

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
June 10, 2025**

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on June 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chairman Fortner expressed her condolences to the family of fallen Bloomfield Officer Timothy Ontiveros and requested a moment of silence for his family and to honor his memory. Chairman Fortner gave the invocation and Mike Stark, County Manager, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Terri D. Fortner
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Sam Gonzales
MEMBER	Sandra L. Lanier
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Alyssa Kuhn
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Melissa Wood
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	Adam Ortega
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	11

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there were no changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2025
2. Approval of FY25 Budget Adjustment #15 – Resolution No. 24-25-83
3. Approval of Treasurer's Check Register for May 2025
4. Approval of Finance Check Registers for May 2025
5. Approval of Award of Bid No. 23-24-19, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Surface Treatment Aggregate to VHCC, LLC of Gallup, NM; C & J Gravel Products Inc. of Durango, CO; and Mesa Sand & Gravel of Aztec, NM
6. Approval of Renewal of Bid No. 21-22-25, Price Agreement for the Purchas of asphalt Emulsions and Associated Products to HollyFrontier Refining & Marketing, LLC of Albuquerque, NM
7. Approval of Renewal of Bid No. 22-23-27, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Traffic Marking Pain to Allstates Coatings Company of Gladewater, TX
8. Approval of Renewal of Proposal 23-24-17, Cremation Services of Indigent and Unclaimed Persons to Farmington Funeral Home, LLC of Farmington, NM
9. Approval of Renewal of Proposal 23-24-18, Behavioral Health services to ATB Behavioral Health Services, LLC and Presbyterian Medical Services both of Farmington, NM
10. Approval of Resolution No. 24-25-82, In Support of a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application for Road 2770
11. Approval of HCAP (Health Care Assistance Program) Agreement for Medically Necessary Inpatient and Outpatient Services with San Juan Regional Medical Center, Farmington, NM
12. Approval of HCAP (Health Care Assistance Program) Agreement for Inmate Medical and Dental Services to Presbyterian Health Services (PMS) of Farmington, NM
13. Approval of Renewal of Bid No. 21-22-16, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Warehouse Supplies to Various Vendors.
14. Approval of Award of Bid No. 24-25-21, Price Agreement for Automotive and Heavy equipment Parts, Supplies and/or services to Various Vendors

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Update from the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) of Initiatives Applicable to San Juan County

Alice Fordham, Department of Health (DOH) Government Relations Coordinator presented the following new initiatives:

- Public Health Offices
 - The main office is located in Farmington and an additional office is located in Bloomfield
 - STD testing, tuberculosis treatments and vaccines are available.
 - Measles vaccinations are offered Monday thru Friday from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm, with an appointment

- School-Based Health Centers
 - In the 2023 – 2024 school year 59 school-based health centers were funded through the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)
 - In collaboration with the Northern Navajo Medical Center, there are three schools that have school-based health centers, including Navajo Prep
- Health Councils & Behavioral Health Services
 - \$4 million was appropriated to the health councils to assist with transitioning to behavioral health supports during the last legislative session
- Mobile Health Units
 - The 2024 and 2025 Legislative Sessions provided funding and staff for mobile health units which provides clinical care to remote populations
- Pathways Program
 - Provides access to outpatient opioid dependence treatment through NMDOH offices, such as Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

Chairman Fortner asked to clarify who has access to the Public Health Office. Ms. Fordham explained that anyone, including individuals with insurance, can use the Public Health Office. The Commission asked various questions and made various comments

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-78, Foxtail Flats Solar, LLC and Foxtail Flats Storage, LLC Industrial Revenue Bonds

Peter Kelton, Rodey Law Firm, stated that Foxtail Flats Solar, LLC and Foxtail Flats Storage, LLC submitted an application to the County requesting Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the development of a solar generation and storage facility located in Ute Mountain; which includes the acquisition of land, construction, equipping and installation of the project. It was requested that the Industrial Revenue Bonds aggregate amount be increased from \$362,000,000, which was approved at the April 15, 2025 meeting via Resolution No. 24-25-74, to \$374,000,000. Per NMSA 1978, Section 4-59-4.1(A), ratification and approval of notice letters relating to the issuance of the Industrial Revenue Bonds have been mailed to taxing jurisdictions within the County. The notice will be published in the Tri-City Record newspaper on June 13th. Commissioner Todacheene asked if the increase has been reviewed by the Finance and Legal Departments. Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that the County has been working closely with the D.E.Shaw Renewable Energies Bond Council and the increases are a positive indicator that Foxtail Flats Solar, LLC and Foxtail Flats Storage, LLC will invest in future project within the County. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 24-25-78, Foxtail Flats Solar, LLC and Foxtail Flats Storage, LLC Industrial Revenue Bonds. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-79, Four Mile Mesa Solar, LLC and Four Mile Mesa Storage, LLC Industrial Revenue Bonds

Peter Kelton, Rodey Law Firm, Four Mile Mesa Solar, LLC and Four Mile Mesa Storage, LLC submitted an application to the County requesting Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the development of a solar generation and storage facility located in Ute Mountain; which includes the acquisition of land, construction, equipping and installation of the project. It was requested that the Industrial Revenue Bonds aggregate amount be increased from \$259,000,000, which

was approved at the April 15, 2025 meeting via Resolution No. 24-25-75, to \$459,000,000. Per NMSA 1978, Section 4-59-4.1(A), ratification and approval of notice letters relating to the issuance of the Industrial Revenue Bonds have been mailed to taxing jurisdictions within the County. The notices will be published in the Tri-City Record newspaper June 13th. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to approve Resolution No. 24-25-79, Four Mile Mesa Solar, LLC and Four Mile Mesa Storage, LLC Industrial Revenue Bonds. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Notice of Intent to Amend and Restate the San Juan County Employee Handbook, Ordinance No. 34

Ellen Wayne, Deputy County Attorney, indicated that due to the new compensation system for San Juan County employees that goes into effect on July 6th, changes to the Employee Handbook are necessary to reflect the changes. In the newest revision of the Handbook, employees leaving County employment will now have four days to return County property, equipment, and uniforms to avoid a payroll deduction; footwear allowances to employees may now be used to pay for insole inserts; worker's compensation benefits resulting from an accident may be reduced if an employee's intoxication contributed to the injury; and firefighters that fall under the Fair Labor Standards Act will now be subject to department policies regarding shift swapping. A summary of changes and the redlined version of the Handbook are available on the County's web page. Staff will schedule the publication of the Notice of Intent to Adopt and will request adoption of the Ordinance at the July 1, 2025 meeting. Since the new compensation system goes into effect on July 6th, an emergency clause has been included and if adopted, the new version of the Employee Handbook will be effective immediately. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Notice of Intent to Amend and Restate the San Juan County Employee Handbook, Ordinance No. 34. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Notice of Intent to Adopt San Juan County Ordinance No. 128, Enacting a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE)

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that Adelante Consulting proposed the adoption of a C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) ordinance. The program was enacted into law in 2023 by the State Legislature via House Bill 228 and provides eligible property owners access to long-term fixed-rate financing for a range of energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency, and resiliency improvements. In addition, local governments can assist in securing financing via a special improvement lien. Eligible properties can be owned privately or by a non-profit organization and consist of commercial, agricultural, industrial or a multi-family property of five or more dwelling units. Financing is secured by a lien and repaid to the capital provider through the levy of a voluntary assessment collected by the capital provider and not the County. The County is not liable for any debt incurred by the property owner and would not be pledging or lending its credit to the property owner or capital provider. Billing, collection, and enforcement of any delinquent lien would be the responsibility of the capital provider. To participate in the program, the law requires counties to adopt an ordinance establishing a special assessment program for all eligible properties and for municipalities to adopt a resolution. Applications for the program would be referred to Adelante Consulting for review and jointly approved with concurrence from the County. An assessment agreement, notice of special

assessment interest, the filing of a lien, assignment of notice of special assessment interest and assessment agreement would be executed by the County. Staff will schedule the publication of the Notice of Intent to Adopt and will request adoption of the Ordinance at the July 1st meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Notice of Intent to Adopt San Juan County Ordinance No. 128, Enacting a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE). Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-80, Appointment of Board of Registration

Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk, indicated that 1-4-34(A) NMSA requires the Commission to appoint a Board of Registration consisting of 5 members in June of each odd numbered year, the term will be from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. During their service, members appointed to the Board of Registration cannot be County employees, elected officials, or candidates for public office, and no more than two members can be of the same political party. Based on the recommendations received from each of the party chairs, it is proposed the following individuals be appointed to the Board of Registration:

Republicans: Sara Lee Bramhall and Sarah Anne Frost
Alternate: Terry Smith

Democrats: Gayle Talaga and Ellen Braginsky
Alternate: Linda Corwin

No Patry/DTS: Peter Monette
Alternate: Janice Adams

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to approve Resolution No. 24-25-80, Appointment of Board of Registration. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-81, Designating the San Juan County Official Polling Places for Statewide Elections conducted in 2026 and 2027

Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk, stated that pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-3-2 (2019) requires the Commission to designate the polling places through a resolution in either June or July of 2025 for all statewide elections conducted in 2026 and 2027. The list of polling locations will be effective as of 2026. Hills Church has requested to be removed as a polling location due to the expansion of their school and the increased need for the use of their facility. As a replacement, the Farmington Municipal Schools District Office on 30th Street in Farmington will serve as the new polling location. Ms. Kuhn thanked those in the community that allow the County Clerk's office to utilize their facilities as polling sites, as well as Dr. Toni Hopper Pendegrass of San Juan College and Superintendent Cody Diehl of Farmington Municipal Schools. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve Resolution No. 24-25-81 Designating the San Juan County Official Polling Place for Statewide Elections conducted in 2026 and 2027. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of Commission Meeting Schedule for June 2025

Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that per the Commission's direction last year, the insurance broker is looking into a new workman's compensation policy; however, New Mexico Counties will not have a renewal quote prepared until after their June 16th board meeting. Staff recommended a meeting to be scheduled for Monday, June 23rd at 12 pm for consideration of the workman's compensation renewal. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Commission Meeting Schedule for June 2025. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following:

- The Administrative Office of the Courts submitted a request for information regarding the needs in the community as they pertain to the Behavioral Trust Fund created by Senate Bill 3.
- An application was submitted to the New Mexico Match Fund for a 25% match to help fund repairs to damage that was sustained from the storms in June 2024; a ratification will be submitted to the Commission for approval at the next meeting.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Chairman Fortner reported the following:

- The New Mexico Counties Conference is June 16th – 19th and is hosted by Curry County.
- She attended a leadership institute in Washington D.C. that promoted collaborations in small groups to discuss how to be adaptable in challenges that are presented to elected officials.

Commissioner Lanier stated that Chairman Fortner will be sworn in as president of New Mexico Counties in the coming week.

Melissa Wood, Deputy Human Resource Officer, introduced Martin Begay who will be participating in the County's Summer Internship Program. Mr. Begay indicated that he will be assisting Senior Human Resource Generalist, Ashley Pulte, in marketing and recruitment materials for the internship program.

Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales asked if there were any updates on the current bridge projects and the wash project at McGee Park. Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that he did not have a current update for the Commission regarding the bridge projects, but Nick Porrell, Public Works Administrator, would have an update for the next meeting. Mr. Stark stated that the wash project at McGee Park is currently underway.

Comments / Input From The General Public

None

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Commission Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to go into closed executive session to discuss:

1. To discuss limited personnel matters, pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2), performance evaluation of the County Manager

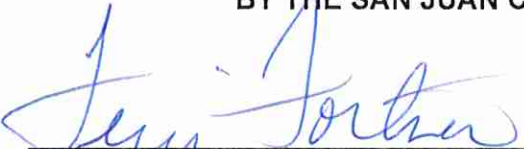
Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Fortner stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Fortner adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF JULY 2025

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Chairman Terri D. Fortner



Chairman Pro-Tem Sam Gonzales



Sandra L. Lanier



GloJean Todacheene



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

