

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
August 19, 2025**

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on August 19, 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 Chairman Lanier 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
CLERK	Alyssa Kuhn
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
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
DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Melissa Wood
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	Megan Cullip
EXECUTIVE HOUSING DIRECTOR	Charlotte Stanley
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	15

Presentations

1. Presentation of Appreciation

Phillip Francisco, Bloomfield Police Chief, presented a plaque of appreciation to Sheriff Shane Ferrari recognizing the San Juan County Sheriff's Office for assisting their department after the loss of fallen Officer, Tim Ontiveros.

2. Proclamation Honoring Taylor Armenta

Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales introduced Taylor, Tierra and Audra Armenta and read allowed the following proclamation:

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TAYLOR ARMENTA

WHEREAS, Taylor Armenta, a 14-year-old barrel racer from Bloomfield, NM, competed in the National Junior High School Finals Rodeo held June 22-28 in Des Moines, Iowa; and

WHEREAS Taylor Armenta matched up against 180-barrel racers, winning both the go-rounds with times of 14.713 and 14.625; and

WHEREAS, in the finals she had a winning round of 14.621 with a total aggregate of 43.959, thus sweeping all 3 go rounds, making her the 2025 National Junior High School Finals Rodeo barrel racing champion; and

WHEREAS Taylor Amenta has now won 12 saddles, 150 buckles, and lifetime earnings of over \$350,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, hereby declares August 19, 2025, as "Taylor Armenta Day" in San Juan County, New Mexico, in recognition of her national championship.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of August 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to call to order the Board of Finance Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Finance Meeting

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-18, Waiving the \$5.00 Minimum Penalty on Delinquent Property Taxes

Carol Taulbee, Treasurer, stated that New Mexico State Statute 7-38-58, allows a county to impose a penalty of 1% per month but, not exceed 5% of the delinquent tax amount, except when the penalty is less than \$5.00. Ms. Taulbee requested that the Commission approve Resolution 25-26-18, which waives the \$5.00 minimum penalty on delinquent property taxes. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve Resolution No. 25-26-18, Waiving the \$5.00 Minimum Penalty on Delinquent Property Taxes

2. Report on County Investments and Interest Earned as of June 30, 2025

Carol Taulbee, Treasurer, reported that as of June 30, 2025, County investments earned \$3,765,718.68 in interest; an increase of 173.30% from June 2023 and a 41.5% increase over

June 2024. The highest return since June 2008. The return on the average balance invested increased from 2.78% to 3.74% in FY25. Total invested dollars increased by over \$5.01 million for FY25 due to short-term investing during higher collection months. Total cash and investments as of June 30, 2025, were \$110,515,478.94 with the deduction of the property tax payable and outstanding check adjustment totaling \$106,370,508.59, which includes June property tax collections of which \$990,941.54 was distributed to local municipalities and school districts in July 2025. Chairman Fortner thanked Ms. Taulbee for her good stewardship.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to adjourn the Board of Finance Meeting and call to order the Regular Meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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 Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to approve the agenda as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for July 29, 2025
2. Approval of Treasurer's Check Register for July 2025
3. Approval of Finance Check Register for July 2025
4. Approval of Projects Submitted for State Fire Marshal Grant Funding
5. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-19, Supporting New Mexico Department of Transportation Award of Que Linda Grant Program Funding
6. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with New Mexico Department of Agriculture for Nonnative Phreatophyte Removal and Riparian Restoration

7. Approval to Certify FY2025 Annual Inventory
8. Approval of 3rd Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Sobering Center and Joint Intervention Program Services with San Juan Regional Medical Center and City of Farmington
9. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Alternative Response Unit (ARU) Program with the City of Farmington
10. Approval of Ratification of the Annual 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) that was submitted to the State of New Mexico on July 17, 2025
11. Approval of Ratification of the Annual 2025 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) that was submitted to the State of New Mexico on August 6, 2025

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 Approval of Annual SEMAP (Section Eight Management Assessment Program) Certification

Charlotte Stanley, Executive Housing Director, stated that the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) measures the performance of Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) that administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program using 13 key indicators, such as verification of family income, timely annual inspections and utility allowance schedules. Ms. Stanley indicated that due to the implementation of these indicators, the Housing Authority has been the recipient of 16 high performance awards. Staff requested that the Commission certify the responses to SEMAP as there is no evidence to indicate deficient performance of the Housing Authority's capacity to administer Section 8 rental assistance in accordance with Federal law and regulations. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Lanier to approve the Annual SEMAP (Section Eight Management Assessment Program) Certification. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration fo Withdrawal from Title III for Senior Center Services for FY2026

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, requested the County withdraw from Title III funding for Senior Services Center for FY26 due to funding cuts and the ongoing operational/administrative burdens imposed by the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District Non-Metro New Mexico Area Agency on Aging. For FY26, the County would receive \$81,811.57 for the Lower Valley and Blanco Senior Centers, which is \$32,905 less than in FY25. The County must also meet strict programmatic and reporting obligations, including maintaining required meal service frequency, producing extensive documentation, complying with multiple layers of state regulations, and meeting rigid reimbursement submission deadlines placing a substantial strain on County resources. Without proportional increases in funding or staffing support, the County risks overextending its capacity, potentially undermining both service and delivery. Staff has informed partnering entities, City of Aztec, City of Bloomfield, and City of Farmington, of the County's intent to withdraw from the program; these entities have not reported any adverse effects if the County proceeds with the withdrawal. Staff recommended withdrawing from the program for one year to strategically reassess its' service and delivery role. Eliminating burdensome reporting/reimbursement obligations and allows the County to streamline \$90,000 in operations. These savings will be reinvested into enhanced senior services through partnerships and models that deliver greater value, align with fiscal realities, strengthen administrative capacity, and protect taxpayer resources. Chairman Fortner asked how many hours were spent meeting reporting requirements for this program. Michelle Murray, Parks and Facilities Deputy Administrator, stated that last year 800 hours were spent on paperwork; by withdrawing from the program more activities could be implemented for our Senior citizens, as well as provide meals without stringent restrictions, limiting food waste. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner McDaniel, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Withdrawal from Title III for Senior Center Services for FY2026. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Amended and Restated Special Contract with New Mexico Gas Company for the Gas Line Extension to the San Juan County Industrial Park

Mike Stark, County Manager, explained that the County entered into an agreement with New Mexico Gas Company in May 2023 to extend a natural gas line approximately 13 miles to the San Juan County Industrial Park. The extension would provide 84 new jobs through the recently approved lease with PESCO and would benefit an estimated 200 residential customers in the La Plata area. The project was funded by a grant from New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD); however, the project was delayed due to a change in the engineering services provider and the acquisition of a right of way. As a result, the cost increased from \$2.9 million to \$4,137,350; the NMEDD has agreed to provide an additional \$1,017,350, bringing their total contribution to \$3,937,350, and the County has been asked to provide the remaining \$200,000. Staff recommended providing the additional funding and to approve the amended and restated contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales to approve the Amended and Restated Special Contract with New Mexico Gas Company for the Gas Line Extension to the San Juan County Industrial Park. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Third Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement Between New Mexico Economic Development Department and San Juan County for Gas Line Extension to the San Juan County Industrial Park

Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that upon approval of the amended and restated special contract with New Mexico Gas Company, a subsequent approval of the third amendment to the intergovernmental agreement with the New Mexico Economic Development Department is required to increase their contribution amount from \$2,920,000 to \$3,937,350. The County will also need to contribute a match of \$200,000, which is 4.8% of the total project cost, plus an estimated \$25,000 contingency. If the contingency is not used, the remaining funding would revert to the County. Staff recommended using the capital replacement reserve fund, which has a current balance of \$5,758,636, to cover the additional \$225,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Third Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement between New Mexico Economic Development Department and San Juan County for Gas Line Extension to the San Juan County Industrial Park. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager reported the following:

- Chairman Fortner recognized Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk, for her designation as Certified Elections Registration Administrator, the highest professional achievement for election officials in the country.
- Bob Echols, Fair Board President, was introduced to give a brief overview of the success of the 2025 San Juan County Fair.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk, thanked Mike Stark and the Commission for recognizing her certification as a Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA). Ms. Kuhn stated that Tanya Shelby also has her CERA, making San Juan the only county in the state where both the Clerk and Chief Deputy are certified.

Commissioner Todacheene recognized and presented a plaque to Heather Dostaler for her dedication to managing the Waterfowl Barn at the San Juan County Fair.

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

Comments / Input From The General Public

Etta Arviso, citizen, requested that National Navajo Code Talker Day be more widely recognized and stated that she has been in contact with Window Rock regarding new road projects on the reservation.

Dennis Walker, citizen, expressed his gratitude for the County's help with his road and is still drafting his formal complaint to the Public Regulation Commission regarding his sewer line.

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to go into closed executive session to discuss:

1. Disposition of real estate for access and transmission over San Juan County parcel #2083173100488 adjoining Road 6480 near Kirtland
2. Consideration of the donation of land adjacent to the new Cooperative Extension Service Building

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.

5. Consideration of Donation of Land Adjacent to the New Cooperative Extension Building on Gossett Drive in Aztec, New Mexico

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, indicated that the County seeks to preserve/maintain reliable access and adequate drainage for the new Extension Office that is under construction southeast of the County Administrative complex. Current owners Leonard Biemer and William Fortner are willing to donate 0.58 acres of land, commonly known as Gossett Drive, which directly borders existing County property. The City of Aztec has never formally dedicated Gossett Drive as a public right-of-way, however it does serve as a 40-foot-wide access and utility easement. A second 0.14-acre donation of adjacent land has also been

offered and would be used as a retention pond. If the donations are approved, the County will assume responsibility for maintaining both the Gossett Drive access area and the retention pond. The property owners and their surveyor have worked with the City of Aztec to dedicate Gossett Drive as a public right-of-way. Upon acceptance, the Legal Department will prepare the appropriate documents for the transaction, including a Real Estate Donation Agreement, Deed, and the County will endorse the summary replat for the donated land. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Donation of Land Adjacent to the New Cooperative Extension Building on Gossett Drive, Right of Way and Retention Pond in Aztec, New Mexico, to Authorize the Legal Department to Procure Documents for the Donation and to Authorize the County Manager to sign on behalf of the County. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Fortner adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025

BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



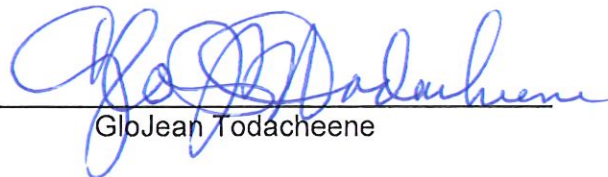
Chairman Terri D. Fortner



Chairman Pro-Tem Sam Gonzales



Sandra L. Lanier



GloJean Todacheene



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

