

**San Juan County Commission
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2026**

Chairman Gonzales called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on March 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Commissioner Todacheene gave the invocation and Commissioner McDaniel 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
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
CLAIMS MANAGER	Cynthia Singleton
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Mike Mestas
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Kim Martin
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Travis Sisco
PARKS & FACILITIES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Michelle Murray
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Roberta Padilla
DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER	Melissa Wood
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
CHIEF IS OFFICER	Keith Lund
EXECUTIVE HOUSING DIRECTOR	Charlotte Stanley
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	Adam Ortega
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
PROJECT MANAGER	Toni Sitta

VISITORS:

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Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Mike Stark, County Manager, stated that there was one change to the agenda, the Closed Executive Session was not necessary. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded

by Commissioner Todacheene to approve the agenda as amended. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for February 2026
2. Approval of Finance Check Register for February 2026
3. Approval of FY26 Budget Adjustment #12 – Resolution No. 25-26-67
4. Approval of Adopting the San Juan County Fire & Rescue EMS Standby Agreement
5. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-25, Adjusting the Disposition of Surplus and/or Obsolete County Surplus Property
6. Approval of Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan and Annual Plan
7. Approval of Law Enforcement Protection Fund Annual Application

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. Annual Update on First Tee of Four Corners

Tina Pacheco, Executive Director of First Tee, updated the Commission on the following activities and accomplishments for the program:

- The Veterans Program began in 2022 and has grown from instructional golf to leagues; 165 veterans currently are participating.
 - The program anticipates hosting an additional 600 rounds of golf and partnering with Together with Veterans to host a tournament on April 20th, which will bring in additional revenue for River View Golf Course.
- Obtained 500 dozen golf balls from Acushnet Company, as well as lawn and irrigation equipment from the Toro Company at a discounted rate.
- Hosted the Drive, Chip & Putt Regional Qualifier, PGA Junior League, and a teen tournament series.
- First Tee of Four Corners has shown to have better retention of players and diversity, when compared to other chapters.
- Hayden Dan, student from Kirtland High School, was selected for the 2026 Congaree Global Golf Initiative.

The Commission made various comments.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-66, A Resolution Supporting Produced Water Reuse, Regional Engagement, and Participation in the WATR Alliance

Matthew Gonzales, Vice President of State Affairs for Consumer Energy Alliance, indicated that the New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium has been actively studying the role responsibly reused produced water can aid alleviating pressure on freshwater supplies,

reliance on aquifers, support industrial processes and play a meaningful role in advancing the State's long-term water planning efforts. Resolution 25-26-66 expresses support for the continued evaluation, pilot projects and responsible development of produced water to support economic development, protect freshwater resources, and strengthen long-term water resilience. San Juan County would participate in the Water Access Treatment and Reuse Alliance (WATR) petition to the New Mexico Quality Control Commission, which requests hearings on treated produced water reuse, review of updated science, regulatory pathways and community perspectives from affected regions; ensuring that local voices are heard and incorporated into decision-making. Chairman Gonzales asked if there were any ramifications that could leave the County liable if the Resolution is approved. Mr. Gonzales stated that there would be no liability or cost incurred for their support. Aaron Chavez, San Juan Water Commission, asked what entity would administer the reused produced water. Mr. Gonzales indicated that a rule is being requested that provides clear guidance on who would administer the water. The Commission asked various questions and made various comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner Todacheene to approve Resolution No. 25-26-66, Supporting Produced Water Reuse, Regional Engagement, and Participation in the WATR Alliance. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Renewal of Property/Casualty Insurance

Cynthia Singleton, Claims Manager, requested renewal of the property and casualty insurance for San Juan County. The policy period is to begin March 31, 2026, for a one-year term ending March 31, 2027. Ms. Singleton introduced Robb Pridemore, Broker for USI Southwest Inc. Mr. Pridemore indicated that USI marketed to numerous insurance companies for bids and assessed those that were returned. Travelers again offered favorable premiums and required coverage for most lines, and specialty insurance not carried by Travelers was brokered to multiple companies. The renewal premiums presented to the Commission are as follows:

- Travelers Insurance is \$2,303,684 on most lines; 4% increase from last year, and an 8% increase in Auto Liability, due to current nationwide loss trends. Law Enforcement Liability deductible will remain at \$250,000, but premiums will decline slightly, and collateral increased to \$1.2 million. The Umbrella premium will increase by 15%.
- Aircraft coverage for helicopters under Westchester Fire insurance increased by \$7,500 due to claims paid to \$54,946.
- Crime coverage from Hanover remains at \$8,475, and Storage Tank Pollution coverage from Mid-Continent will stay at \$1,701.
- K&K AXIS remains the carrier for the Sheriff Reserve AD&D renewal at \$4,476.
- Cyber insurance of \$3M in coverage for \$72,868 with Corvus through Travelers covering \$2,000,000 and Great American covering \$1 million.

A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to approve the Renewal of Travelers Property/Casualty Insurance. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Compensation Compression Study

Melissa Wood, Deputy Human Resource Director, stated that with the implementation of the 2025 market review and pay restructure there was compression among longer tenured employees. Ms. Wood introduced Kim DeFilippis, Project Manager, and Stacie Jackson, Valliant Senior Compensation Manager. Ms. Jackson recommended an increase, ranging from \$0.02 (0.1%) to \$9.46 (15% max) per hour, be allocated to 97 employees across 66 positions. The estimated cost of wages is \$288,313.13 (<1 % of the total payroll sum) and the estimated cost of County funded benefits is \$61,843.16, resulting in a total estimated annual cost of \$350,156.29. Staff recommended implementing the compression study, if budgetarily feasible, for the FY2027 budget cycle, as presented by Valliant. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier to approve the Implementation of Recommendations of Valiant's Compensation Compression Study, If Budgetarily Feasible. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, reported the following:

- Bridge 3500 was opened March 13th, and Bridge 3000 will be open March 17th.
- Announced the retirement of Keith Lund and commended him for his 16 years of service.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Commissioner Todacheene announced her term as Commissioner will end as of December 31st and introduced Lonnie Todacheene who is a candidate for Commission District 1.

Teresita Clashin, County Planner, updated the Commission on the stakeholder meeting that was held March 5th, which is part of the Growth Management Plan.

Melissa Wood, Deputy Human Resource Office, announced that the second open enrollment will begin April 1st; selections will be effective July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027

Comments / Input From The General Public

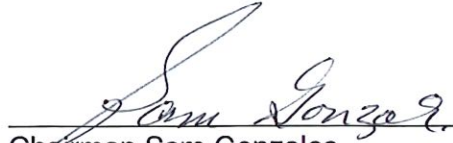
Doug Mussett, citizen, requested the Commission make improvements to the roads in the Crouch Mesa area

Adjourn

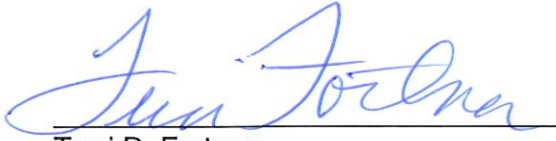
Being no further business, Chairman Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.


APPROVED THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL 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

