

San Juan County Commission Regular Meeting February 3, 2026

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on February 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Fortner gave the invocation and Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Sam Gonzales
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Sandra L. Lanier
MEMBER	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
CLERK	Alyssa Kuhn
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
CLAIMS MANAGER	Cynthia Singleton
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Travis Sisco
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
ADULT DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR	Daniel Webb
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Timi Howell
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	Megan Cullip
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
PROJECT MANAGER	Toni Sitta
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	27

Presentation

Presentation of New Mexico Counties Conference Awards

Commissioner Fortner announced that on January 22nd at the New Mexico Counties Legislative Conference, San Juan County was recognized for their excellence both organizationally and individually. Commissioner Fortner recognized Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer, and her staff

for receiving the County's ninth State auditor award with five consecutive years of zero audit findings, and for receiving the Triple Crown (recipients of the Government Finance Officers Administration (GFOA) Budget Presentation, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Public Annual Financial Report) for the last 6 years. Timi Howell, Alternative Sentencing Deputy Administrator, and Stacey Romero, Alternative Sentencing Compliance Supervisor, were recognized for the Misdemeanor Compliance Program achieving its fourth program reaccreditation. Wendi Aguilar, Adult Detention Center Administrative Assistance, received the designation of New Mexico Certified Human Resource Professional (NMCHRP) from the New Mexico Edge Program.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of December 2025 Treasurer Check Register
3. Approval of December 2025 Finance Check Registers
4. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-45, Authorizing the City of Farmington Submittal of the FY2026 LDWI Detox Grant Application
5. Approval of Award of Bid No. 25-26-09, Adult Detention Center Boiler Room Addition
6. Approval of Renewal of Bid No. 23-24-11, Price Agreement for Parking Lot Asphalt Services from Prestigious Paving LLC of Gallup, NM and XL Concrete Company, Inc of Farmington, NM
7. Approval of Emergency Management Office Improvements
8. Approval of FY26 Budget Adjustment #9 – Resolution No. 25-26-52
9. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-51, Adoption of Required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Certifications and Commitments

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

New Business

1. **Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-53, Adopting the San Juan County Penny Elimination and Rounding Policy**

Carol Taulbee, County Treasurer, stated that on November 12, 2025, the United States government ceased production of new one-cent coin (pennies), leaving the nickel as the lowest denominated currency. Staff recommended using the Government Finance Officers Administration (GFOA) guidelines which would round all cash transactions to the nearest nickel

and be effective as of March 1, 2026. For example, if a cash transaction requires payment of \$1.02, under the policy the total will round down to \$1.00, but if the final total required is \$1.03, the total will round up to \$1.05. The same rounding rules will apply when change is given back to the customer. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 25-26-53, Adoption the San Juan County Penny Elimination and Rounding Policy. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. Four Corners Economic Development Update

Tim Gibbs, Four Corners Economic Development, CEO, presented an update on the current activities and goals:

- Four Corners Economic Development aims to create beneficial economic opportunities that would prosper sustainable growth in the area by executing three strategic approaches:
 - Strengthen and Scale: this approach has resulted in 6 meetings with companies looking to expand into the County; one is seeking a manufacturing/distribution site, and several others have active projects under discussion.
 - New Market Growth: One fiber optic company has announced they will be moving into the area and are actively building, and another will potentially announce their move to the area in the next six months.
 - Regional Coordination: Hosted Colorado District 9 Economic Development Organizations where they collaborated on transportation, housing, workforce and the rail initiative.
- Conducted a Housing Study that identified shortages and created a housing coalition.
- Seeks to continue recruitment, advance behind-the-meter energy platform, complete/deploy a workforce study, and maintain regional and State coordination.

Commissioner Fortner asked for clarification on the meaning of behind-the-meter energy. Mr. Gibbs explained that behind-the-meter refers to when there are shortages in energy, companies have generated their own power for projects. The Commission made various comments.

3. Annual Update on Sobering Center, Joint Intervention Program and the Navigation Center

Kristine Carlson-Werito, Behavioral Health Clinical Administrator and Estevan Rodriguez, Joint Intervention Program and Sobering Center Administrator, presented the following information:

- The Totah Behavioral Health Authority, "Campus of Care", has been a part of the Farmington community since 2001; collaborating with San Juan County, City of Farmington, San Juan Regional Medical Center, PMS, Navajo Nation and other community partners.
- Outpatient Services include mental health and substance abuse counseling, comprehensive community support services, and traditional Dine' healing and faith-based groups.
- The Joint Intervention Program is a three phase 6-month intensive outpatient program for individuals to receive treatment, and participants in the program also have the option

- of staying in the on-site dormitory, Paul's Place.
 - o The program aims to decrease negative community contacts such as reducing ER visits, negative police contact, sobering center stays and days in jail.
- The Sobering Center is a non-residential program where individuals can stay up to 11 hours and receive treatment; in 2025 there were 16,902 admissions and 1,363 were not repeat individuals.
- 145 families have received housing assistance either through Move In Eviction Prevention (MIEP) or Linkages, which are housing vouchers for individuals with a Serious Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) diagnosis.
- The Mobile Crisis Unit is currently being housed out of the Farmington Community Health Center, providing 24/7 response for behavioral health crises to all ages.

Ms. Carlson-Werito introduced Denise Huegler, Supervisor for the Mobile Crisis Unit. Ms. Huegler expressed her desire to build and develop the Mobile Crisis Unit to help meet the needs of the community. Megan Cullip, Community Health and Social Services Director, and Bianca Thompson, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, presented the following information:

- In 2025, the Navigation Center had a total of 942 cases, which are individuals serviced, and a total of 2,085 connections, which is the number of times individuals were serviced; housing assistance and administrative activities were the highest connections.

Commissioner Fortner asked if individuals are seen by appointment or walk-in. Ms. Cullip indicated that appointments are preferable to ensure that individuals receive the full consultation time that they are allotted but walk-ins are also accommodated. The Commission made various comments.

4. Consideration of Updated McGee Park Fee Schedule and Contract

Steve Dansie, Parks & Facilities Director, stated that in 2022 the Commission approved the current rates for McGee Park. Staff requested approval of the additional fee for the Poultry/Rabbit Barn that was built in 2024, due to its utilization for birthday parties, meetings, wedding receptions, and other miscellaneous events. In addition, with a recent national evaluation of RV rates, an increase to the rates for RV space rentals and the usage of our signs, cones, and barrels is requested. The contract includes updates to Emergency Medical Services and stand by sections, as well as certifications/contact information; the updated contract has been approved by Risk Management and the Legal Department. The Commission made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the Updated McGee Park Fee Schedule and Contract. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. Review of Boards & Committee Appointments for 2026

Mike Stark, County Manager, requested approval of the Board and Committee members appointed by the San Juan County Commission. Commissioner Todacheene requested to be moved to the alternate role for Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments and Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier and Chairman Gonzales have been placed in the primary roles. The draft list was developed by Staff and confirmed that all representatives are willing to serve if chosen by

the Commission. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the Boards & Committee Appointments for 2026. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of May Meeting Schedule

Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that at the January 6th Commission meeting, the Commission approved the Open Meeting Acts along with a resolution amending known meeting conflicts; the resolution failed to mention the need to move the May 5th starting time to 11:30 a.m. rather than 4 p.m. to accommodate the budget workshop. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier to approve the May Meeting Schedule. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Comments / Input From The General Public

Megan Matthews, Kirtland Central Project Graduation Committee, requested the Commission consider donating to Project Graduation for Kirtland High School and provided a list of requested items for donation. Mike Stark, County Manager, indicated that the Commission has set aside a budget to provide each high school with a \$1,000 donation.

Closed Executive Session

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to go into closed executive session Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7) – Discuss matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation related to movement of the Sunray/Western Gaming Racino License to Clovis, NM. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Upon return a motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to go back into open meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier stated that nothing other than what was stated in the motion to go into closed executive session was discussed.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- New Mexico Department of Transportation awarded a grant for \$582,416 to install a level 3 electrical vehicle charger at the County Administrative Building.
- Recognized Jim Dumont, from Senator Martin Heinrich's office, who informed the County that FEMA funding was awarded for the flooding that took place in June 2024 in the amount of \$1.4 million and requires a 25% match that will be funded by the New Mexico Match Fund Grant.
- A request for GRO (Government Results and Opportunity) funding was submitted on behalf of the County, City of Farmington and San Juan Regional Medical Center in the amount of \$1.5 million.

- The Crisis Triage Center will be placed on the Campus of Care after an adequate space on the campus has been cleared.
- The State Racing Commission will allow for public comment at a Special Racing Commission Meeting on Friday February 6th at the CNM campus in Albuquerque at 9 a.m.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Commissioner Todacheene indicated that business owners in Shiprock have expressed their concerns that services, such as Google Maps, are directing potential patrons away from businesses in Shiprock by taking travelers down alternate routes. Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that unfortunately those routes provided by Google Maps are the result of cell phone pings and show the most traveled routes based on that data.

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, reported the following:

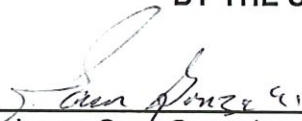
- As part of the growth management plan, a stakeholders meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 5th at Artifacts 302 Café.
- Updated the Commission on bridge projects on Roads 3000 and 3500.

Adjourn


Being no further business, Chairman Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026


BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



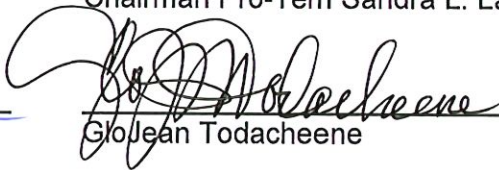
Chairman Sam Gonzales




Chairman Pro-Tem Sandra L. Lanier



Terri D. Fortner



Glojean Todacheene



Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:



Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

