Council and the Mayor allowed me to use their Council Chambers for Elections. It'll run a lot smoother.

The 2020 election was run during the COVID pandemic, and it was very difficult to run. We had to allow for wiping down every booth, and every pen they touched, and we wore shields. This isn't going to be that difficult, we will have lots of voters.

There have been threats made to election officials such as myself and precinct workers throughout the nation. Our County Emergency Manager, Samantha O'Dell, Julie Gravel-Pickering, myself, Chief Deputy Clerk Sylvia Chavez, and Senida Chavez Bureau of Elections, attended a training by Homeland Security in Santa Fe where we were instructed on how to create a Torrance County Elections Emergency Response Plan. There were only six other counties there. I created a plan, and Samantha incorporated my plan into the template given to us by Homeland Security. We met a few times before fine-tuning the plan and then sending it to Michael Garcia, our attorney, for approval. It is a basic plan. What we're going to do is have a Sheriff's Office make rounds to all our polling places. He'll go in and say, "Is everything okay"? So people will know that we're watching and that we're protecting our precinct workers. We have a plan in case of emergencies, of what our poll workers will do in case we have an active shooter or an irate voter that threatens our poll workers. I must protect my precinct workers who are allowing voters to vote for democracy's sake. The only place I think that might be an issue would be Moriarty Civic Center because we've had issues there before. I'm going to the Moriarty Council Meeting next week and ask that the Moriarty PD make rounds, from October 19 to November 2 during early voting. I want to thank Samantha and Julie for helping me with this. We've been training our precinct workers, one precinct at a time, for two months. This plan is being given to them, and the instructions on how to protect themselves. Early/In person will begin on October 8, here in the Admin Building, and will end on November 2, and on October 19, Early/In person at the alternate site in Moriarty will begin and end on November 2. Election Day will be on November 5. Thank you.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. COMMISSION:** Request approval of minutes of the September 05, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes of the September 05, 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 September 11, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes of the September 11, 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

C. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the September 19, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes of the September 19, 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

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:
None

11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. FINANCE: Request approval of Resolution 2024-35 FY2024-25 Budget Adjustment

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: This is a request for a budget increase to include the appropriations that you all have approved in recent meetings.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution 2024-35 FY2024-25 Budget Adjustment

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

12. APPROVAL

A. DISPATCH: Request approval to hire a Communications Deputy Director for Dispatch at \$30.50 per hour or an Administrative Assistant for Dispatch at \$17.75 per hour. (Deferred from 08/28/2024 meeting)

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We've been discussing this for two meetings. We've talked to the Director, and we're getting applicants now. I believe that we have a Director in that department now who is looking at trying to fix some of the problems. I do not think that this will fix Dispatch, but I do think that it will

facilitate in the right direction. I propose we start with the Administrative Assistant, staircase it in and hopefully allow you to get more time to hone in on what that position is and what it does. I know what the logical position that is going to fill. I want to buy you time to evaluate it. I'm not opposed to the Deputy Director down the road, and when I say down the road, a couple of months down the road. I've seen immediate results with the raises for the Dispatchers. I also know the amount of money that we're putting into beefing up the Fire Department if Dispatch is not operating properly.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: The proposed Administrative Assistant is going to get them immediate relief on the workload and give us time then to evaluate, going forward, exactly what's going to be needed.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I want to publicly say that Dispatch has been struggling ever since I've been here. This is the first time I've seen a Director come up with some possible solutions. I appreciate that. Budgetarily, we add the position and pull the money out of the vacant Dispatch positions, but if we fill those Dispatch positions, that's when we come to increasing the budget. Do you agree that's the way to do it?

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: That'll be the smoothest way. They do have adequate fund balance to do those increases later on.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I don't want to cut their funding. I would like those dispatcher positions filled. I think you're going to be looking at a different scenario. I don't think you've had breathing room for years.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: How many vacancies do you have for Dispatchers?

Selena Carroll-County 911 Communications Director: We hired four yesterday. We had five vacancies. We have one left.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Are they ready to go, or are they training?

Selena Carroll-County 911 Communications Director: There is a lot of training involved. It's a year-long process to get them fully trained. They have to go to the academy and get certified. That doesn't necessarily mean that they're good to go. It's about three years, we consider them rookies at Dispatch, it's a long process. Then we also have to give them on-the-floor training to know what they're doing.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve hire an Administrative Assistant for Dispatch at \$17.75 per hour. (Deferred from 08/28/2024 meeting)

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. FIRE: Request approval to utilize Tablet Command services for the Fire Department. Services include mobile software that increases awareness, incident response, and incident management and improves firefighter accountability. The agreement is yearly for the amount of \$2,995.00 for three end users. (Deferred from 09/11/2024 meeting)

James Winham - County Fire Chief: This is something we've been looking at since the day I arrived. This is an accountability program that allows the command staff to track Firefighters on the scene, allows us to pull up hydrants, and allows us to see plans. We looked at several different programs around the nation that they're using instead of pen and paper. This puts us in compliance with safety rules and regulations. For \$3,000 a year, it's a good bargain, it allows us to take this with us on scenes, and we can do instant updates, find our people and know where people are. This adds another level of safety that is required by the regulations of NFPA, OSHA, etc. The only additional cost with this is a we have to put it on something like an iPad or maybe a portable computer, which the Deputy Chief and I both have. We have looked at purchasing one for around \$400 - \$500 for an additional Command Staff person.

Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney: Hannah Sanchez and I have been looking at some changes. I do not see the changes reflected in this version. It had to do with indemnification and venue in California. I suspect the document is out there, and I think they've agreed to it, so maybe the motion would be to approve as amended, but this document doesn't reflect the changes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Explain the insurance requirements.

Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney: I think these are for the company to maintain. This is what they have the insurance for. I would also suggest Hannah

email me the correct document. Making sure we have the finished document. We could come back to it before the end of the meeting.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to table till have corrected documentation.

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

C. FIRE: Request approval to create a new full-time position of Division Chief of Training for Fire/EMS. (Deferred from 09/11/2024 meeting)

James Winham - County Fire Chief: In the position before you, we are referring to the Division Chief of Training for both volunteer and career staff and also will cover EMS/Fire training, safety training, driver training, anytime somebody promotes academies, etc. This person would be considered the third line. I would assume a lot of the EMS operations have very specific criteria that we would look for as we hire this individual, like Fire Officers One, Two, and Three trained. We already have all those certifications and a track record of training, as you well know, as you hired me, my background comes from training. As a former Training Chief, it is very important we hit ISO training throughout our volunteer district stations. We need to improve that, not only for the safety of the citizens but also the safety of our firefighters and allow us to come up to regulation standards. The way we fight fire has changed dramatically over the last 30 years, and it continues to change every day. As we get wind farms, we're getting 100 to 200 more tankers out of the reservoir. It's been built as traffic increasing on I-40 populations increasing, the need for training is imperative. Our folks are doing the best they can training, but don't have the background. This needs to be a set plan where we're able to adjust it as necessary and have a person that completely oversees, does the paperwork, makes sure our certifications are up to date, recommendations, etc. I researched the state of New Mexico, the average pay for a Training Chief in the state in New Mexico varies from six figures down to \$20,000 but the average is about \$65,000 for a Chief of Training. That would be the recommendation to stay consistent with the state average. With our grant positions,

we have two buckets, suppression, and EMS full-time. Out of the grant positions we can share those grant positions with EMS. We would take one of our full-time positions that we have right now, not from the grant, and make that position into a Division Chief of Training. The only increase in costs you could see would be \$10,000 or \$20,000 extra to the budget to make it up to the \$65,000. We make up that full-time position by using cross-training with EMS.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: One of the problems we have with volunteer retention in our ISOs is volunteers have a hard time coming to training. Will this help with that?

James Winham - County Fire Chief: This will be a salary position. It's not going to be Monday through Thursday, seven to five o'clock, it'll require some Saturdays, Sundays, Friday evenings, and Thursday evenings. We'll adjust the schedule to make sure that they get their time and are putting in their time. It has to adjust to meet the volunteer's time frame because they work during the day, and we will need night training. We can also do regional training for other Fire Departments, which makes them better, and helps us out, especially those that have automatic aid or mutual aid with us. We're in preliminary discussions with the State and EMS Bureau about being a Regional Training Center, in which we take some of the workload off them, and they may even pay us to do some of the training for them in the regional area. It would be possible to recoup some of that \$10,000 to \$12,000 above the grant amount. We used to put on a Resuscitation Academy where people from around the region, around the United States come in, have guest speakers, and people will pay, \$320 to be able to go to those to learn the newest techniques. This position would allow us to teach a paramedic class in our facility. That's going to save the county money on sending our people to other agencies for training. We can teach Firefighters One and Two at our facility.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: This position will be filled by an existing paramedic position.

James Winham - County Fire Chief: It may not be internal, because we will open it up. We're taking a full-time paramedic position, changing it to a Chief position, and then backfilling that full-time from the grant. Right now we have one vacant.

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: Finance hasn't had time to completely analyze what that total cost is. It would have to be a cash transfer from the general fund into their fund. They did not have adequate funds to cover an additional

increase. I'm not sure that we have adequate funds in 416 to cover operations for the entire year.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Where does a grant come in? That's where I'm confused.

James Winham - County Fire Chief: We're taking a full-time grant position and creating this position.

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: All grant positions have to be new hires. They can't be existing staff. It's similar to Law Enforcement Recruitment, but this is Firefighter Recruitment. They want new Firefighters on the ground. That was the point of the funding. Regarding the grant, it'll be a significant amount of money that you're going to fund in three years because it will pay all the new hires that come on board. It will be more than \$65,000. Keep that in mind, because the grant will phase out over three years.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We have a grant for 10 full-time positions. We're going to move an EMS position and use one of those 10 on the grant, at the end of three years, we're going to be on the hook for all 10.

James Winham - County Fire Chief: We can't use the grant money to hire a supervisory position.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: We can move one of our present staff to a supervisor position and then use the grant money to fill the vacancy.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm assuming finance is going to work this out, or do you need a motion on how the money comes?

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: It'll have to be a budget increase that comes before you for approval and only approves the budget change.

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: If you can also set the salary in the motion, that'd be helpful.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: \$65,000 is the average on that. What is a paramedic's salary now?

James Winham - County Fire Chief: \$57,000.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: This position will have all the same qualifications as a paramedic, with the extra duties of training certificates.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: At this point after speaking with the Chief last week, Jacob Trujillo from Stansbury's office, called and said there may be USDA money for a new facility, or training facilities. This is the first, and cheapest step to building a training facility that would be somewhat self-sustaining. I believe the Chief told me he talked to the State Fire Marshal, and if we come up with a proper facility, they would designate us a Regional Training Center. In the Chief's five-year plan, looking ahead here, there will be moving pieces other than this new Training Chief.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We can't use the grant for a supervisor position, so it's a non-issue.

Action Taken:

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Motion to approve creating a new full-time Division Chief of Training for Fire/EMS position at \$65,000 annually.

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

D. FIRE: Request approval to reimburse Darell Fixler for purchases of \$51.78 at Harbor Freight.

James Winham - County Fire Chief: This is my responsibility. This was during the move. This individual was trying to help out, went and brought a bunch of things to help during the move to the new station, not realizing that he should have gone through the Deputy Chief or me first. We had a conversation, and that won't happen again. It was a necessary purchase for shrink wrap, so the stuff wouldn't fly out going down the road in trailers. We'd like to point out we did not use professional movers. We did it ourselves. The crew did an excellent job. Nothing was broken, nothing was lost, and he did safety things to make sure that we were keeping all our supplies from getting wet, and lost. He took it upon himself to help speed up the process.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve and reimburse Darell Fixler for purchases of \$51.78 at Harbor Freight.

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. FIRE: Request approval to utilize Tablet Command services for the Fire Department. Services include mobile software that increases awareness, incident response, and incident management and improves firefighter accountability. The agreement is yearly for the amount of \$2,995.00 for three end users. (Deferred from 09/11/2024 meeting)

Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney: We're good to go on that Tablet Command. The document is corrected.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve utilizing Tablet Command services for the Fire Department. Services include mobile software that increases awareness, incident response, and incident management and improves firefighter accountability. The agreement is yearly for the amount of \$2,995.00 for three end users.

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

E. FIRE: Request approval to reimburse Randy Devers for purchases of \$170.55 at TLC Uniforms.

James Winham - County Fire Chief: This was a misunderstanding; he went to the wrong uniform shop. After I advised him to go to the uniform shop where we

have an open PO at Kauffman's, he went to the wrong one. Miscommunication on my part, I accept responsibility.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve reimburse Randy Devers for purchases of \$170.55 at TLC Uniforms.

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

James Winham - County Fire Chief: The approvals that you have done today, will have great strides in the fire service for us, and you will see a return on investment from this Division Chief of Training and for the safety of our Firefighters as I represent them. Thank you very much for keeping them first and foremost with the Tablet Command.

F. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Agreement between The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and Torrance County (signed in 2020).

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: This is the amendment to the Memorandum Of Agreement between New Mexico Energy Minerals Natural Resources Department, and Torrance County. This is our WHIPP agreement. There are some very minor changes. This was initially approved in 2020, and it automatically renews every year. They're requesting some amendments be made. The first one is removing the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management from the agreement because they are no longer participating with WHIPP, that doesn't change anything for us locally. Another change that they're requesting is we currently receive \$7,000. They're requesting that this be increased to \$40,000 however, we will still only receive \$7000. The additional \$33,000 will be for the Department of Energy to bring training to Torrance County regarding WHIPP, hazardous materials, radioactive materials, and any of that. That's where

that funding will go. We have to report quarterly on what we've done on our side, and anything that we have spent towards our \$7,000.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Agreement between The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and Torrance County (signed in 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

G. FINANCE: Approval of Non-Professional Services Agreement with Hayley Encinias for Administrative Assistant Services for the Torrance County Fair Board.

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: We created the contract for the Administrative Assistant for the Fair Board. That position was posted and interviews were done. Torrance County created a contract for this position, so it needs to come before the Commission for approval.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve Non-Professional Services Agreement with Hayley Encinias for Administrative Assistant Services for the Torrance County Fair 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

H. GRANTS: Approval of Amendment No. 1 with Jessica Love, Girls Circle Facilitator to increase the contract to match the new CYFD contract

pay schedule. The new contract amount will be \$200 per session for \$94,200.

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: I am requesting approval for our contract with Jessica Love, who is our Girl's Circle Facilitator for the Juvenile Justice Program. We renewed for another three-year cycle with CYFD for the Juvenile Justice Program. In the new grant cycle, the pay for our facilitators has gone up from \$165 a session to \$200.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Amendment No. 1 with Jessica Love, Girls Circle Facilitator to increase the contract to match the new CYFD contract pay schedule. The new contract amount will be \$200 per session for \$94,200.

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: Approval of Amendment No. 1 with Sterling Donner, Boys Council Facilitator to increase the contract to match the new CYFD contract pay schedule. The new contract amount will be \$200 per session for \$79,600.

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: This is a similar contract. We are asking for approval to increase the contract amount for a Boys Council Facilitator.

Sterling Donner, Boys Council Facilitator: The Boys Council is a place where young men can go and talk about things that are going on in their life. They're open to talking to you about it. It's more about what other boys are saying. Some of that is their business, and it's a place where they can trust each other and build that rapport with each other.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Amendment No. 1 with Sterling Donner, Boys Council Facilitator to increase the contract to match the new CYFD contract pay schedule. The new contract amount will be \$200 per session for \$79,600.

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. CLERK: Ratification of the Institute for Responsive Government Election Grant to administer a secure, nonpartisan election, to include planning, operation, technology, physical, materials, supplies, furnishings, personnel, and facilities. Grant executed by Clerk, Linda Jaramillo.

Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk: I am busy with elections right now, so I asked Senaida to take this over.

Senaida Anaya – Bureau of Elections Administrator: This grant aims to support nonpartisan public planning and administering an efficient, accessible election. It was predetermined at \$18,000. It was a short window to apply. The grant was presented to the Grants Committee on the 18th and was approved. This has no match. We're asking for approval of this ratification to accept this grant.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve ratification of the Institute for Responsive Government Election Grant to administer a secure, nonpartisan election, to include planning, operation, technology, physical, materials, supplies, furnishings, personnel, and facilities. Grant executed by Clerk, Linda Jaramillo.

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: - Absent:

MOTION CARRIED

K. MANAGER: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with New Mexico Department of Health for use of Hope Medical Building for the Public Health Office.

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: This MOU was sent to us by the Department of Health for utilization of the help medical building for the space that they utilize for public health. They're asking us to approve this, it has gone through legal review as well.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement with New Mexico Department of Health to use Hope Medical Building for the Public Health Office.

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

L. MANAGER: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Extension to December 31, 2024.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Extension to December 31, 2024.

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

M. COMMISSION: Approval of County Manager contract with J. Jordan Barela.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I wanted to thank the board for this privilege and opportunity to work for the people of Torrance County. I've been transitioning

from my current position and coming into the office a couple of days a week. I've had an opportunity to meet with Elected Officials, staff members, and some members of the community, and I can say that's been nothing but a welcoming and positive experience. I'm looking forward to working under the leadership of the board, with staff and Elected Officials as well as the people of Torrance County, to keep Torrance County moving in a positive direction.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve County Manager contract with J. Jordan Barela.

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

13. DISCUSSION

A. MANZANO MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER ASSOCIATION:

Discussion on the completion of the Manzano Mutual Domestic Water Association project.

Linda Jaramillo-County Clerk: I wanted to be transparent on how this got on the agenda. Orlando Lopez came to my office and explained to me that the Manzano Water System upgrades and not being completed. He asked if I could help. I told him I would look into it for him. I asked Commissioner Schropp what the status was of the project. He informed me that Orlando had to be put on the agenda to present his side about what needed to be done to finish the project and how much money had been spent. I then informed Mr. Lopez what he had to do and gathered all the information to present to the Commissioners. He told me that he was not able to get the required information because it was handled by Toni Lowery who is no longer with us, he had no supporting documents. I went to Misty Witt our Finance Director and asked if she could help me get those documents so that the Manzano project could be completed. In your packet are copies of the meeting minutes, where all of this was decided the money allocated, to Manzano, and also the passed resolution. The rest of the documents are the ones given to me by Misty.

I put them in chronological order. I did this as a helping hand to my friend Orlando, and also as an Elected Official when somebody came to ask for my help.

Orlando Lopez: I am here to address the Commission on the project you are all familiar with. I don't quite understand the finances, or what was paid. I was never involved in the negotiations. Everything was done, from Toni Lowery to the contractor. We have documented this. Mister Lucas from the New Mexico Rural Waters Association has been working closely with me and the Manzano Domestic Water System, and we've been able to accomplish some things. New Mexico Meters made and left a mess.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We have not discussed this here at the Commission meeting. If you look at the minutes when we granted the ARPA funds for those meters, we were relatively rushed to put that money in the right place, and we put some general parameters on it. There are also several meters. Essentially, a lot of what was done was not approved through what this Commission approved. As to the type of meters and the number of meters, what happened is there was no proper procurement and authorization for this contractor to move forward outside of what this Commission approved. The contractor ran out of money on what we approved, and they left a bunch of holes that have not been filled in because they started replacing them.

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: I do agree that there were several miscommunications, some people thought that it was a total of \$90,000 because it says \$45,000 for meters and \$45,000 for well pumps. Based on everything in the packet, instead of the 27 meters that were approved, we purchased 40 meters. That was for a total of \$16,143.75 and then YearOut Mechanical started the work on the wells. Then as they started making progress on the wells, they discovered there was more work that needed to be done on them due to age, etc. We paid Year Out for the first portion of the work, which was \$23,778.70. Year Out Mechanical submitted another proposal for finishing the work, which is for a total of \$32,350.08. The total to complete the work in Manzano is \$72,272.53. The resolution only allocated \$45,000 so we're at a deficit of \$27,272.53. I did send an email to the gentleman at Year Out to get some clarification on the proposal. The proposal that he sent has provided complete well rehabilitation on wells one and two, plus re-pipe pump house piping from galvanized to PVC 80, and install a clean-out running outside of the building with cam lot fitting to hook up hoses. They can go brush bail, swap in acid, let sit overnight, swab bail, install HGS pump, pump out until clear and full HGS pump. The proposed work to be done,

standard work week, hours, seven to 4:30. I'm happy to continue communicating with YearOut.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We need to step this down on how we resolve this issue. Number one there was a very obvious mistake in how the funds were handled. I visited the land grant and these individuals. I honestly do not think it was their doing. It was on our end at the County, everything I've looked at was not done properly. Why was Year Out used instead of a local driller? YearOut is not local.

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: YearOut was selected because they are part of CES, Cooperative Educational Services. If we had used anyone else, we would have had to go through an RFP process or invitation to bid, etc., to get the work done. I believe it was decided that we would serve as the fiscal agent, rather than making them a sub-grantee of the ARPA funds. Then we used this particular vendor because they've already been through the system. Otherwise, it would have been a much longer process to get a vendor.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I went up there and I looked at it, and what I feel truly happened is that a contractor was picked out of ease and when we're dealing with water issues within this valley, local contractors carry a lot of weight in the knowledge of the systems in the aquifer. That is my first issue because I do believe if a local contractor had been there, we would not have the mess that we have now. I am reluctant to move forward with the same contractor without further vetting it. Secondly, I don't know where the number of meters went up. We decided 27, and 40 were replaced. Out of those 40, some are complete, and some have a gaping hole in the street. That needs to be corrected. I think we're dealing with two separate issues.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Was the installer of the meters the same as the well?

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: No and thank you for clarifying that because the New Mexico Meters handled the meters installed. I will need to follow up with them separately, because, from my understanding, from what we were invoiced, that part of the project was completed.

Eddie Lueras - New Mexico Rural Water Association: I discussed with Orlando what's our best approach. Let's make a good-faith effort and fix some of this stuff. For the past couple of days, we've upgraded the three-meter service connections.

We installed a meter setter, connected it, and installed a meter on a non-use meter. We replaced the meter setter there and fixed it up. We have a before picture and then an after picture. We were loaned three setters from Mountainair because Baker Utility didn't have any in stock, we asked them for their help, and they gave us these meter centers. I wanted to ask the Commissioners, moving forward. Forget about the past. New Mexico Rural Water is willing to help out the County and Manzano to save money. My services are free. Our program is financed by USDA. We're circuit riders and provide technical assistance to these systems to keep them in compliance and any water-related issues. I would like you to consider moving forward, is if you could at least reimburse Mountainair for those three-meter centers, \$708 for all three. I provided a detailed list of what needed to be done. It could be done if the County can pay for the materials and New Mexico Water will step in and help out with the labor, with Orlando's help, he's got a backhoe, and we can dig up the services and correct what was done.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Excuse me, before you move on talking about correcting what was done. Is there a recourse?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That is a question that the past manager, Janice Barela was looking at. That was my first question when I was made aware of this. Why did the contractor go out of his lane? Was the documentation there that he was within his lane? Was it our staff, our signature scene, moving forward with this, or was it a contractor trying to do a change order?

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: I will have to go through the emails in more depth to find that answer for you.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I talked to the contractor at one point, and I said, it was all good, but I have yet to verify. At the end of the day, this commission approved \$45,000 for those meters, and now we're looking at another, I don't know 10-20 to fix, why? We owe it to the constituents.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: When Mr. Lopez called me, and I initially went up to look at this, it didn't seem to me that the work was done to specifications, but we were billed for it.

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: Torrance County did issue a PO for 40 meters.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: To put it bluntly, we have past staff that went outside of their lane.

Orlando Lopez: New Mexico Meters installed 27 and some of you witnessed where the meters were installed. They never put notes that they did install. They charged 40 meters to Vector, and they did four maximum. The rest were installed on whatever junk was already there. Never, upgraded, but yet they got compensated for it. I had nothing to do with the negotiation of the contract. I was never involved in any of it. It went directly from the County to the contractor back, but yet, all of it was approved, but the work wasn't done.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I know you didn't approve anything. It was pulled out of your hand. We still have to make sure we have an explanation. I don't think you can give us an explanation, but we have to have a reason for moving forward.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: It makes sense to me because we have work that was contracted, that was not performed to contract. Now we're going to have to go back, preferably with a different contractor, and correct all of that at about \$27,000.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I don't even know if that's an accurate number. It's all speculation based on what the first contractor did and what the POs were given for that first contract. It came through our offices on those POs and what I looked at on the POS didn't match up with anything. We need to go back to the original resolution. We need to see what we funded, and what was done, and bring the contractor and say, Where did this come from and why?

Misty Witt-County Finance Director: We don't have the contractor for the meters present. We do have a Year Out here who may be able to answer specific questions.

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: I wanted to clarify that the \$27,000 is for the well work. I did not realize there was an issue with the meters.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Did we consider drilling a new well?

Jerry Crites- YearOut Mechanical, well supporter: When we originally set this up, we did install it on well number one. Well number one was being tested when it was noticed that the drawdown was excessive. The company that I hired after

doing my work, Geological Services, originally drilled the well. That's why they were hired. The price was changed from the original. We originally had \$43,000 it then reached \$23,463 because they had drilled the well, they said it would be very easy to give a discount for doing this. They would pull our wells, drop the new wells, the new wire, and the new control. They're the ones who determined that the conditioning was needed for the wells and that the screens may be plugged. We did use the original well company that installed both wells. That's their specialty. It was determined at that time that we would take a pause and not install well number two. They had some other issues. We would go ahead and take care of it after the conditioning of both wells was completed.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is it a simple matter of putting a smaller pump in that would still suffice for the water needs?

Jerry Crites- YearOut Mechanical, well supporter: We had spoken about that if that would fix the issue. It was determined, that if we needed to, we would go ahead and change from the five-horse down to a two-and-a-half horse and see if that would work. At the time, I spoke with you on-site, we decided that we would go ahead and do the conditioning of the well, so that way we would have adequate flow to supply the tank. We have not done the conditioning. There is no guarantee that the conditioning is going to fix the problem. I was told by the guys who installed them that the screens are probably plugged, and the conditioning is needed. They put a camera and toner down it to see the drawdown. We tested it as much as we could for that part. We were pumping at 11 feet static. Whenever they started the pump, it went down to 46 so it was a super quick drawdown. The well is 140 feet.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How old are these wells?

Orlando Lopez: Well number One dates back to 1954, and the second well dates back to 1987.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How far apart are these wells?

Orlando Lopez: Six feet apart.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm hesitant about it. I've conditioned a lot of wells, and it usually doesn't work. It depends on if there are good drillers' logs. They knew what they went through, and they know what's plugging it up, and they know the design and the construction of the well was done properly. You have a

shot at it, but if we don't have that information, I feel like it's a better chance to just throw in good money after bad.

Jerry Crites- YearOut Mechanical, well supporter: Geological Services said they could provide me with, original information from the drilling for what they encountered during the installation.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The easy fix is to put in a two-and-a-half-gallon minute pump and then put another tank up too. There are a lot of different ways to accomplish this.

Orlando Lopez: I've got all of the specs on the work that Geological Services did on the well. I can make it available to you.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The Commission needs to decide if we are willing to pull some more money to fix this problem, or not.

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I think we need the information, the good logs the original driller, and a recommendation before we start spending any money. Do we want to go with a new well, or do we want to take a chance on reconditioning, or do we want to look at a two-and-a-half horse pump and another tank? Right now, we don't have enough information to make a good decision on which of those three options will work out best in the long run.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The bottom line, is the money that they have is not going to cover any of these in-depth.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I feel the bigger issue is the meter company, if we can get some retribution back from this company, we need to look at it legally. If 13 meters were not installed, we were charged for it. If we can get those savings that may fix this whole issue.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I agree with you.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: They're licensed and bonded for a reason.

Orlando Lopez: I recently got the financial statements, what they are claiming they did, and what they did are two different things.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We need to look at that. I would like the information gathered for the well because it is two separate issues. The question is, if it's funded, as far as the meters are concerned, the existing contractor that we did business with, did not finish the job. We need answers on that. I'm going to ask you to visit with our Finance Director outside of the open session from here on forward, concerning that for legal reasons. We have a very good Finance Director.

B. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tracy Sedillo-Interim County Manager: This is my last Commission meeting; I've been working on wrapping up everything. September 30, next Monday, is my last day, and I've been transitioning things over to the new County Manager and trying to wrap up anything that was pending in my office.

C.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: To the individuals who are talking about the ordinance with the hoop houses, our Attorney is asking if they could have another week to come to a potential ordinance change in public meetings, so they are fully prepared. It's not, that's why it's not on this agenda.

3) Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner, District 3

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: I met with the new County Manager and talked with the Fire Chief and the Deputy Chief and we've spoken with the

Sheriff. I also spent time working on the cannabis ordinances problems, and as I told people before, it's no quick fix, but we are continuing to work on it. Thank you.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. COMMISSION: Discussion regarding bargaining strategy, closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H) (5)

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to move into Executive Session.

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

10:57 AM

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to move into Regular Session.

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

11:50 AM

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We discussed bargaining strategy, nothing else, in closed session, no action will be taken.

15. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:
October 09, 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 11:51 AM.




Ryan Schwebach - Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Date



Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk

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