

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
July 29, 2025**

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on July 29, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales gave the invocation and Commissioner McDaniel 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
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING ADMINISTRATOR	Jennifer Mitchell
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	Adam Ortega
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PROJECT MANAGER	Porter Smith
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	9

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 Special Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2025
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for July 1, 2025
3. Approval of Treasurer's Check Register for June 2025
4. Approval of Finance Check Registers for June 2025
5. Approval of FY25 Final Quarter Financial Report, Resolution No. 25-26-15

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 on the Closed-Loop Referral System, NM Health Care Authority (HCA)

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, explained that the Closed-Loop Referral System (CLRS) is procured by the New Mexico Health Care Authority; designed to fill the gap between providers and individuals that are seeking resources and services. Mr. Saavedra introduced Roberto Martinez, Program Manager of the NM Health Care Authority Closed-Loop Referral System and Chris Dunkin, Findhelp Regional Director of State Government Relations. Mr. Martinez presented the following:

- YES New Mexico Connect, will serve as a comprehensive solution for referring, providing, and tracking a wide range of public health services across New Mexico for Medicaid and underserved population by integrating agencies and organizations into a coordinated network.
- Community health navigators and individuals will have access to a resource database with various clinics, hospitals, schools, community service organizations, state, city, and county programs to connect clients to services and resources such as consistent healthcare, housing, nutritious food, transportation, emergency financial aid, and other forms of social/material supports.
- An administrative hub links all participating organizations within the network to ensure effective coordination by confirming the services and information each entity provides.
- Currently, there are 7 counties, 2 tribal agencies, and Workforce Solutions that are participating in the pilot program.

Mr. Dunkin demonstrated various portions of the website and the ease of use. Navigators or individuals can search by category and be referred to various programs. Chairman Fortner asked who has access to the services and privacy. Mr. Dunkin stated that the counties can choose who has access, there is a coalition between various organizations for data sharing which is HIPAA protected. The Commission asked various questions.

2. Consideration of FY26 Final Budget Resolution No. 25-26-14

Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer, requested approval of the FY26 Final Budget which is due to the Department of Finance (DFA) by July 31st for their approval by September 6th. Ms. Martin presented the following to the Commission:

- \$4,002,774 added to the final budget to reflect grants awarded
- \$7 million expenditure increase due to carryover of purchase orders
- 24.5% above required 3/12 reserve general fund; 36% revenue Gross Receipt Tax (GRT); 33% revenue various grants
- Total revenue \$150,995,017
- Total expenditures \$203,438,736

Ms. Martin recognized department heads, elected officials, and her staff for their assistance in financial management. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve FY26 Final Budget Resolution No. 25-26-14. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 24-25-16, Approving the Purchase of Property for a New Fire Station 6 EMS Facility and Amended Purchase Agreement

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, stated that at the July 1, 2025 meeting, the Commission approved the Purchase Agreement for vacant land in the 1900 Block of Farmington Avenue for the construction of the Station 6 EMS Facility. After the approval, the seller of the property requested the addition of a provision in the Purchase Agreement which requires the County to collaborate with the seller in the design of the EMS station to reflect a Northern New Mexico design standard. Resolution No. 24-25-16 is necessary for the title company to process the closing. The purchase of the property will be covered by the proceeds from a capital outlay grant and closing will not occur until the grant is received. Mike Stark, County Manager, reported that due to the provision, there is a slight increase in cost which was brought to the EMS Oversight Committee, EMS officials and team for approval. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve Resolution No. 24-25-16, Approving the Purchase of Property for a new Fire Station 6 EMS Facility and Amended Purchase Agreement. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Report on Inspection of Detention Center

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, requested that the Commission inspect the Detention Center in preparation of a report to be presented at an upcoming Regular County Commission meeting as required by NMSA 1978, §33-3-4, Inspection of Jails and Detention Centers, which requires that the governing body conduct an annual site visit to inspect the overall conditions at the detention facility. The last report was submitted on September 17, 2024.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following to the Commission:

- The Four Corners Freight Rail Feasibility Study is completed; reports are located on the project site, www.4cornersfreightrail.com.
- San Juan Basin Rig Reports shows that there are 8 drilling rigs and 33 workover rigs, as of last week which is positive news.

- Michelle Murray, Parks & Facilities Deputy Administrator, and staff will be recognized by the Special Olympics Program on August 2nd, for the facilitation of the Special Olympics this year.
- Recognized the Finance Department, Human Resources, and Information Systems for completing the transition to the new salary structure
- The San Juan County Fair begins August 11th through August 17th at McGee Park which is organized by the San Juan County Fair Board. Information can be found at sanjuancountyfairnm.net.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Chairman Fortner, stated that as the President of New Mexico Association of Counties, she has attended various conferences focusing on criminal justice, mental health, etc. The New Mexico Counties Board will be in San Juan County on August 7th-8th.

Nick Porell, Public Works Administrator, updated the Commission on the bridge projects on Roads 3000 & 3500.

Ashley Pulte, Senior HR Generalist, reported that the Summer Internship Program funded by the New Mexico Public Education Department was a success. There were 164 applicants, 80 of which were hired, of those, only one student dropped from the 8-week program; there were 37 worksites.

David Vega, Fire Chief, updated the Commission regarding the wildfire activity in and surrounding areas near San Juan County. Chief Vega thanked Steve Dansie, Parks & Facilities Administrator and Mike Stark, County Manager for the utilization of the Industrial Park during the Morgan Canyon fire relief efforts.

Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, stated the with the recent flooding in Texas and Ruidoso, he felt it necessary to update the Commission regarding the emergency notification systems that are utilized by the County. Various systems are used such as the Everbridge System, which is reverse 911, iPad integrated public alert warning system, Emergency Alert Systems (EAS), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LAPC).

Daniel Webb, Adult Detention Administrator, invited the Commission to visit the Detention Center at any time.

Commissioner Lanier announced that Jacob Kuhn was drafted in the 7th round of the 2025 Major League Baseball draft with the Tampa Bay Rays and congratulated Alyssa and John Kuhn.

Comments / Input From The General Public

Dennis Walker, citizen, stated that he has filed a formal complaint with the Public Regulation Commission regarding the sewer line issue in Meadow Lake Heights Subdivision and expressed his gratitude to the Commission for their support.

Adjourn


Being no further business, Chairman Fortner adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Chairman Terri D. Fortner



Chairman Pro-Tem Sam Gonzales



Sandra L. Lanier



Glo Jean Todacheene



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

