

San Juan County Commission Regular Meeting February 17, 2026

Chairman Fortner called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on February 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Chariman Pro-Tem Lanier gave the invocation and Commissioner Todacheene 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
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
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Travis Sisco
PARKS & FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR	Steven Dansie
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR	Nick Porell
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR	Timi Howell
FIRE CHIEF	David Vega
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	John Gilbert
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Michele Truby-Tillen
COUNTY PLANNER	Teresita Clashin
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley
MARKETING ASSISTANT	Tim Mietty
PROJECT MANAGER	Toni Sitta
PRESS: Tri-City Record	David Albright
VISITORS:	16

Regular Meeting

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2026
2. Approval of Treasurer Check Register for January 2026
3. Approval of Finance Check Register for January 2026
4. Approval of FY26 Budget Adjustment #10 – Resolution No. 25-26-61
5. Approval of Write-Off Uncollectible Accounts Receivable – Resolution No. 25-26-62
6. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-46, Ratifying the Authorization of Submittal of the FY2027 LDWI Grant Application
7. Approval of Renewal of Proposal 24-25-15, Property and Casualty Insurance for the Communications Authority to Kysar Millennium Leavitt Insurance Agency, Inc of Farmington, NM
8. Approval of Renewal of Bid No. 24-25-17, Price Agreement for the Purchase of Bulk Galvanize Steel Corrugated Metal Pipe to Intermountain Processing & Fabrication Inc. of Farmington, NM
9. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-54 and No. 25-26-55 for Disposal of County Surplus Property
10. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-56, No. 25-26-57, and No. 25-26-58, Supporting New Mexico DOT 2026/2027 Local Government Road Fund Application
11. Approval of Resolution No. 25-26-59, to Certify Annual San Juan County Maintained Road Mileage to NMDOT

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. Sunbelt Solar Project Update

Steven Saavedra, Deputy County Manager, introduced Jesse Lyons, Senior Project Manager of Gridworks. Mr. Lyons presented an update on the Sunbelt Solar Project:

- The Sunbelt Solar and Storage facility is a 100-Megawatt solar generator and a 50-Megawatt battery energy storage system that will replace a portion of the energy generation that was lost due to the closure of the San Juan Power Plant.
- The facility will be built on 750 acres owned by Public Service of New Mexico (PNM) off of Road 6880 in Fruitland, NM.
- Gridworks, the general contractor for the project, anticipates hiring locally for 175 temporary jobs and upon project completion will provide 25 full time permanent positions.
- An estimated \$1.4 million will be generated in annual tax revenue.
- Project construction began February 2026 and will conclude October 2027 with a total project cost of \$254 million.

The Commission ask various questions.

2. San Juan County Historical Society Annual Update

Laura Lee Harper, San Juan County Historical Society President, reported that the San Juan Historical Society upholds their fiduciary duty by maintaining an account balance of \$50,000 with expenses totaling \$15,000 and a savings of \$36,000 for future endeavors in preserving history. These funds have allowed the Historical Society to launch a new website that operates as an online archive, with contributions from community members such as Sherrif Shane Ferrari, and offers information about upcoming events. Ms. Harper recognized Zia Media for their assistance in creating the website and gave a brief presentation of the website and its features.

3. Consideration to Serve as Fiscal Agent for the San Juan College Building Controls Project

Edward DesPlas, Executive Vice-President San Juan College, requested the County serve as fiscal agent for an existing capital outlay project due to their FY24 and FY25 audits not being submitted and approved by the Office of the State Auditor. The college has been approved for \$5.9 million by the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) for improvements to the heating, cooling and ventilation systems which will take place over a 3-year period. The County would serve as fiscal agent, to oversee the procurement process and reimbursement requests for 6 to 8 months. Staff recommended serving as fiscal agent if it is only for the one capital outlay project; the college will manage all associated project/grant reporting to the HED and all direct project management. Commissioner Fortner asked if there were findings from the State Auditor, would it prolong the period of time the County would need to serve as fiscal agent. Mr. DesPlas stated that it is not likely that findings would increase the time needed for the County to serve as fiscal agent, unless the findings were significant. Commissioner McDaniel requested that if the period to serve as fiscal agent extends past the 8-month period, that an extension request is presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Lanier to approve to Serve as Fiscal Agent for the San Juan College Building Controls Project with the Amendment that it be revisited at 9 months. Commissioner Todacheene recused herself from the vote. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-26-60, Support of County Road 350 NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Application

Nick Porell, Public Works Director, stated that during the 2021 Legislative session, the Transportation Project Fund (TPF) was established via New Mexico Rule 18-27.6. The County has been the recipient of this grant for 5 cycles; the most recent funding was awarded in FY24 for the northern 3.6 miles for CR 350. On January 12, 2026, a call for projects was issued by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and applications are due May 31, 2026. Staff prepared an application requesting \$1,996,040, which would require a 5% local match, to complete a cold milling and asphalt overlay of County Road 350 between US 64 in Lee Acres and the signalized intersection at CR350/3100/3720 totaling 3.9 miles. A motion was made by Commissioner Todacheene, seconded by Commissioner Fortner to approve Resolution No. 25-26-60, Support of County Road 350 NMDOT Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Grant Application. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Report from County Manager

Mike Stark, County Manager, congratulated Mike Mestas, Emergency Manager, for being recognized by Homeland Security as a credentialed Emergency Operations Center (EOC) director and emergency manager for the state of New Mexico.

Reports From Elected Officials And Department Heads

Nick Porell, Public Works Administrator, provided an update on Road 3000 and 3500 bridge projects; guardrail installation will begin on March 9th.

Fire Chief David Vega presented the first publication of the annual San Juan County Fire and Rescue Report which gives an overview of operations, trainings, and division reports. Fire Chief Vega thanked Devin Neely, Public Relations & Film Manager, and Tim Mietty, Marketing Assistant, for their assistance.

Teresita Clashin, County Planner, indicated that as part of the growth management plan, a meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 5th at Artifacts 302 Café.

Comments / Input From The General Public

Joe Hubbard, citizen, voiced concerns about current national events.

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

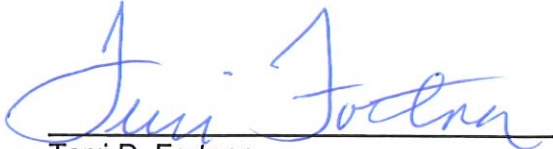
Being no further business, Chairman Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH 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

