

## San Juan County Commission Regular Meeting March 3, 2026

Chairman Gonzales called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on March 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 Alyssa Kuhn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Sam Gonzales
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	Sandra L. Lanier
MEMBER	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene- ABSENT
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR	John Kuhn
CLERK	Alyssa Kuhn
TREASURER	Carol Taulbee
SHERIFF	Shane Ferrari
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER	Steven Saavedra
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
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
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING ADMINISTRATOR	Jennifer Mitchell
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Timi Emslie
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	Donovan Mack
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
PROJECT MANAGER	Toni Sitta
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	25

### Presentation

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-64, A Proclamation Honoring the Aztec High School Wrestling Team

Sandra Lanier, Chairman Pro-Tem, congratulated the Aztec High School Wrestling Team and read the following aloud:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-64  
A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
AZTEC HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM**

**WHEREAS** the Aztec High School Wrestling Team won the 2026 NMAA 4A State Wrestling Championship on February 21, 2026; and

**WHEREAS** the Aztec High School Tigers defeated the Belen High School Eagles 241-156 in Rio Rancho winning the team state wrestling title; and

**WHEREAS** five wrestlers for Aztec High School were also individual state wrestling champions; and

**WHEREAS** this championship is the twenty-second championship in Aztec High School history.

**WHEREAS** the Aztec High School Wrestling team are back-to-back state champions for 2025 and 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, hereby declares March 3, 2026, as "Aztec High School Wrestling Team Day" in San Juan County, New Mexico in recognition of their twenty-second State wrestling championship.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 3rd day of March 2026.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2026
2. Approval of FY26 Budget Adjustment #11 – Resolution No. 25-26-63
3. Approval of the Renewal of Bid No. 24-25-13, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Magnesium Chloride from Desert Mountain Corporation of Kirtland, NM
4. Approval of Award of Bid No. 25-26-10, Lower Animas Ditch Lining Project – San Juan Water Commission to West States Energy Contractor of Bloomfield, NM
5. Approval of 2026 DWI Planning Council By-Laws
6. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-44, Increasing the County's Law Enforcement Protection Fund (LEPF) Budget by the Amount of Proceeds from the Sale of Surplus Property

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

## **New Business**

### **1. Priority Based Budgeting – Jesse Muniz, Head of Customer Success**

Kim Martin, Chief Financial Officer, indicated that since 2014, San Juan County has utilized the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) tool to support data-driven budget development and resource allocation; the initial PBB analysis was conducted using multiple Excel spreadsheets. Subsequently, PBB introduced an online platform that has significantly streamlined the process by consolidating data into a single system, improving efficiency, enhancing the County's ability to analyze and view results comprehensively. In 2019, the County revisited and refined its PBB process; during this effort, several programs were consolidated, as well as identifying areas of duplication and redundancy. The PBB framework also proved especially valuable during periods of fiscal constraint, enabling the County to clearly identify, as well as prioritize core programs for funding while recognizing services provided by external private entities allowing for strategic alignment of budget allocations with County priorities. PBB has since coordinated with Tyler Technologies to integrate the tool with MUNIS, the County's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, and in 2025, the County reengaged with PBB through Tyler Technologies to further refine its methodology. This most recent effort included additional program consolidation and enhanced resource allocation practices, enabling departments to assign associated costs to programs supported by multiple departments, providing an in depth comprehensive and accurate representation of the full cost of delivering each program. These improvements strengthen the County's ability to evaluate program performance, align spending with strategic priorities, and support informed decision-making during the budget development process. The County is currently preparing to roll out the updated PBB tool in advance of the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat and the FY27 budget cycle. Ms. Martin introduced Jesse Muniz, Head of Customer Success for PBB, who provided a presentation highlighting recent enhancements and forthcoming advancements to the platform.

### **2. Consideration of the Third Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement between San Juan County and the Navajo Nation**

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, requested approval of the Third Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement between San Juan County and the Navajo Nation for the operation/maintenance of the solid waste compacting and transfer stations in San Juan County. The County and Navajo Nation executed the original agreement on April 7, 1994, and amended it on August 23, 2016. The Third Amendment revises Section 10, Appropriated Funds to clarify annual funding commitments and provide additional financial support for continued operations. The amendment revises Section 10.3 to state that the Navajo Nation will appropriate funding each fiscal year from October 1st through September 30th. If the Navajo Nation does not appropriate funds in any given year, it must notify the County before the funds are exhausted, and the County may terminate the agreement upon exhaustion. The amendment adds Section 10.5 to document a one-time appropriation of \$645,918.64 from the Navajo Nation to fund operations through approximately December 31, 2027. Currently, the Navajo Nation is in arrears of \$269,202.80 through January. It is anticipated that additional committed funding will eliminate the outstanding debt and forward fund operations for a little under 2 years. If the funds are

exhausted before that date due to changes in activity or operating costs the Navajo Nation will make efforts to appropriate additional funds for the remainder of the fiscal year. The amendment does not change the scope of services and maintains continued operation of the stations with clarified funding provisions. Staff requested Commission approval to authorize execution of the Third Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier to approve the Third Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement between San Juan County and the Navajo Nation. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Consideration of County Communications Platform and Website Upgrade**

Devin Neeley, Public Relations & Film Manager, stated that the County has contracted with Granicus for the past six years to provide website design, hosting, and communications platform. The Vision platform, which is what hosts the County, Sheriff's Office, and Fire Department's web pages is now obsolete, resulting in an upgrade. Additionally, increased accessibility requirements from the Department of Justice necessitate upgraded content management. The website must meet the WCAG 2.1 AA standard, which is an internationally recognized set of technical standards developed to ensure digital content is accessible to users with disabilities; compliance is by April 27th is required, this contract will move us toward compliance. The new platform allows the County to continue to keep residents informed through email and text message communications for newsletters, burn recommendations, commission meetings, and events. The website will be a new and robust platform to serve the citizens and better facilitate adapted access for those with impairments. This website upgrade includes analysis of the current properties, stakeholder input, and training and will take about 6 months. Staff recommended approval of the communications platform and website upgrade with Granicus. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to approve the County Communications Platform and Website Upgrade. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Consideration of FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Mike Stark, County Manager, announced that Staff was recently notified by federal delegation, Senator Heinrich, Senator Lujan, and Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, that they will be accepting appropriations requests for fiscal year 2027. Applications for this funding are due by March 20th for Senator Heinrich, April 15th for Senator Lujan, and March 9th for Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez. Staff met internally to discuss projects that would fit the requirements of the available funding with two public safety projects evaluated as needs for our county and most easily implemented with federal funding: a heavy rescue truck for the San Juan County Fire & Rescue Department and a Negotiations Operation Center (NOC) vehicle for the Sheriff's Office. If successful with the requests, we would follow the appropriate procurement for each of the requested items. A 25% match is recommended for each of the projects and would need to be budgeted upon receipt of the grant. Staff recommended submitting both projects for consideration by the Congressional delegation. Sheriff Shane Ferrari and Fire Chief David Vega gave a brief overview of how the vehicles requested would benefit their individual departments. The Commission asked various questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel to approve the FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

## **Report from County Manager**

Mike Stark updated the Commission on the following:

- While attending the 2026 Legislative Session in Washington D.C., meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration Surface Transportation Board Chair were supportive and positive regarding the Four Corners Freight Rail project which is currently in the preliminary engineering stage; a stakeholder's meeting is scheduled for the end of March.
- The Crisis Triage Center location has been identified in the same area as the Totah Behavioral Center and Sobering Center; the County is contracting with a surveying firm; once completed an offer will be submitted to the City of Farmington for purchase.

## **Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads**

Commissioner Fortner recognized the board members of the Four Corners Conference for Professional Development that took place February 26th and introduced Carol Taulbee, Co-Chair of the Four Corners Conference for Professional Development. Ms. Taulbee gave a brief history of the conference and introduced members of the board/committee.

Sheriff Ferrari reported a press release recognizing the San Juan County Region II Narcotics Task Force consisting of. of the San Juan County Sheriff's Department and the Farmington Police Department. In 2024-2025, 20 drug trafficking organizations locally and nationally were disrupted resulting in the seizure of 108,400 fentanyl pills, a half-pound of fentanyl powder, 47 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.18 pounds of cocaine, .69 pounds of heroin, \$108,000 in U.S. currency, and 149 firearms.

Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk, announced that the 2026 Primary Election Filing Day is March 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bryan Myers, Chair of the Survey Advisory Committee and Ashley Pulte, Member, reported that the 2025 Employee Satisfaction Survey was conducted November 25th through December 21st. There were 254 responses representing a 39% response rate; the results reflect a stable workforce, 84% of respondents reported being satisfied working for San Juan County, supervisor ratings remain strong in areas such as communication, professionalism, and support. Compensation continues to be the most frequently identified area for improvement along with workload and communication.

Nick Porell, Public Works Administrator, stated that the Bridges 3000 and 3500 are scheduled to reopen, however, there will be active construction as the projects come to completion.

## **Comments / Input From The General Public**

Songtree Pioche, Community Outreach Specialist and Registrar, Kinteel Residential Campus in Aztec, invited the Commission and community to attend or sponsor the Kinteel First Annual Golf Scramble which will be held at the Riverview Golf Course on April 18th beginning at 9:00 a.m.; proceeds will go to academic success, cultural programming, and to ensure a safe campus for the students.

Joe Hubbard, citizen, voiced concerns regarding constitutional rights.

**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.

**Adjourn**

Being no further business, Chairman Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.


**APPROVED THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL 2026**

**BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

  
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Chairman Sam Gonzales

  
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Chairman Pro-Tem Sandra L. Lanier

  
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Terri D. Fortner

  
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GloJean Todacheene

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:

  
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Alyssa Kuhn, County Clerk

