

San Juan County Commission Special Meeting March 29, 2013

Chairman Eckstein called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on March 29, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Scott Eckstein
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Jack L. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Margaret McDaniel
MEMBER	Keith Johns
ASSESSOR	Clyde Ward
CLERK	Debbie Holmes
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK	Tanya Shelby
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Kim Carpenter
ASSISTANT CEO	Linda Thompson
COUNTY OPERATIONS OFFICER	Mike Stark
ATTORNEY	Jim Durrett
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Doug Echols
PRESS:	None
VISITORS:	1

New Business

1. **Request for Adoption of Amendment to San Juan County Ordinance No. 57, Decreasing the Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax**

Deputy County Attorney, Doug Echols explained to the Commission that in 2003 San Juan County voters approved a one-eighth of one percent (.125%) Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax that went into effect on January 1, 2004. San Juan County issued bonds on behalf of San Juan Regional Medical Center and used the proceeds of the Tax towards the bonds. Those bonds have now been paid in full and San Juan Regional Medical Center has indicated that the remaining improvements to be made to the facility can be accomplished utilizing only one-half of the tax presently being collected. The Amendment to Ordinance No. 57 would decrease the Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax from one-eighth of one percent (.125%) to one-sixteenth of one percent (.0625%). The Amendment provides that the reduction in gross receipts tax will not be effective until the imposition of the one-sixteenth gross receipts tax proposed in Ordinance No. 80. The Notice of Intent to Amend was published in the Daily Times on Thursday, March 14. Chairman Eckstein called for public comment, none were received. A motion was made by Commissioner Johns, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve the adoption of Amendment to San Juan County Ordinance No. 57 decreasing the local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

2. Request for Adoption of San Juan County Ordinance No. 80, Adopting a One-Sixteenth County Gross Receipts Tax

Doug Echols, Deputy County Attorney advised the Commission that Ordinance No. 80 would enact a one sixteenth of one percent (.0625%) gross receipts tax on anyone engaging in business in San Juan County. The one-sixteenth gross receipts tax would be used for County general purposes. If approved, this tax would go into effect on July 1, simultaneously with the reduction in the Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax. NMSA 1978, Section 7-20E-3 requires an election to be called if, within sixty days of adoption of the Ordinance, a petition signed by at least five percent of the voters in the county who were registered to vote in the most recent general election is filed with the County Clerk. That number would be 3,607 signatures. The Notice of Intent to Adopt was published in the Daily Times on Thursday, March 14. Mr. Echols explained that due to the timeline, there is question if the tax will be imposed on July 1, 2013, or if it will have to wait until January 1, 2014. Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner and County Assessor Clyde Ward clarified that this is not a tax increase. Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner stated that San Juan Regional Medical Center would rather have the entire amount now, but they are being understanding. Chairman Eckstein called for public comment, none was received. A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Johns to adopt San Juan County Ordinance No. 80, adopting a one-sixteenth County Gross Receipts tax. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

3. Request for Approval of Resolution No. 12-13-39, Proclaiming April 2013 as National County Government Month

Mike Stark, County Operations Officer reported to the Commission that in 1991 the National Association of Counties created National County Government Month to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties to meet the needs of the community. The activities during National County Government Month help citizens better understand how their county responds to their needs. On April 10, 2013 San Juan County has invited six high schools, approximately 30 students each to attend our government open house. The students will be able to take a closer look at what we do, how we do it and the people behind the services we provide. We request that San Juan County, along with other communities throughout our nation, showcase our local area government by celebrating April 2013, as National County Government Month. Mr. Stark indicated that on April 10, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. the high school students will be in the administration building. A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner to approve Resolution No. 12-13-39, proclaiming April 2013 as National County Government Month. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

Closed Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Being no further business a motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Johns to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote this motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF APRIL, 2013

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Chairman Scott Eckstein


Chairman Pro-Tem Jack L. Fortner


Margaret McDaniel


GloJean Todacheene

Keith Johns

ATTEST:


Debbie Holmes, County Clerk