

San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
October 21, 2025

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on October 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner McDaniel gave the invocation and Commissioner Todacheene 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
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Melissa Wood
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PROJECT MANAGER	Porter Smith
VISITORS:	12

Recognition

1. Graduation Recognition

Shane Ferrari, Sheriff, announced that on September 4, 2025, Lieutenant Mitch Goins, San Juan County Sheriff's Office, graduated from the 295th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, a 10-week executive leadership training program. The attendees consisted of 254 U.S. and international law enforcement executives representing men and women from 49 states and the District of Columbia. Sheriff Ferrari recognized Lieutenant Goins for his professionalism, steadfast leadership, and commitment to the community. Lieutenant Goins expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to attend the training and recognized his family for their support.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there were no changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Commission 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 October 7, 2025
2. Approval of FY26 Budget Adjustment #4 – Resolution No. 25-26-30
3. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-28, Disposition of County Surplus
4. Approval of Application for Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant
5. Approval of the 17th Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Detention Center Services

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Consideration of Proclamation Declaring November 9th-15th as National Nurse Practitioner Week 2025

Terri Fortner, Chairman, read the following proclamation aloud:

**SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 9TH - 15TH AS
NATINONAL NURSE PRACTITIONERS' WEEK, 2025**

Whereas, nurse practitioners (NPs) have served a critical role as trusted health care providers for decades; and

Whereas, NPs work to expand health care access in communities across our state, promote health equity in care and improve health outcomes for all; and

Whereas, patients depend on the more than 431,000 licensed NPs in the United States to diagnose, manage and treat their chronic and acute health care conditions; and

Whereas, NPs provide high-quality primary, acute and specialty health care services while emphasizing health promotion, disease prevention, health education and counseling, partnering with patients to improve their health; and

Whereas, the confidence that patients have in NP-delivered health care is evidenced by the more than 1 billion visits made annually to NPs across the country; and

Whereas, better utilization of NPs through modernized state laws and improved policies creates better health through a more accessible, efficient, cost-effective and higher-quality health care system; and

Whereas, more than half the nation - including 27 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands - has adopted Full Practice Authority legislation, offering patients full and direct access to the outstanding care provided by NPs; and

Whereas, NPs serve as the provider of choice for many San Juan County residents and play a pivotal role in the health and welfare of our communities, and

Whereas, San Juan County is proud to recognize and honor the service of NPs to our state.

**Be It Resolved, therefore, that as Chair of the Commission, I declare
November 9-15, 2025, as National Nurse Practitioner Week
in San Juan County, NM.**

Chairman Fortner introduced Megan Velasquez-Baca, Family Nurse Practitioner at Pinon Family Practice. Ms. Velasquez-Baca stated that she is also the Women's Health Specialist and Region 1 Representative for the New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council, representing five counties. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Proclamation Declaring November 9th-15th as National Nurse Practitioner Week 2025. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-29, Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

Terri Fortner, Chairman, announced that Operation Green Light for Veterans is an initiative promoted by the National Association of Counties and endorsed by New Mexico Counties to spread awareness on the plight of veterans in counties across the country who are having a difficulty connecting with benefits after serving their country. Chairman Fortner read the resolution aloud:

**SAN JUAN COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-29
SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the residents of San Juan County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, that San Juan County is hereby designated as a Green Light for Veterans County and declares October 21, 2025, through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in observance of Operation Green Light, San Juan County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of October 2025.

Chairman Fortner presented Resolution No. 25-26-29, Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans to Daniel Newman, Human Resource Liaison for Veterans Employee Committee (VEC). A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-29, Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Award of Bid No. 25-26-01, Eleventh Judicial District Court

Porter Smith, Project Manager, stated that on August 25, 2025, Central Purchasing issued a request for sealed bids for the renovations and additions to the Eleventh Judicial District Court; of the 100 invitations that were sent to various contractors, 4 bids were received/opened on October 9, 2025, and reviewed by staff and the project architect. Staff recommended the award of Bid 25-26-01 to Winters Construction, LLC of Farmington, NM as the overall low bidder meeting specifications and requirements. The award is \$1,463,942.40 which includes the following: a lump sum base bid amount of \$1,213,000.00, Alternate No. 1- Replace Existing carpet and vinyl base for \$64,215.00, and Alternate No. 2- Interior renovations to Eleventh Judicial Court inside San Juan County Juvenile Services Center in Farmington, NM for \$75,938.00, plus NMGRT in the amount of \$110,789.40. The original budget for this project was \$1,350,000.00 with \$675,000.00 of that being grant funding provided by the Eleventh Judicial Court and a \$675,000.00 match from San Juan County; with architect fees already consuming \$108,444.99, the current remaining project budget is \$1,242,555.01. The Eleventh Judicial District Court has agreed to cover the budget overage of the base project as well as the additional costs of Alternate No. 1 and Alternate No. 2, including gross receipts tax, for the project. The Court will be invoiced for the additional amount and once the County receives those funds, a budget adjustment will be made to add those funds to the project account. Chairman

Fortner recognized John Guaderrama, Eleventh Judicial Court Deputy Court Executive Officer. Mr. Guaderrama thanked the Commission for their support. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Award of Bid No. 25-26-01, Eleventh Judicial District Court. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Consideration to Authorize the County Manager to Execute Contracts for Planning Services and Planning Documents**

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, indicated that on August 29th, the New Mexico Finance Authority awarded San Juan County a \$78,000 planning grant. The grant requires the County to contract with a consultant to prepare an Affordable Housing Plan by January 1, 2026. The San Juan County Purchasing Department and Executive Office selected Architectural Research Consultants, Incorporated (ARC), to provide these services. Since ARC is a contract holder of a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) agreement, the County can expedite the execution of a contract for the project. The County also selected ARC to update the County's Growth Management Plan (Comprehension Plan) at an estimated cost of \$50,000 which is included in the FY26 budget; the last update was in 2018. Both planning projects are estimated to take 12 to 18 months to complete and will include participation from County staff, community stakeholders, and the County Commission, if they choose to participate. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve to Authorize the County Manager to Execute Contracts for Planning Services and Planning Documents. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Consideration to Make Application for NMDOT FY2026 EV Infrastructure Grant Program**

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, requested approval from the Commission to apply for the FY2026 Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Grant Program funded by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). The grant provides for installation of publicly accessible, commercial-grade Level 3 direct current fast charging equipment which will be installed at the Administration Building in Aztec and McGee Park. In 2024, the County partnered with ME&E Engineering to complete an Electric Vehicle Charger Feasibility Study in preparation for grant opportunities designed to fully fund the installation and maintenance of the charging stations. The study evaluated optimal locations, cost estimates, and the advantages/challenges associated with implementation. Based on these findings, the County is well-positioned to be competitive for the EV Infrastructure Grant Program. San Juan County is requesting \$1.2 million in funding from NMDOT to complete all aspects of the project, including the procurement of equipment, maintenance, and the installation of EV infrastructure at the identified locations. This grant application is designated exclusively for EV charging stations and may not be used for other purposes. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve to Make Application for NMDOT FY2026 EV Infrastructure Grant Program. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark reported the following:

- City of Aztec will be resurfacing South Oliver on Sunday, October 26th, there will be traffic restrictions on that day.
- The Extension Office ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on December 16th at 2:00 p.m.
- The County has supported Operation Green Light for Veterans for 3 years.
- Introduced Daniel Newman, Senior HR Generalist, who is the HR Liaison for the Veterans Employee Committee (VEC)
- VEC will be hosting a Veteran's Recognition Day Gathering for employees who are veterans, at the McGee Park Multi-Use Building, Room D on November 12th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- The local Daughters of the American Revolution Desert Gold Chapter will be laying wreaths on the Veteran monuments at the entrance of the County Administrative building in at 1pm on Monday, November 10th.
- Echo Food Bank began a food drive on October 9th, the last day for contributions is November 12th. The weigh-in for the 2025 Food Drive Challenge is November 13th. Kim Martin and Michelle Murray serve on the Echo Food Board.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Daniel Newman, Veterans Employee Committee Human Resource Liaison, stated that currently there are 44 recognized Veterans employed with the County. VEC has selected their board members, however there are two vacancies. Future endeavors include a Veterans Resource Directory and various activities.

Melissa Wood, Deputy Human Resources Officer, announced that the Annual Health and Wellness Fair for employees is on October 23rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chairman Fortner announced that October 28th is National First Responders Day honoring the service and sacrifice of all public safety professionals, including police, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and 911 dispatchers.

Nick Porell, Public Works Administrator, stated that the recent weather did not affect the bridge reconstruction projects on Roads 3000 and 3500.

Daniel Webb, Adult Detention Administrator, invited the Commissioners to the Detention Center luncheon on October 28th, in observance of National First Responders Day.

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, announced that the Gravel Guidebook event is on November 1st at 550 Brewing in Aztec beginning at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Saavedra recognized Devin Neeley and Tim Miettý for creating graphics for the upcoming event.

Comments / Input From The General Public

None

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to go into closed executive session pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8), discussion of the possible acquisition of real property by the public body, specifically 0.11 acres of land located adjacent to Road 3783 in the Morningstar Town Ranches Subdivision in San Juan County, NM. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lanier stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

6. Consideration of Acquisition of Real Property Adjacent to Road 3783 in the Morningstar Town Ranches Subdivision

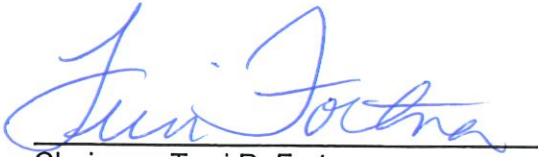
Nick Porell, Public Works Director, communicated that San Juan County Public Works was contacted by James Shinn in April 2023, regarding lot 192 in Morningstar Town Ranches Subdivision located on County maintained Road 3783. It was indicated that the surveys completed during the title process showed that a portion of Road 3783 had been constructed within the property limits. After review by the San Juan County Legal Department, the individual was advised by Public Works that there are processes to resolve such encroachments. In February 2025, Mr. Shinn contacted Public Works indicating that he wished to proceed with resolving the roadway encroachment. Road 3783 was accepted in its current location via Resolution 99-00-23 on October 19, 1999, and it appears that the road was constructed outside of the platted right of way to avoid conflict with adjacent oil/gas infrastructure; it is assumed this deviation was not identified at the time of inspection and acceptance. The Legal Department advised that an acquisition process for road right of way was appropriate which involved the completion of a title report, property survey, property appraisal, land purchase/sale agreements, and preparation of a warranty deed. In an effort to resolve the identified encroachment, a 0.11-acre portion of Mr. Shinn's property was surveyed; the proposed acquisition includes the roadway surface and adjacent land suitable for maintenance of roadway/drainage infrastructure which is currently maintained by the County. The value of the 0.11 acres as appraised by Gipson Investments, Inc. of Farmington, NM is \$2,150.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Acquisition of Real Property Adjacent to Road 3783 in the Morningstar Town Ranches Subdivision. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Fortner adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



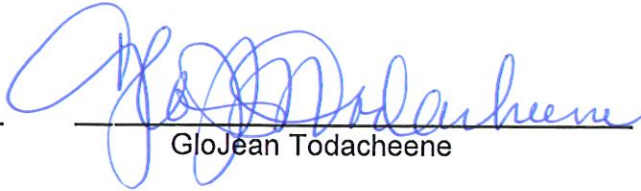
Chairman Terri D. Fortner



Chairman Pro-Tem Sam Gonzales



Sandra L. Lanier



GloJean Todacheene



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

