

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2024

Hank Hughes, Chair - District 5
Camilla Bustamante, Vice Chair - District 3
Justin Greene - District 1
Anna T. Hamilton - District 4
Anna Hansen - District 2

SFC CLERK RECORDED 06/14/2024

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1. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. by Chair Hank Hughes in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

Roll was called by County Clerk Katharine Clark and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Hank Hughes, Chair
Commissioner Camilla Bustamante, Vice Chair
Commissioner Justin Greene
Commissioner Anna Hamilton
Commissioner Anna Hansen

Members Excused:

None

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. State Pledge

E. O'ga P'ogeh Owingeh Land Acknowledgement

F. Moment of Reflection

The Pledge of Allegiance and the State Pledge were led by Chair Hughes, and the Moment of Reflection by Pablo Montano of Public Works Department. Chair Hughes acknowledged that this building and Santa Fe County as being in the original homeland of the Tewa people also known as O'ga P'ogeh Owingeh, "White Shell Watering Place."

Commissioner Hansen asked for a moment of silence for former Jicarilla Apache Nation President Edward Velarde who passed away over the weekend.

1. **G. Approval of Agenda**

CHAIR HUGHES: Manager Shaffer, are there any changes to the agenda?

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): Mr. Chair, Commissioners, there are no recommended changes to the agenda as presented. I would just note that the initial agenda for today's meeting was posted on Tuesday, May 7th, and the final agenda was posted on Friday, May 10th at 5:32 p.m., more than 72 hours in advance of today's

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meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair, I move to approve the agenda as presented.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Motion by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Greene.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2024

CHAIR HUGHES: Anybody care to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, move to approve the minutes.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Any discussion? Motion by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

3. Consideration Proclamations, Resolutions, and/or Recognitions

A. Request Approval of a Letter from the Board of County Commissioners to New Mexico's Congressional Delegation Opposing Legislation that Would Increase the Size and Weight of Commercial Trucks

CHAIR HUGHES: So this is a request that was made of us of the National Movement to express our concern about the increase in weight and I certainly do not want trucks that do primarily because of safety but also because of the damage they would do to our roads and highways. Commissioner Hansen, do you want to add anything to that?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I'm happy to support this with you because I think as we move forward, transportation of goods need to be respected and our roads need to be respected. And I think that it's quite dangerous also, so I'm happy to support this with you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, so I'll make a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I'll second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any other discussion? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just to understand, are we thinking that this is a nationwide thing, or is this for interstate? Or is it more for local roads, the state roads? Are we concerned about the federal highway system, which is essentially funded by the federal highway system? Is this a unilateral – we just that we should have smaller trucks.

CHAIR HUGHES: The proposal, I think it covers more than just interstate

highways. It's a proposal that would allow states to raise the weight limit. The other state would raise it nationally, but it's not just on highways. Although I think they've taken a beating too.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Also, I want to mention that the National Association of Counties, NACo, also supports this and recognizes the impact to counties from trucks that are increased in weight and length. And so as many of you know, NACo is a fairly conservative organization.

CHAIR HUGHES: Right.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: My concern is it seems like this would be an efficiency thing at the same time, right? So there's a level of – it's definitely a trade-off in this conversation. If safety can be proven that this is a significantly less safe or more dangerous trend, then for sure. I just would love to hear a study on things like that, but I'm in support of this, so thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes. If it becomes more of a national thing there'll be more studies and such. I think it's really a long shot now but we're just expressing our view. Okay. So motion by Hughes, seconded by Hansen.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

3. B. Request Approval of a Letter from the Board of County Commissioners to Bernalillo County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department in Support of its Proposed NM COVID-19 Memorial

CHAIR HUGHES: Well, actually, I'll say a few words and then I'll let the two, or three perhaps, supporters say 30 seconds. They're proposing to build a memorial to the 30,000 or so people who died from COVID and I think it's totally appropriate, and they're not asking us for any money. That may come next, but so far no money. Any other comments from the Board? Cliff and Eleanor, would you like to each say 30 seconds of why we're doing this?

ELEANOR BRAVO: Thank you, Commissioners. My name is Eleanor Bravo. I lost my oldest sister to COVID on October 6, 2020. She was not sick but she did contract COVID while she was in rehab. She was then intubated. She died five days later. There was no vaccine. We were not allowed to fly. She was not on New Mexico. She essentially died alone. I'm the Chair of the Steering Committee of COVID Memorial. We are dedicating our time and energy to make sure that these people are not just statistics and that they will never be forgotten, and that this country must always be a witness to what has happened here.

We need our government to help us heal. These deaths were like someone who may have died in World War II. You didn't know where they were. You never got to see the body. We couldn't have a memorial for two years after she died. So we need this place to grieve and we have, thanks to the State Land Commissioner we have a lovely site in Bernalillo County. I'll let Cliff say something. Thank you so much and we really appreciate your support.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you.

CLIFFORD REES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners. My name is Clifford Rees. Many of you know me; I wear many public hats. Today I'm wearing the hats of a retired public health attorney who as an attorney for the Department of Health helped draft the Public Health Emergency Response Act in the aftermath of 911 that the Governor used for the first time on March 11, 2020 to declare a public health emergency due to the COVID virus in New Mexico.

We lost approximately 410 Santa Fe Countyians during the pandemic. Approximately 9,600 New Mexicans statewide. 1.1 million Americans and many millions of course across the world. I joined this advisory group as part of what I consider to be my duty of remembrance for the people that have passed. One of my best friend's wives, who was a Santa Fe Countyian died from COVID and so in her memory and the memory of all the others, I'm participating in the process. We've received, generously, over \$1 million of capital outlay from the legislature in the last two sessions to create this memorial which will be for all New Mexicans on Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque. We appreciate Santa Fe County's letter of support in this endeavor. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Bustamante

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I want to thank you for bringing this forward. As a master of public health person, not allowing this to just go by the wayside, something that we forget or everyone remembers, remember that back when, but to acknowledge that what we need to do to stay on top of public health issues to continue to support the bigger picture. We – and I'm going to be very honest with you – I had actually been taking classes out of the Chang School of Public Health. I thought this country has it all wrapped up; we're going to be fine. I made an embarrassing bad that it wouldn't get as bad as it did, only to have to acknowledge that we had really put down our guard in so many ways, and we did not have the federal response.

I'm grateful to the Governor who had a more statewide, tight response. I'm grateful for those who did have, at the federal level, the wisdom to make sure that people were protected, but it went too long and it didn't necessarily have to happen. We need to stay vigilant. It is my hope that putting up a memorial such as this – I did lose family members; I lost an uncle. If we are able to put something like this that we should never forget, that we need to stay strong in our public health vision and recognize that systems need to be in place in the event that things were to happen again. So thank you for bringing this forward and thank you for your work in public health, sincerely.

MR. REES: And if I may add, Mr. Chair, Reverend Holly Beaumont was planning to join us. I'm not sure if she was able to make it but she wanted us to – oh, there she is. She wanted us to remember and she'll describe the essential workers who responded to this pandemic.

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead, Holly.

HOLLY BEAUMONT: Mr. Chair, members of the Commission, I'm sorry I'm late. The more of I have delved into the importance of this memorial, the more I am impressed by the way it might possibly be a vehicle for healing us, not only in New Mexico but across the nation. I was reading a very interesting research project from the University of Minnesota that was done about casualties among essential workers, which I my particular concern. I'm the Reverend Holly Beaumont, Interfaith worker, Justice New Mexico. And one thing we're focusing on was not only the number of casualties but the

number of orphans.

They actually did a study of the number of orphans that have been created by the COVID epidemic who are sons and daughter of essential workers across this country. A memorial such as the one that is being proposed for the State of New Mexico has a profound power for healing, that these children know that their work and their sacrifice has been acknowledged and memorialized, and they can go to that place when they need to in order to remember and go on. So we very much thank you for considering this resolution and look forward to the day that we break ground and celebrate the construction of this memorial for New Mexico. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Any other comments from the Board?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you, Chair Hughes for bringing this forward. It's incredibly important. So many people have suffered during COVID. There's been so much sadness and grief that has happened that it seems to me incredibly important to have a memorial for the people who have passed away from COVID. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the advocates and to the sponsor of this. A memorial like this is a great opportunity for reflection point, a place for everybody to come together and recognize how soon we forget. We are just a few years away from this and we've forgotten a lot of where we were four years ago, three years ago, two years ago. So this will create a memorial for those of us that experienced it to have a place to remember, and then as the ages go by, maybe a place for future generations to go look and have some memorial to reflect on. So I'm in support of this. I hope they can get this built relatively quickly and I look forward to being there when it's dedicated. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Any other – I'll make a motion that we adopt this letter of support.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Motion by Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you to the advocates for bringing this to our attention and coming in to speak about it.

4. **Consent Agenda**

- A. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to Agreement No. 2018-0151-HA/MM Between Santa Fe County and the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Fe/Del Norte, Extending the Term an Additional Year and Increasing the Compensation an Additional \$170,000 for a Total Contract Sum of \$1,190,000, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order (Community Development Department/J. Jordan Barela and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor)**
- B. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 5 to Agreement No. 2021-0028-B-HR/CW with Occupational Health Centers of the Southwest, PA, dba Concentra Medical Centers, to Provide Employment Medical and Physical Examinations, Increasing Compensation by \$50,000, for a Total Contract Sum of \$370,000, Exclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s) (Risk Management Division/Valerie Aghaei Park and Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor and Human Resources)**
- C. **Resolution No. 2024-066, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Law Enforcement Operations Fund (246) in the Amount of \$20,589 (Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera and Sheriff's Office/Ken Johnson)**
- D. **Resolution No. 2024-067, a Resolution Agreeing to Participation in Transportation Project Fund Program Administered by New Mexico Department of Transportation, Project No. LP50048, for the Los Pinos Road Bridge (Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera and Public Works Department/Brian Snyder) (Item Added)**

CHAIR HUGHES: Are there any items on the Consent Agenda which anybody wants to remove to discuss?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: May I move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Motion by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

[Clerk Clark provided the resolution numbers throughout the meeting.]

5. **Appointments/Reappointments**

- A. **Request Appointment of a District 5 Planning Commission Member**

CHAIR HUGHES: Jordan

JORDAN YUTZY (Building & Development Services): Thank you, Chair, Commissioners. Chapter 3 of the SLDC gives the BCC the authority to appoint members of the Planning Commission. Section 3.3.3.1 states the Planning Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Board. The Planning Commission members shall be registered voters of the county. One member shall reside in each of the Commission districts in order to provide a diversity of representation. The remaining members shall be at large and may reside in any area of the county and may be nominated by their Commissioner.

Staff is requesting the BCC nominate and appoint one member representing District 5. The term of this member of the Planning Commission shall be for the remainder of the current term of the resigning member which expires in January 2025. Currently District 5 Planning Commission member Rhea Serna notified staff in March 2024 that she was unable to complete her term as a Planning Commission member, which expires January 2025. Ms. Serna's last meeting with the Planning Commission was on March 21, 2024.

In March of 2024 the County sent out a press release seeking interest members of the general public to serve on the Planning Commission for District 5. We received inquiries from five individuals. Of the five, one withdrew from consideration and another did not submit the required paperwork as stated in the press release and was considered incomplete.

Staff is recommending the approval of Ruben Mendoza for the District 5 position to serve the remainder of the term which expires in January 2025.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Since I am from District 5 and I have heard from his neighbors that he's a good guy, so I'm fine with that. Any more comments from the Board? Okay, I'll make a motion that we approve Ruben Mendoza to serve the remainder of the term.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Motion by me, seconded by Hansen.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

5. B. Request Appointment and Reappointment of Members to the Water Policy Advisory Committee

SARA SMITH (Operations Manager): Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. I'm here to present a request for appointments and reappointments to the County's Water Policy Advisory Committee. The Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-038 at March 26th meeting. Per the updated resolution, the WPAC shall be comprised of one non-voting member of the Board of County Commissioners who will assist by vetting and championing advisory recommendations made by the committee; and up to 19 voting members appointed by this Board to include ten members from the eight pueblos within Santa Fe County, and the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Committee, and the Buckman Direct Diversion Board as recommended by those entities.

Staff met with three of the four current WPAC members at their April 11th regular meeting and confirmed that their terms have expires. Staff thanked them for their service

and encouraged them to submit new letters of interest and résumés if they wished to be reappointed. Three of those members did.

Staff solicited recommendations from members from the eight pueblo governors and the City's Water Conservation Committee and the Buckman Direct Diversion Board. As of today we received one response from the Pojoaque Pueblo Governor Janelle Roybal who recommended Jeffrey Montoya, the Secretary of the Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association. We were unable to obtain recommendations from the other seven pueblos or the City before today's meeting.

Staff also solicited letters of interest from the general public via press release on April 5th and received 13 applications by the April 19th deadline.

Before the Board today is a request to decide how to proceed. Aside from appointing one Commissioner to serve as the non-voting member, Option 1: You may decide to appoint the individual recommended by Pojoaque Pueblo, which is Jeff Montoya, and nine applicants from the list of 13. This will ensure that there is room on the WPAC for future members from the pueblos and the City of Santa Fe.

Option 2 is you may decide to appoint all 13 applicants who submitted letter of interest with the person recommended by the Pojoaque Pueblo.

Staff recommends Option 1 as it leaves room for pueblo and City representation in the future and holds up this Board's intention to include diverse voices representing significant stakeholders and further City-County collaboration. If the Board chooses Option 1, the selection committee recommends the nine candidates that are listed in your packet material. And I have with me Brett Clavio. He is the Growth Management Planning Division staff liaison, Jacqueline Beam is the Sustainability liaison to this committee; she's on Webex; and Paul Choman is the Utilities liaison, and he was unable to attend today. But we stand for questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I don't actually have any questions. I have comments. First of all, I think the WPAC has been an incredibly valuable committee for the County and I really appreciate the effort that staff did, starting with Sara and going through all the three liaisons from departments and the Manager's Office and Utilities and everybody who contributed to essentially re-enliven this committee. I really appreciate the committee members who operated in good faith and making some good progress through some difficult times with really low membership.

And I was incredibly impressed with the applications we got. Some really, really good members. And so I am very enthusiastic about what this committee can contribute going forward. I'm really, really happy to see that. And I want to express that I strongly support Option 1. I think there was good thought put into who to accept. It's absolutely no – to use the County Manager's – shade on the people who were not picked. They would have all been fabulous, but I think it's important to leave the option to fill the other positions as was designated. So I would love, if nobody objects, to move to support Option 1.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Yes, thank you, Chairman Hughes. I do have a concern that we don't have – and I guess from the top, everyone was so exceptionally qualified for this. I just want to publicly thank everyone who reached out

and wanted to be a part of the WPAC. We don't have anyone – when we look at one particular request or candidate Darrin Muenzberg, he is probably the only person who is only the farthest south of District 3 that is experiencing some of the water issues from what is happening just north of that, being from La Bajada. And give the diversity on the group, and what their impact is downstream closest to not only the pueblo and we would have some assistance there in input, but to have someone from the La Bajada Village who actually is a recipient of the Santa Fe River water, I just see him in this unique position. He's incredibly knowledgeable.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: There is someone from the Estancia area, a southern area.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Right. But Estancia is right over the hill. It's not on the same aquifer. So that one is because it's on the same aquifer that the contamination is coming out of the wastewater treatment facility, that is the reason. Only because of the impacts that we've had from the City of Santa Fe and the wastewater treatment facility to the Village of La Bajada. So it is the issue and we need to have someone from the Estancia area. We've usually not. That's been a vacant position now for years. So that's a difficult one to move over. I'd just express concern that we wouldn't be able to have the individual. I would actually recommend that Mr. Muenzberg, in the interest of keeping the Estancia Basin seat would actually be replaced by – oh, that's difficult. It would have to be Estancia.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I support what Commissioner Bustamante is saying about Darrin Muenzberg as somebody who is incredibly active and works in the arena of water on a regular basis. And I think he would bring incredible value to the committee. So what I'm wondering is can we appoint 11 and make it – we still would have two open seats, right?

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hansen, if you added Darrin to the list of appointees it would be you'd be recommending ten who applied generally, and then the Pojoaque Pueblo representative. So we'd have still eleven.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Excuse me, Chairman Hughes, would we still be short? Would that make us short for the pueblos? Not looking at the numbers. Would we be short of an entity that would be allowed to come in and bring someone?

MS. SMITH: By one. Just by one.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I don't understand the question.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Because of the vacant positions that are remaining open because of Option 1, we would be short one in that regard if we did appoint a tenth. I don't think we want to do that because that bypasses Option 1.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I wasn't sure which way you were saying it. That's why I was confused. I'm with you now. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: In the interests, in this interest, not to – and I'm grateful that we have someone from the Estancia area, it has been unique. We haven't had someone from Galisteo. The unique issues at this time, and I think and I hope that they remain unique to the concerns downstream, I would make the

recommendation that number 7, that Darrin Muenzberg replace number 7, which would remove someone from the Galisteo planning area but assure that we have someone as far downstream as La Bajada Village, the recipients of the contaminated water from the City and the County. That's –

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I could support that. I'm happy with that replacement.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I'll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Did you already motion?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I did.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: But she didn't get a second, so I'll second.

CHAIR HUGHES: And now it's amended to replace Laird Graeser with Darrin Muenzberg.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yes. So the motion now stands with Commissioner Bustamante's amendment.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. I'm generally in support of that amendment of Option 1. I just – in looking at the representation for District 1 and the fact that we are in the process of building one of the largest water projects certainly in Santa Fe County's history with the Aamodt project, it's wonderful to see Jeffrey Montoya, Jeff Montoya on here representing the pueblos. He seats himself there. But it would also be great to see somebody from the Española Valley as well, because that is another whole valley unto itself, whether it's the Santa Cruz Valley, so we'll have two more seats to seat and I hope that we really target, look at how the dynamic is and that we look at the folks from the areas that are under-represented in the future. But I'm generally in support of this. Jeff Montoya is a great guy. Very knowledgeable. I've worked with him on water issues as well as broadband issues and I think this is an important appointment. And then John Kadleck up in Rio en Medio has been very active in issues up in the foothills up there. But we all have very diverse districts and I just want to make sure that we're not just so centrally located in the center of our thing. So let's go find these people that are at the extreme edges and understand their basins.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair, I think that's part of the reason why I believe – Commissioner Bustamante and I believe that Darrin Muenzberg is a really important person to have on this committee.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: No doubt. I'm supportive of that and I think somebody that can represent and understand the issues of the downstreamers in the Santa Fe River Basin is an important place. Can I ask just one question about this? The non – so it seems that there are two City members. A member of the City of Santa Fe Conservation Committee, recommended by that committee, so that is a seat that we're awaiting to have adopted, or is that one of these and I just missed where that was?

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, that's correct. There are two seats open for the City of Santa Fe, a Water Conservation Committee member and also the Buckman Direct Diversion Board, which is a City-County board.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It doesn't have to be a City Councilor in that case.

MS. SMITH: Absolutely not.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It could be the at-large people from the BDD.

MS. SMITH: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: In the past we have recommended Tom Egelhoff to be the member from BDD, but for some reason it never got formally passed at BDD so we're waiting for that to happen.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: But it could be a City Councilor if they recommended it. Is this an issue that we should be asking BDD to have on their agenda at the next meeting?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: It's already on – it's already taken care of.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. Great.

CHAIR HUGHES: We have a motion by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. I agree with Option 1 as well.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just to be clear, it was the amended Option 1.

MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, may I just clarify, the motion that was on the floor is to appoint the members listed in the memo, but replace number 7 with Darrin Muenzberg.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes.

MS. SMITH: And also there's another item, there's another portion of this motion.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes. Now we need to appoint a Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I'd like to nominate Commissioner Bustamante to that position.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Do you accept that nomination?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I accept that. Thank you very much for your confidence.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante, there you go.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I have another committee to sit on but I'm grateful to do this. In the interest of having pulled this together, thank you for bringing this process and through the County Manager's Office. I'm looking forward to hearing, and I don't know if this is necessarily the time. I don't think it is, of the next steps. We'll have the next meeting, work towards getting people on the results-based accountability, recognizing that this board will be making recommendations to this governing body in the interest of moving projects forward. So

we can look at the timeline for that as we get started at our next meeting. So thank you very much.

MS. SMITH: I have some information on that if you'd like to hear. Just a brief overview. So the resolution that made these changes to WPAC asserted that the committee, the new committee members will present to the Board within four months of adoption, which would be July 30th. So that's a lot of work for this committee to do. So the intention of CMO and the staff liaisons in the departments is to gather these new committee members as soon as possible and start an onboarding process so that they can start to develop and present the first work draft plan and get trained up in results-based accountability framework and SMART goals, and make sure that those are included in the work plan that's presented on the 30th.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, the CMO plans to do an onboarding process? That's fabulous. I'm really impressed.

MS. SMITH: We're going to do our best.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you, Sara.

MS. SMITH: Thank you.

6. Miscellaneous Action Items

- A. Request (1) Approval to Purchase Kenwood Radios Utilizing the New Mexico Statewide Price Agreement No. 10-00000-20-00048 for a Total Sum of \$1,583,710.81, Inclusive of NM GRT, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign All Necessary or Proper Agreements, Amendments, and Purchase Order(s)**

CHAIR HUGHES: Jacob.

JACOB BLACK (Fire Chief): Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. The Fire Department is requesting approval to utilize the statewide price agreement to purchase Kenwood portable and mobile radios. During FY24 the County received 12 grants from the New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office totaling just over \$1.5 million to purchase new radios. To maximize the grant then an additional \$31,000 would be utilized from the Fire Department funds. These radios will meet the immediate need of replacing old and outdated radios that are nearing the end of life. Furthermore, the purchase will serve as a – will meet a future need, as they will also work on the state 700 system as the department moves to that system in 2025. And with that I stand for any questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Chief Black. In the past I've heard that there are some dark spots up in the mountains. Is this radio system going to be able to sort of upgrade and help you guys navigate up in the forest and these remote spots?

CHIEF BLACK: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, the overarching radio project was outlined by Federal Engineering as they did a very thorough and comprehensive analysis. They did identify some areas that are some dead area up in the Glorieta area as well as the Chimayo area. There are proposals in there in their projects to add additional repeater sites. However, our staff has utilized – has upgraded just some of

their portable radios that we currently have and we've already seen significant improvements just by updating our technology with the hardware that we currently have.

So when we move over to the state system, and as the County works to add infrastructure to make our radio system as robust as possible. We forecast that – or we predict there's going to be tremendous improvements in the radio coverage.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Anybody else?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: If not I will move to approve the purchase Kenwood radios utilizing the New Mexico statewide price agreement No. 10-00000-20-00048 for a total sum of \$1,583,710.81, inclusive of NM GRT, and to delegate signing authority to the County Manager.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Are you sure you got all those zeroes correct? I'll second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Motion by Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Any discussion?

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

6. B. Resolution No. 2024-068, a Resolution Adopting the Interim Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY 2025) [Exhibit 1: Summary of Department Requests]

CHAIR HUGHES: Director Herrera and Manager Shaffer.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, our Finance Director is going to lead the presentation relative to the interim budget.

YVONNE HERRERA (Finance Director): Mr. Chair, Commissioners, before you is the fiscal year 2025 interim budget. We spent the last two weeks with each other going over the department requests. Subsequent to those meetings the budget was put together and balanced. What was presented to the Board was at the department level. The budget itself has to then be reworked so that we balance it by fund, based upon revenue, resources and expenditures.

The County's proposed operating budget, which includes recurring operational expenses, non-recurring operational expenses, fixed assets and non-project capital expenditures that relies upon, among other things, revenue and excess of expenditures from the previous fiscal year. These figures have been estimated for purposes of preparing the budget for fiscal year 25, we will not have a final estimated ending cash balance until the County's fourth quarter report which will be presented and hopefully approved by the Board in July and will not have actual, unaudited figures until September.

To account for the timing differences, and recognizing some uncertainties in the estimates that we've provided to the Board, the interim budget does not include the following significant items: budget contingencies totaling \$1,856,000; amounts to be refunded in fiscal year 25, using the unused budget contingencies from fiscal year 24 for temporary procurement and grant management staff in the amount of \$530,054. In addition, the \$7,135,000 for affordable housing programs; \$10 million for the enterprise

resource planning system; and the final amount for federal housing programs, the \$4 million was approved by the Board during the fiscal year 24 mid-year budget adjustment.

Due to the timing of when the funding was provided and standing up the programs that money isn't planned to be spent now in fiscal year 2024 but is planning to be spent in fiscal year 25.

The items – all the items previously mentioned will be addressed as part of the final budget that will be presented to the Board in addition to the results from the County's fourth quarter report for fiscal year 24. Currently, the interim budget being presented to the Board is using \$45,927,082 of non-recurring resources, also known as budgeted cash. For fixed assets, non-recurring expenditures and to balance various funds the following amounts will be dependent upon the County's fourth quarter report and/or the actual results for fiscal year 24.

The interim budget presented also includes for fiscal year 25 debt service payments as follows: GO – general obligation bond debt service of \$16,650,775; general revenue bond debt service in the amount of \$2,295,300; and finally, gross receipts tax revenue bond debt service for \$7,932, 778.

Finally, in addition to what was presented to the Board for the departments, we've also included transfers, various transfers between the different funds to move revenue from one fund to another for operational support, fixed asset purchases, in the amount of \$79,425,383. What we did include in the budget related to the compensation package that was presented to the Board, the funding for it is included in the Finance Division's budget and is based upon when we thought or when we estimate those items to go into effect, such as health insurance, the new premiums go into effect in January, so based upon it being half a year for fiscal year 25, half of it has been included in the 24 budget. And based upon evaluation of the departments' budget for fiscal year 25, the funding will be moved to the various departments based upon need.

The last component that was included in the interim budget for fiscal year 25 are the items that Commissioner Greene presented at our last meeting. \$50,000 to study the need or feasibility for an outdoor amphitheater and/or to plan and design the amphitheater, contingent upon a dollar-for-dollar contribution from the City of Santa Fe, as well as the Board of County Commissioners approving the use of those funds for anything other than a need or feasibility study. Also \$60,000 for spay and neuter clinics, and the other item that Commissioner Greene provided, Management believes the cost for an animal welfare summit can be absorbed with the County Manager's budget as presented for fiscal year 25.

Finally, the interim budget for 25 that's being presented to the Board today totals \$347,277,395, which is inclusive of transfers as well as debt service.

The handout that was provided by Daniel, thank you, Daniel, is a summary of the department requests for the budget for 2025 by departments, inclusive of capital outlay, debt service, transfers, as well as the pass-through for the North Central Regional Transit District. The County receives a portion of the GRT collected for NCRTD and once each month the County receives those funds we pay those funds out to the district. So it's money and in money out. There's no impact to the County's budget.

With that, Mr. Chair, we stand for any questions the Board may have regarding the departments' budget requests or any of the additional items that we included to create

the interim budget for fiscal year 25.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Yvonne and thank you, Greg, for putting this all together and to your entire team and anybody who touches the calculators and Excel spreadsheets. One, first thing, just an additional thank you for accepting my – at least at your level and maybe hopefully from my fellow Commissioners, the additional items on this for the amphitheater, spay and neuter clinic and an animal welfare summit. I think these are all three things that are small enough amounts that are not going to impact the overall budget but will have an impact on the areas that are important to many of our constituents in areas that the County can step up and help us with.

I do have two questions. First, last year we had about a million and a half dollars set aside for broadband projects. I don't know if I saw that rolling over or if that is now disappearing because we didn't deploy it and I'm just wondering if that's still remaining in there for next year in broadband projects.

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, I would have to double-check to see how it was budgeted, so for the interim budget we look at operating, non-recurring item to create the interim budget. If it's classified as capital, then we look at that for the final budget so that would be – we would want to – we've made a notation; we'll double-check to see how it was budgeted in 24 and ensure that if it hasn't been started that those funds will be carried over.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. Because it could have been capital but it also has some planning aspects to it so I'm not quite sure where it fell and I just want to make sure that it didn't disappear because we're going into a year of potentially a lot of broadband opportunities and leveraging funds for that. And so – did you get some secret information from Paul, Greg?

MANAGER SHAFFER: No. What Director Herrera said stands but we'll make sure to capture that item. Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And then the second item, which may be in the same sort of boat of what might have been in the capital budget, we had set aside \$10 million last year for matching funds. And is that rolling over? And is that reflected somewhere in here?

MANAGER SHAFFER: Yes, Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene. It's not reflected in the interim budget. That was part of the overall budgeted contingencies that Yvonne stated at the beginning of her presentation. So the expectation is that the unused amount that is not being allocated for our surge capacity in terms of grant management or procurement folks, that that would be available for matching funds. So again, that's addressed at the top of the memo and we would anticipating addressing that as part of the final budget.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Anybody else?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Ms. Herrera and Manager Shaffer, a question that I had, when funds are rolled over, and there was something that was brought

to my attention that there were going to be – and this is really like going back into some extent of history in 2012 for repairs at the District Attorney’s building that didn’t happen but that funds had continued to be rolled over. What is our ability to manage or understand what hasn’t been completed or what is still expected? And I don’t know. I’m sincerely asking this as a question, and did that not happen?

MANAGER SHAFFER: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Bustamante, funded projects, including the District Attorney’s remodel will be addressed at length during the capital section of our budget which we haven’t addressed yet. And the short answer to your question is that funds allocated to a bit capital project, for lack of a better word, they carry over until the Board tells us do something else with them.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So I will make a motion approving a resolution adopting the interim budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, FY 2025.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I’ll second that.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any further discussion? You did such a good job putting the budget together, we have no questions. But that’s good.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

MANAGER SHAFFER: I’d just like to thank Yvonne and all of her team for all of the exceptionally hard work and also thank the Board for your generosity with your time throughout the budget process, as well as for the part of the budget process that remains. Thank you.

6. C. Request Approval of Amendment No. 8 to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Between the Santa Fe County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, a Subsidiary of the New Mexico Coalition of Public Safety Officers/NMCP SO, and Santa Fe County

CHAIR HUGHES: And that will be Rachel Brown and Valerie Park. Go ahead, Rachel.

RACHEL BROWN (Deputy County Attorney): Thank you. Mr. Chair, Commissioners, as you know, we have a collective bargaining agreement with the Sheriff’s Deputies Association and we’re bringing forward amendment #8 today to address some remaining grant funding that will expire at the end of June, and proposing to use some of that grant funding for additional retention incentives for our bargaining unit officers. The retention period during which they could earn additional retention incentives would be from May 18th through June 14th with a guaranteed payout for the retention incentive they earn by June 28th and that would allow us to meet the grants deadline for expenditure of funds.

Each of the various ranks would earn a different percentage associated with their hourly rate with the hope that those who participate would earn somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,250, and the Deputy County Manager may correct that dollar amount. That’s an estimate because this is based on how much time they put in, the gross

earnings they have during the retention period, which is the two pay periods that I identified. \$1,251. Excuse me. I was off by a dollar. And I would stand for questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you for moving ahead to use this in such a good way. It's really – I'm sure they appreciate it and it's really a good move on the County's part. And I'll – we do need action on this, right? I'll move to approve this.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I would second that and I'd also like to also, Mr. Chair – I understand the effort that it take to work in getting to an agreement, so I'm grateful for your efforts in making this work for everyone involved. So thank you very much and I'm happy to second that motion.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Motion by Commissioner Hamilton, second by Commissioner Bustamante.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

6. D. Resolution No. 2024-069, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the General Fund (101) in the Amount of \$1,050,000

CHAIR HUGHES: That would be Yvonne.

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, the budget increase before you is for the Clerk's Office in regards to two memorandums received from the Secretary of State to reimburse the County and all counties for necessary and reasonable expenditures for the administration of a statewide election or post-election canvass, per state statute, Section 1-11-19, and Administrative Code 10.1.10.36.

The Secretary of State is required to provide counties with an MOU at least 90 days prior to election day, with the MOU being finalized at least 60 days prior to the election day. Eligible expenses under the MOU include costs of temporary election workers, rental of voting convenience centers, transportation of voting machines, elections advertising, and supplies. The County and Secretary of State entered into two different MOUs, one for the 2023 regular local election held on November 7th, Exhibit A, and one for the statewide primary election to be held on June 4th, which is Exhibit B.

The budget for the revenue – the Clerk's Office would like to budget this revenue increase authorized expenditures for fiscal year 24. Currently, the 2024 budget for the Bureau of Elections is \$2,375,545. The first MOU for the 23 regular local election is provides \$400,000 for election costs. The 2024 primary election, the total amount of \$650,000. These additional MOUs will adjust the Bureau of Elections' budget to \$3,425,545.

To date, the Bureau of Elections has spent \$474,045 of its current budget for fiscal year 25. The budget adjustment would be to authorize an additional \$1,050,000 in expenditures in the last two months of the fiscal year 24. And with that, Mr. Chair, Madam Clerk and I stand for any questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So I'm a little confused here. You're

asking for an additional million besides what's already in your budget?

KATHARINE CLARK (County Clerk): Yes. Because that is the budgeted amount from the MOUs. So the Secretary of State has already agreed to send us that money, and so we need to budget it to make the accounting work. So that was already money that we're expected to get from the fall election and then this primary.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: And so is it increasing our budget?

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hansen, it's increasing the budget authority in total for the County, under the Bureau of Elections.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay. Do you have a budget for this million dollars? Or was that part of –

CLERK CLARK: It's part of the MOU, so it's our regular local election expenses and our primary election expenses. So there are certain things that are covered by the statute – our workers, our overtime, our vehicles, certain election notices. Those are all covered, so the way it works is they – we sign an MOU, they send us the initial money, and then any difference above and beyond, because we had additional expenses, then the Secretary of State reimburses us for the difference. But we do actually get that chunk of money already, before the election begins. And so in order to have the buying power of that money, we have to increase the budget in order to utilize that funding.

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, as part of the MOU, the Secretary of State actually advances the County the funds for the election costs. The Clerk's existing budget was able to absorb a lot of the 2023 regular local election costs. We estimated today without – we don't have the specific budget reports from the timeframe from when we believe all costs related to the 2023 regular local election were all accounted for prior to when the primary election costs started to come in. But we guesstimated about \$200,000 in deficit line items in the Clerk's budget as a result of costs absorbed by the County for the regular local election during the fall of 2023.

The cost for the 2024 primary election was – I want to say – I'm not positive. I'm not sure how much of those costs were already included in the Bureau of Elections' budget for fiscal year 25. So this money will increase the funding – the \$600,000 will actually increase the budget for the expenditures using the resources from the Secretary of State to fund the primary election, which was estimated at about \$800,000 for this primary.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: In addition to the other money we've already got?

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hansen, yes.

CLERK CLARK: But that's for three elections. For the 2022 primary they only advanced us a small amount, and then based on the fact that Sandoval and some other counties spent more, then we actually got more as a difference, or they're agreeing to give us more as a difference, the general election, we're still waiting on the final payment, and then 2023 regular local election, we're waiting on that final payment. So they advanced us quite a bit of money, but then because of election costs that were under the umbrella of reimbursable costs, and they've actually asked for a lot of data, so we've been trying to figure out how to create those reports with Finance, and that's why we're breaking out some of the line items in our budget, so that way we can do better accounting of what are reimbursable costs in certain line items and what are non-

reimbursable costs in the line items.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So you're working to get data for, like, how many people use the drop boxes?

CLERK CLARK: It's more like – actually, the big challenge has been payroll. So it's breaking out the data for payroll for each of the polling – because we don't track necessarily – the way that Finance tracks isn't what the Secretary of State wants so we've been working with Finance to get the reporting how they want us to report. I think we've sent them two or three versions of – and then they ask us for more data, and we're trying to figure out how to get the reports.

Once we've kind of settled with them on what those reports should look like, then our breaking it out by line item should make it easier for us to then report and then get the reimbursement more quickly.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So you're going to also try and get data for like this is the first year we've used Nancy Rodriguez.

CLERK CLARK: Right. Exactly.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay. So how many people are going to vote there? How many employees do we have there? How many machines do we have there? What's the cost benefit?

CLERK CLARK: Right. That's exactly right. And then we actually assess in the Clerk's Office, based on how many voters, did people utilize it, did they report they liked using it. Because there's not necessarily going to be a contested primary overlap between that Senate district again, because the last person held that seat for 29 years and the Commission seat, we may not utilize Nancy Rodriguez again. This election it made sense because this is the primary and who gets that seat tends to be decided and those are overlapping seats where that polling site would make sense.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: What about the Community College?

CLERK CLARK: Community College we've had a lot of overwhelming positive support in trying to get young voters to vote, so the Community College is actually becoming more popular, even between the last election, which is the first one we used it and already people are inquiring when it's going to be opening. So that polling site, we're hoping to see more people voting and also because that neighborhood on Commissioner Hughes' side of town is growing, I do think that's going to be a more popular early voting site. We just have to wait and see.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So like how many years have you been using the secure drop boxes now?

CLERK CLARK: The first secure drop boxes were installed in 2021 and they are available, I think at eight locations and they are becoming more popular as people learn about them.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So how many drop boxes do we have?

CLERK CLARK: Eight, and then one in the actual physical Clerk's Office through the wall.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: We only have eight secure drop boxes. I thought you had more.

CLERK CLARK: So there's a difference in the law. So there's two kinds of drop boxes. The ones that are in the polling sites are drop boxes but they close –

because it's when the poll workers are there. So within the polling sites we have drop boxes within each of the polling sites, all 33 on election day, at all the polling sites. But the ones that are outside, monitored 24 hours and secure with video and all the other gadgets we have on them, we only have eight of those. We're actually the most in the state though.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: How many does Bernalillo have?

CLERK CLARK: Two, and they're not drive-up.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So – I mean, I'm just kind of wondering why we need another million dollars for three weeks.

CLERK CLARK: Well, it's not that it's a million dollars for three weeks, it so that we can actually move the money around. So we're kind of overextended on some of our line items, so when we build up our funding capacity then we can start paying the POs that we have outstanding on the reimbursements.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay. Well, I would hope that the rest of the Commission and myself would really like to see data for what we're getting. I think that that is really important to us to know if these investments – like we all want secure elections. We all want really valid, good numbers. But we also want the data. We want to know if we're expending excess money and we have 20 workers or ten workers at one polling place and we're getting five people voting there. I think those are the kind of things that I'm concerned about, to make sure that we're actually using our resources to the most advantage that we can possibly use.

CLERK CLARK: When we are dealing with elections, unfortunately, not even pass-through or through-put numbers is actually the number. When we do that resolution in the odd numbered years in July, we actually have to have a voting convenience center for every ten precincts, so some of our rural precincts, we will see polling sites that are not very well utilized because most people are voting after work and typically downtown, so that's one of the reasons why we opened Carlos Gilbert, which is one of our most popular polling sites, even though we already had Montezuma. Because Montezuma has reached capacity we had to open up Carlos Gilbert and so that's technically extra, but because of the number of voters that we're seeing and we don't want to have long lines, we ended up needing – because spatial is how the polling sites are divided up, not necessarily by throughput, so even though we have data that suggests rural polling sites are not that popular. Like for instance, Galisteo, Stanley, because of the way that the statute where we have to have at least one voting convenience center per ten precincts, you end up seeing polling sites that are out on the outskirts that are not as well utilized as the ones in the middle of town.

But the reality is that this is money that's being reimbursed so it's not money that we're spending. It's just because of the funding capacity we have to increase in order to be able to spend the reimbursement, essentially.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Anyhow, I think it's really important to have the rural voting locations, like Galisteo. I think somebody at one time was talking about closing it. People were really unhappy. So rural voting sites, especially since Santa Fe County is such a big county and dispersed, it's important. But also the Community College is two miles away from the fairgrounds.

CLERK CLARK: Yes. And actually fairgrounds is very, very busy as

well. It's actually harder to find more polling sites on the south side of town, to find places to have voting. There is not as much infrastructure on the south side of town. So to find a site that could be utilized for the full length of early voting has actually been a challenge for us. It is one of the reasons why sometimes we use churches for early voting because we cannot find a public building in order to have early voting that full three weeks of expanded early voting.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay, well, I guess what I want is I want to see the data. I want to know if we're getting our bang for our buck. So that's what I'm requesting. I don't know exactly how to request that but I'll let other Commissioners speak to some of these issues.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you. And yes, I would totally support, like when you stand up there and explain some of the things you've seen that make sense. But you have it in your head. It would be great, like at the end of the voting to actually see the numbers of all the sites and wait times and the appropriate stats. That would be fabulous.

Is there a concern about spending this money before the deadline? My understanding – I was a little confused too but budgets are confusing. But this is something the Secretary of State is funding for. Good to use it, right?

CLERK CLARK: Right.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: But is there, one, is there a concern about spending it by the deadline, and two, is there a concern – is there any concern about they're approving what we spend it on? Like, they front us the money but do they have an ex post facto approval thing or something? That might have been a misunderstanding I had but –

CLERK CLARK: We have to send them a report of everything we spent, and then there's certain categories of things that we're allowed to spend and of course they review it. I think what they're discovering is that because of all the new election laws that have come into place elections are far more expensive than they thought. It is one of the reasons why the legislature has now made a \$15 million allocation that is renewable every year, so that way they can fund the elections, the money goes out to the counties. They're checking our data, their data to make sure what we are spending our money on, what we're reporting is what we're supposed to be spending that money on by statute and administrative rule, and then that money actually gets recharged, essentially every year. Because that way, around the state, every county has seen increased election costs. I think Bernalillo County is spending somewhere near \$4.5 million every election, trying to administer elections.

So the cost is going up – same day voter registration, agents, all of the traveling for drop boxes, things like that – it's becoming more – with all the new features we're adding to elections, the cost has gone up, particularly with labor. It's one of the reasons why our office is trying to streamline a lot of the labor intensive processes to make that faster and not as much overtime, things like that. And I do think that as we see more and more people moving towards permanent absentee, as some of those precincts start to have a higher proportion of people voting permanent absentee, we will not need as many polling sites because people will be voting absentee, so we don't need to have – they'll

drop their ballots and we'll be converting to a more absentee process.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: So you don't have too many concerns on the Secretary of State approval after the fact. They'll front us the money and you don't have concerns that they're going to disapprove large chunks of what we budget this for?

CLERK CLARK: We're learning there are certain things they're not approving but because of all of the demands of elections, particularly labor; labor is expensive. We're not seeing disapproval of those broad categories. Nit-picky things here and there but not –

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: It's not going back to have to be approved from the general fund if that gets disapproved here.

CLERK CLARK: So we're not seeing massive amounts of disapprovals. We're seeing small things here and there.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: So you're tracking the things. So is there a concern about – the election is going to take place before the end of June, which is the spending date, right?

CLERK CLARK: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: But that leaves three weeks to get it all buttoned up. Do we have concerns about that? Spending a million dollars in five weeks, six weeks, whatever it is? Six weeks.

CLERK CLARK: I think what we're doing is moving money across.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Okay. That's fine. Whatever it is.

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hamilton, the budget adjustment will actually increase specific lines as noted within the BAR, which as Madam Clerk mentioned, a big portion is going to be related to wages for the election workers. So we are increasing the budget. We have seen spending because they've needed to get prepared for the primary election, bringing on staff early, supplies, stuff like that. I'm not sure. I know that the estimated budget that was provided today is \$800,000 for the primary election. Anything above and beyond that though, while the agreement does provide that we can provide that information to the Secretary of State, we don't have yet a guarantee that any additional costs above and beyond that will be covered by the Secretary of State. So there's still a risk that the County will have to absorb some of those costs that aren't covered. And right now, from past elections, I think the 2022 primary – was that the first MOU that we received?

CLERK CLARK: Yes.

MS. HERRERA: So the primary for 2022 was the first year that we started to receive funding from the Secretary of State. Right now there is about \$900,000 of additional costs that the County has absorbed that we're still hoping that the Secretary of State will reimburse us for that. Madam Clerk is correct; we're seeing a lot more of our costs related to elections and election workers. I know that she's also – her office has been making improvements, as she mentioned, in technology, trying to use a machine to help count versus having individuals count the pieces of ballots, eliminating errors, stuff like that. But we are increasing – and as I'm rambling I apologize. I'm not sure if I answered your question, Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Well, there is a little bit of confusion because on the surface it makes sense. If we're getting to budget money, extra money that

the Secretary of State is supplying, right? Because elections are expensive and if it covers stuff we need covered. What was a little less clear was how that jibes with what was in the budget from last week and what not. But despite that complexity, all I was really asking was are we going to be able to spend it and not – because a million dollars is a lot of money and – or not. In some ways it's not.

MS. HERRERA: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hamilton, the Clerk's original budget for fiscal year 25 with some budget adjustments that were done through an internal BAR at mid-year was able to absorb quite a bit of the election from the fall of 23, the regular local election. We don't have enough funding or budget to be able to absorb the cost related to the primary election in 2024. So by budgeting at least the \$600,000 for the MOU for the 24 primary, we would need those additional funds in order for the Clerk's office to be able to fund the primary election.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: And this distinct from next year's budget, nevertheless, because this is this fiscal year. So it's entirely in this fiscal year.

CLERK CLARK: Basically, we need to generate POs and we don't have any spending capacity to do that, so we want to move the money into the line items so we can spend the money and then charge it against the reimbursement. That's where we're at.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Mr. Chair and Commissioners, I would just note that with the agreement with the County Clerk is we're trying to isolate those costs for statewide elections differently in the next fiscal year so that they're their own cost center and they're not intermingled with what I'll call the annual operating costs of the Bureau of Elections. So I think it will be more transparent to everyone. And as Yvonne mentioned and Madam Clerk mentioned as well, the real risk – "risk" in quotes – it's more the delta between what the Secretary of State advances and what is spent on the election, because anything above what they've advanced per the MOUs that I've seen are not guaranteed and they have to be eligible expenses and money has to be available.

So I think as the Clerk works with the Board to establish that budget for any given election, that's really where you're going to want to focus is if we spend this amount that's in excess of what has been advanced by the Secretary of State, everybody do that knowing that that could in fact be County contribution towards the election. And so, again, by isolating that it in its own cost center we're just hoping to be able to have that dialogue in a way that's very easy for everyone to see. I hope that helps.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: It really does, and it makes it clear in what ways having post-election summary of data we'll help justify and do a basis for subsequent years.

CLERK CLARK: And you'll see that in the primary, that was the first one, they only gave us \$188,000 and every election we've learned, okay, for a county this size we're about \$600,000 to \$800,000, depending on what kind of election it is. So the Secretary of State is also learning how much they need to advance to us in order to make that, because we're right in line with Sandoval. We're right in line with other counties about our size in terms of spend.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Madam

Clerk. Thank you, Yvonne. Sort of related to that, is it a formula or is this based upon a proposal that you made to the Secretary of State?

CLERK CLARK: Well, I think many of the clerks and I, after that first election, said this is not enough for all the things that you're asking us to do, so what we're seeing is first there was a huge increase, the second one, and then there's been a slight increase to the third election. So I think we're going to find some kind of equilibrium in the next election or two, that it's going to be – we're going to spend about as much as they give us. But as far as I know there's no formula. Whatever formula they used for the first election – almost all the counties asked for more money.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So \$1,050,000 is based on a formula of number of voters? Number of precincts? Number of – do you have any – so it's not their formula or it's a black formula in terms of what they come up – and it's not based on the number that you put forth to the Secretary of State. It's just, here's our number, figure out how to spend it.

CLERK CLARK: We say, with the other larger counties, this was not enough money; we need to increase how much money we have. And so then I think they probably said, okay, this is how much – it seems to be that this is how much you spend and then they took 15 percent away from what they gave us for the next election. I don't know if that's what they did, but it's a guess.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. It's nice when it's reimbursable so it's easy. It's not necessarily out of pocket per se, but we still have to be responsible with money. It's state money, so whether it goes through the Secretary of State or through the County coffers, we need to be responsible about that.

One word of caution, let's scrutinize things that are definitely going to be reimbursable. Let's make sure we don't overspend so we don't overshoot it and it comes out of our pocket nonetheless. And then actually, as a learning experience for you and for us up here, as Commissioner Hansen had mentioned, let's try to figure out how to be the most effective and efficient with this, right? And so if we're doing an amazing job with drop boxes, great. Let's tell that story and show how many people are doing that, and maybe we need more; maybe we need less. Maybe the value per vote is so much higher than extended early voting, which seems to be a very high cost and I think we've had conversations about the inability to find staff on temporary workers. Let's find the right balance for future elections. This one's already baked. Early voting is already open but we need to, going forward, figure out the right balance, make sure that we target that and, yes, let's go get as many people voting. Let's make sure that this is not Española with six percent turnout. So whatever can do to make it easier and make people realize that their vote matters and maybe to get out. We've got three different easier, four different ways to make it easy for them but they need to show up and do one of them at least.

CLERK CLARK: So this is the number one turnout county and I think really it's the labor cost that is 80 percent of our costs because of the reality of if you want to hire temp workers you have to pay them \$22, \$24 an hour to get anybody.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I appreciate that but I wonder if the drop boxes are the ways that things are going. Or permanent absentee ballots. Or whatever. Are there going to be ways that are much more efficient than having so many clustered early voting things. Maybe it's all about election day. Maybe there's a different scenario.

Maybe it's a week so it's not two weeks. I don't know if we're allowed to do those things. No? Okay. So good idea. But let's try to be as efficient as possible, and I know you're a data person, so collect as much as possible. Let's use this as a learning experience so that next time you can go advise the Secretary of State. This is what we think is the best practices. And if we're the leading turnout county, good for us, then let's lead by example and let's give those lessons learned out there.

CLERK CLARK: Fifty percent of our voters vote early in Santa Fe County, if not more, depending on the election. So if we're going to be able to capture more people voting by absentee, right? With some of our automated processes, what we would have to do is advocate for changing the statute on that density of the voting convenience centers. Once we can change, let's say, 50 percent of the registered voters are registered permanent absentee. We already know we're going to send them a ballot then we don't need to have as much of a proportion of that counting towards the density of voting convenience centers. That is one of the things I think the clerks would support, and something I think the state is moving towards. As you get a higher proportion of permanent absentee you don't need as many in-person voting locations, which means less – there's going to be labor in terms of picking up from drop boxes. There's going to be labor in terms of Absentee Board, but it's going to be far less than having to staff for three weeks an early voting site.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: No doubt. Thank you. I'm generally in support of this. Just want this to be a learning experience and go collect data. Go collect votes first, but then the data.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes, I just wanted to re-enforce the idea of giving us the data at the end. I appreciate all the efforts being made to bring out people and make it convenient and then let's see how many people voted each place, etc., etc. So Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you. So the County does not have an endless supply of money.

CLERK CLARK: So I think that's a really important statement to think about? If we're going to have to absorb some of this cost we need to know that upfront, and I'm not hearing that at all. I'm not hearing what we're going to have to absorb and what the Secretary of State is actually going to pay. I don't see the numbers. I don't see actual budget that's clear to me. But if we're going to approve this resolution I would like to add that something about the data will be presented at the end of the election. Or that we'll see the different categories, like how many people voted at Nancy Rodriguez? How many people voted at such and such? How many workers worked at these sites? What was actually the cost of the vote? How many drop boxes? How many people used those drop boxes during that time? I might not be covering all of the data that needs to be covered, but I know from myself and Commissioner Hamilton, we have constantly talked about collecting data and so I would like to add to this resolution a phrase or something. Can I do this, County Attorney? Can I add something about data? I'm just making sure I'm not violating anything.

JEFF YOUNG (County Attorney): Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hansen, if you wanted to amend your approval in that way I suppose, yes, we can make that amendment.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay. So I make a motion to approve this resolution with an amendment that data will be presented to the Board at the end of the primary election cycle.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll second it, but I may amend your motion just to be a little more clear, if I may.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Is it friendly?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I hope so. So, yes. To encourage the data collection and that it be reported to us within 90 days of the – no?

CLERK CLARK: The election may not be over by then, depending on recount and recheck. So we still have poll workers sometimes that are working for us well after the fact because of the post-election audits.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Within 90 days you couldn't get it back us?

CLERK CLARK: Because we would have all of the labor that we're doing that we have to have an Election Board convened in order to do the auditing process. So we can do it once we've completed audit. We could say at the next meeting after audit.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. The meeting following the audit to include data for drop boxes, early and extended voting sites, and budgets for staffing, and operational details in per-vote and per-site scenario.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Basically, the cost of early voting.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yes. In different formats. Not just a bulk number, but as drop boxes and early voting sites –

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Labor.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Labor, yes.

CHAIR HUGHES: Does that seem reasonable, County Clerk?

CLERK CLARK: Sure. I always say my vote is priceless, but yes.

CHAIR HUGHES: So motion by Hansen, seconded by Greene, as amended. Any comments?

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

[The Commission recessed from 3:35 to 3:46.]

7. Presentations

A. Presentation of the Draft 2024 Economic Development Strategic Plan

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead.

JUAN TORRES (Economic Development Manager): Mr. Chair, Commissioners, the Economic Development Division, the item before you is a presentation of the updated draft Economic Development Strategic Plan. The Economic Development Division works with economic and planning systems to produce an update to the 2014 Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan that's going to be presented to you emphasizes economic clusters and targeted industries that are focused for economic development actions that will support economic development in Santa Fe and the region.

The major areas of focus in the plan include infrastructure needs, updated target

industries, strategies and recommended actions. This is an informational item, but the relationship of the plan to the statute, the Local Economic Development Act. The plan enables the County to engage in the activities allowable under the LEDA Act. So once we update that plan we will be bringing forth an updated LEDA Ordinance, and at that time we'll present the final plan and ordinance for formal adoption.

I'd like to turn it over to Daniel Guimond who is the Economic Planning and Systems consultant.

DANIEL GUIMOND: Thank you, Chairman Hughes and members of the Commission. Again, my name is Dan Guimond. I'm a principal with Economic and Planning Systems. We have an office in Denver. I'm the senior principal in the office. We provide a full range of economic analysis and development services, including preparing economic development plans. We've worked for the County a number of times in the past, including most recently preparing an impact fee study, and before that the capital improvement plan and infrastructure build-out plan. We were a sub-consultant on those projects as well.

As Juan mentioned, the plan objectives, the reasons for the plan, first and foremost to address the County Commission's strategic plan goals for promoting a sustainable and equitable community, including the sub-goals of maximizing economic development tools and programs, implementing and enhancing the County's targeted industry clusters, incentivizing green development and sustainable job growth, developing and Arts and Culture Council, supporting workforce training and developing the County's broadband plan.

It also, in terms of objectives of the plan, updates the 2014 economic development plan. It meets the state requirements for LEDA eligibility, and finally fulfills the economic element of the Strategic Growth Management of the County. Just the brief outline of the plan document – you have a copy of the plan, I believe, in your packet, and we welcome any comments and additions to that before the preparation of the final plan, as Juan mentioned. The plan includes an economic profile, a brief economic profile, an analysis of infrastructure needs, what the critical issues are that impact the County's economic growth and vitality, including specifically broadband and fiber optic facilities, affordable housing, workforce development, and then wastewater and water infrastructure for urban development.

It covers the target industries that are identified in the plan including the six industries listed below. It covers funding and financing sources and strategies, and then finally strategies and actions for implementing and realizing economic development opportunities in the county.

You see from this graphic that the Commission's strategic plan goals are oversee the plan, the plan provides priorities in terms of public investments in the infrastructure areas and other investments, and that those investments allow for targeted growth and diversification in the targeted industries that are identified in the plan.

So in terms of infrastructure needs, the four broad categories of broadband, the County's strategic plan and the Strategic Growth Management Plan identified high speed broadband as the number one infrastructure priority in the County. It's essential to both businesses and residents in the county and at least from the data in this plan less than two percent of households in the county have high speed fiber.

Affordable housing, the County adopted an affordable housing plan and ordinance in 2023. The first strategy was to increase incentives for affordable housing, extending the inclusionary housing ordinance to all developments and to remove barriers to affordable projects in the county. And I think most importantly from the economic development perspective is to recognize affordable housing is an economic development concern; without a local workforce you do have economic development issues.

In terms of workforce, support the education and training programs, especially in targeted industries, and recognize that PROTEC, the Professional Readiness and Technical Experience for Careers program at the Community College is one of the most successful programs for workforce development in the county.

I mention infrastructure, in terms of supporting growth in SDA-1 in the growth management plan, urban utilities are needed for urban density development to occur. The County's had a difficult time getting higher density development, particularly commercial development within the SDA-1 area in the county. And the biggest impediment is the lack of truck water and sewer lines to support this level of urban development.

I mention the six target industries that are covered in the plan: value added agriculture is the first opportunity related to industries that promote the county's agricultural production and ecotourism; arts, culture and creative industry supporting existing arts organization and building infrastructure to support them; outdoor recreation, recreation activities and events on public lands as well as the manufacturing and distribution of outdoor-related equipment; film and digital media, national and film studio productions and post-production facilities; green industries and alternative energy, renewable energy, recycling and conservation technology; and then lastly, health and wellness, including both traditional health-related industries as well as alternative wellness and treatment facilities within the county.

So funding and financing sources, as mentioned earlier, the LEDA or the Local Economic Development Act is the primary source of funding for a lot of the County's economic development activities. It allows the County to provide public funds for economic development and not violate the state Anti-Donation Clause, and as mentioned earlier, it requires the County to adopt this economic development plan as well as an ordinance which will be drafted over the next two or three months.

Other New Mexico Economic Development Division grants include the Outdoor Recreation Division, the Film Office and the Creative Industries Division, all of which provide a series of various grants for some of the programs that are recommended in the plan. Other state sources of funding include Tax Increment Development Districts – TIDDs, Infrastructure Development Zones – IRBs, and new market tax credits.

And then the various federal funding sources supporting economic development that can be tapped into as well, including the Economic Development Administration grants for public works, economic adjustments, revolving loans and preparation of these types of economic development plans. Community development grants, RAISE grants and other SBA programs that support small business development and expansion within the county.

And the finally, from local funding sources including the County's capital improvement program, and then business development partnerships and incentives.

So the bulk of the rest of the plan is structured around strategies and actions for implementing the infrastructure investments and developing target industries, taking advantage of target industry opportunities in the county. So starting with infrastructure, the first strategy is to maintain existing infrastructure and support the implementation of critical infrastructure deployment plans. So identify and secure capital funding for infrastructure projects, provide funding and financial support to private development projects that include infrastructure that can be taken advantage of by the larger community and by other projects, and coordinate concurrent infrastructure deployment in County public work projects, kind of the formula of dig once for installation of various types of infrastructure. Second, to complete a network of high speed and affordable broadband throughout the county, the County is in the process of working towards a broadband development grant currently.

In terms of other strategies, continue to support broadband deployment through REDI-Net and complete the strategic broadband development plan for the County that again, I mentioned the funding for is in process currently.

Thirdly, create financial and other incentive programs to support and encourage affordable housing in the county. The Housing Division is responsible for the housing but the Economic Development Division can provide financial assistance in the way of various – bringing state funding for various housing programs, including down payment assistance programs, and creating a program to allow the purchase of affordable housing to account for the cost of green code adjustments at the County level.

In terms of strategies and actions for the target industries, starting with value added agriculture, the first strategy is to leverage the Agri-Gate website and work with organizations to build a network for connecting small area farms, providing local grown food and produce to local restaurants and value added manufacturers. So strengthen linkages between food processors to support the creation of value added industries, assist local growers in accessing capital for growing agriculture-related businesses, and support the development of food incubator facilities and infrastructure designed to launch restaurant and food-related value added agricultural businesses.

Secondly, work with the Community College and other organizations to develop programs that support the development of agriculturally based businesses.

So the second target industry area is arts, culture and creative industries. The first strategy is expand arts, culture and creative industries activities within the county. First recommendation, I believe it's in your strategic plan is to create an Arts and Culture Council, and also work with community arts groups to develop programs and facilities to support new and expanded creative industries within the county.

Second, to provide economic assistance to projects and other initiatives, expand the presence of the arts and culture sector. Support the development of arts attractions and events in the Santa Fe area. Support training and professional development for the arts and culture workforce throughout the county. Encourage arts and cultural amenities to be accessible to all residents, and support the creation of arts and cultural districts and other designations where appropriate.

So the third target industry cluster is outdoor education. The strategies include market a wide range of outdoor recreation activities that the Santa Fe area has to offer and that involves leveraging existing assets to improve the county's hiking and biking

trail system. Expand the network of mountain biking trails and amenities. Partner with other communities in northern New Mexico to develop a regional approach to developing and marketing outdoor recreation assets, and improve available information about the connections between trailheads and lodging and neighborhoods and entertainment areas to enhance the resident and visitor experience and reduce auto use.

Second, to provide economic assistance to new or expanding companies specializing in outdoor recreation gear and apparel. So capitalize on the state Economic Development Outdoor Recreation Division to support the recruitment of outdoor recreation businesses, recruitment and development of new businesses in that area, and support the development of events and conferences related to outdoor recreation.

Film and digital media, already a strong industry within the county but there are opportunities for going beyond the existing film studios and outdoor stages to support their retention. The industry has gotten much more competitive at the state level with Albuquerque developing several new studios, so it's important for the County to continue to support its existing facilities and allow them to grow and expand. I think there's an effort to try to extend fiber optic down to some of the outdoor stage areas that will allow those facilities to be better utilized in terms of building post-production film facilities in the county, which is a current lack. We have the studios; we have the outdoor stages; we don't have the post-production facilities.

So green industries and alternative energy. The County should support a comprehensive program to expand green building practices in the construction industry. Support the development of solar arrays. Build partnerships to increase access to green job training. Support grid modernization and transmission projects. I think what we're going to be seeing, or what we are starting to see in this part of the country is more battery storage projects to extend the usefulness of alternative energy on non-peak production hours.

Secondly, the County will promote programs for energy conservation and recycling to continue to reduce waste and conserve existing resources, including increasing EV charging, increasing support to businesses in recycling, support water sustainability and efficiency programming, particularly in agricultural production, and attract and support the development of businesses that can utilize recycled materials in their production.

Health and wellness, the sixth of the targeted industries identified. Support educational institutions and programs that educate and train the healthcare workforce, and then specifically under that, leverage EDA funded workforce integration network programs. And then secondly, collaborate with the alternative healing industry to promote Santa Fe as a health and wellness destination.

So strategies related to funding and financing, which is a major area of the work program for the Economic Development Division. Seek additional funding for the target industry clusters and high priority infrastructure projects as I have previously presented here. Seek LEDA funds for eligible employer recruitment and expansion. Explore the potential opportunity for a County media park, and seek additional infrastructure financing for broadband throughout the county.

Second, create a dedicated funding source for business development and projects and programs. Support broadband development through REDI-Net and complete the

broadband development plan for the county. And then thirdly, utilize LEDA funds to support economic based businesses located in or relocating to the county.

And then last slide, conclusions. In summary, the economic development plan, the draft plan that is presented to you today updates the policies, strategies and actions that were identified in the 2014 plan. It responds to changes in economic conditions over the last ten years, including specifically post-COVID impacts on the County economy, and specifically the growing affordable housing crisis fed by escalating housing costs within the county and the lack of affordable housing production that the County is currently experiencing.

And then in terms of the work program, the Economic Development Division will continue to work with key stakeholders and regional partners throughout northern New Mexico in terms of ensuring that the use of resources is appropriate and not duplicative of other efforts, that the strategic goal in the plan continue to be aligned with the Board of County Commissioners' direction and their strategic plan. That regional collaborations and partnerships are maintained and expanded, and the existing relationships are leverage to achieve the maximum return on investment.

And then finally, that the traditions, culture and diversity of Northern New Mexico are honored and expanded upon.

So Thank you, Chairman Hughes and members of the Commission, I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you very much. Are there any questions?
Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you for the presentation. Thank you, Chairman Hughes. Some of this – and I get that this is an update. And what's troubling for me is that it's an update of things that have been discussed on the same pieces of paper, all right, virtual pieces of paper, for the last 20 years. And it is not a new objective to support alternative energy and green building, etc. There has been some headway. I guess there's an element of frustration here and I'm doing everything I can to say this is great. I saw this 20 years ago. I saw essentially the same thing, with the exception of the charging stations. And I think it's somewhat, with all due respect, naïve to think that it's just wastewater that keeps us from having further development in some of our remote areas.

When we look at where we can't have solar in our communities and we look at where we don't have PNM or any other electrical services, it's not just about the infrastructure of water/wastewater. We're also looking at the dead zones because we don't really actually have the transformer capability, the infrastructure to have solar set up in those areas. It's already peaked out through the Public Service Company of New Mexico.

That being said, when we look at how and what – I go back to a conversation that we had when Bill Richardson passed away right here on this dais, of be bold. With all due respect, I don't see anything bold in this. It's got to go. I'm glad you came from Denver to tell us what we've been talking about for the last 20 years. That sounds insulting; I don't mean it that way so I apologize, but what I really would love to see is then let's get it done. How do we make sure that we have the electrical capacity in these more remote areas where frankly, when we talk about working with the Community

College, they have not ever had faculty who are willing to work with the agricultural systems that are already here.

It's underinformed. It's naïve to the extent of we're looking at the assets; this looks like it will work, onward ho. And we've been here before. So it is a point of frustration. I'm going to apologize upfront front for the emoting, but to the real end, what does it really take to get a dang micro-grid out in the middle of nowhere so we can plug a car in and to keep moving. That's the kind of thing that needs to be in our plan. Otherwise, saying we'll support continued growth and development in this area and we support the College's ability to do this, and I'm trying so hard not to yawn, but the good news is my adrenalin is so high that I'm not going to yawn. I'm going to go what are we hearing again? Because I'm old now.

I want to hear things that are happening or have happened since my hair's been turning gray. Like we have opportunity that has everything here is good. It has been good. It is a great plan. I get that it's an updated plan. With all due respect, Economic Development Department, when are we going to stop planning and start doing? And that I mean sincerely. I'm glad the value statements are good and clear here. Our values are strong. They come out in the strategies. Our values are good. But actionable item that we are going to take action on something to actually be able to assure that our agricultural communities don't continue to be infiltrated with new big projects that are going to gobble up the water so that they can't actually continue to succeed. That hasn't been addressed in 20 years.

So there are absolute good, identifiable things that need to be done. The word actions in the economic development plan updates policies, strategies and actions is fluff. It's not even there. It's a cloud. It's not even a cloud. I don't even see it. And that troubles me. I would like to see – and I think we all would – something much more assertive in our ability to accomplish protection of our agricultural lands, ways that we are doing more than just talking about getting electrical services to these more remote areas.

I'm hard pressed to think of what we could do next, and that's called bullshit, because the truth is I sat at the Community College when we could actually work with them to actually be responsive to the community. I begged that college to do so. I beg any entity who pays lip service to what we can do for the communities to actually do it.

So I'm not going to apologize for my passion. I apologize for anything that comes off feeling personal, but it's not personal. It's personal for the people who live here and who are really looking for something that actually values the traditions, culture and infrastructure that we have and finds ways to actually do something about it.

But I've read this report before over numerous years and onward ho. So thank you. Those are my comments. I'd like to see something far more actionable from a plan that is dated. I want to say I'm sorry just because I was trained to apologize for everything, but I'm not going to. Thank you.

MR. GUIMOND: Thank you for your comments. The only thing I would add is a plan can only go so far in terms of outlining recommended actions and strategies, whether they're new or repeated from 2014. I think there's a lot in here that's new. I think a lot if repeated because it hasn't happened, to your point. So it's – from my perspective it's all about the implementation. I don't know – that responsibility lies with

a lot of parties, including this County's government, in terms of whether – it's partly funding. It's partly coming up with the resources, but it's also partly coming up the organizational wherewithal to implement what I think most of us in this room agree needs to be done. That's my only suggestion.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair, sir, I appreciate that. I do get that, and I guess if there's any frustration it should be had amongst ourselves. So our opportunities remain and many of these things are in our strategic plan, so let's strategically do.

PAUL OLAFSON (Community Development Director): Excuse me, Mr. Chair and Commissioner Bustamante, I just also want to point out, similar to the affordable housing plan, by adopting this plan then it allows us to bring forward exact programming and actionable resources and applying those resources. So we adopted the affordable housing plan. Now we're doing the rehab program, etc. And that's the same kind of policy here. Your frustration is clearly stated and understood, but I just put that out there as well. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First off, a lot of agreement with Commissioner Bustamante and just to – maybe not apologize, but I did see her walk over and get caffeine before this meeting, so she was –

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Decaf.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Decaf. It still was – and I didn't get coffee but I probably need some to talk about this. So I appreciate her comments and I almost wish that there sort of three bold actions that we could really take that show something deep and profound. And I like the idea that there's a broadband plan on here and I'm working with the broadband working group, and that's a priority of mine.

But again, this is a sort of very upper level thing and I guess that's the intention of this, but little things. So we talk about a population goal. And this is something that we're working but it should certainly be represented in this plan, which is when we talk about equity in our community, and you're already working on it but it should show up in here because you should be working based on the plan. The example of that is Spanish language programs. A significant portion of our community is Spanish language immigrants of existing folks that have been here for years. And so having Spanish language entrepreneurship and job training that is focused on that segment of the community should have a place in this plan.

Another area is this plan should respond to the realities of our community. So one of those that's in here is about housing. So we talk about, oh, we need affordable housing. Well, we need to be very specific about what that means. So affordable housing is not just affordable housing. Yes. It is housing affordability. But not just that. It is housing for workforce housing. Because if we're not making houses that are made for our targeted workforce, we're just making our housing for a bunch of second homeowners. That's the wrong type of housing.

And if you're in Denver, you see how the mountain towns are great places for second homes but they've just destroyed themselves by destroying or not supporting the workforce. And so being very specific about what this spectrum of housing and which part of the spectrum we're targeting – workforce housing and public safety housing.

Civic housing for our public safety segment, first responders, our medical workers.

Another thing that is true about our community that we need to start to look at how we respond to it through economic development is healthcare. We can be health and wellness, but this is not yoga studios for – yes it is yoga studios for folks, but it is more specifically, it is going to be childcare centers so that we can get childcare, which is a big issue for lots of working families and especially women, to have relief for them. And so how do we integrate childcare into our economic development plan, and how to integrate it into our housing? So that when we do a multi-family development that you're cutting down the distance that people have to travel, so a multi-family project that is meant for families has integrated childcare on the site. So a mom or a family member doesn't have to go pick up their kid from childcare if they're sick. The kid's already onsite and is able to not have to have that travel and that emergency transportation.

And then Santa Fe, sadly we don't have that many kids in this community and we're sort of a community that is sort of aging past the kids. But the other side of that is parent care and senior care. So it's not only childcare but what I'm hearing from constituents is lots of people that are leaving the workforce at the prime of their working age to take care of their parents. What is the response for that? That is types of businesses that can actually respond to that that can free families from having to give up work, re-enter the workforce and have suitable care for their elders and their aging family members.

I think in the broadband portion of this, it's great to talk about the plan and to talk about REDI-Net. I think there's an opportunity to be specific about BEAD funding and Connect New Mexico and to leverage these federal funds and these state funds. So that is another comment I have that's on here.

Another area – sorry, getting back to the housing for a second. We have this problem and we also have the potential to be part of the solution, not just in investing in the same-old, same-old. But maybe one of our segments that we need to look at is housing innovation. So is that the next generation of manufactured housing? Is that the next generation of housing technologies such as robotics, CNC routing – all of these technologies that exist and we have some companies that are already in this marketplace that are experimenting with this, maybe they are the solution that can start here and build here. We solve our own problem. We don't have to import the solution. We can solve our own problem ourselves.

Another area that we're pretty strong at but we don't see as one of the segments that we should be supporting in my opinion is science and technology. We have national labs here. About 60 or 70 percent of their portfolio are things that we don't want to support, but the other 20 or 30 percent of their portfolio are things that we wholeheartedly support, things like environmental technologies, energy technologies other than nuclear, things like biotechnology. We should be leveraging these opportunities in a way to also make us a good partner with these labs and firms around town, but also to be part of – it's much easier to leverage what we have as opposed to attract what doesn't already exist.

Also in that space, all of these industries need investment. And so Santa Fe County can go in ways to try to create – we talk about developing the workforce; no doubt we need to develop the workforce. We need to develop our investment community. And so that's whether we attract venture capital, we cultivate the angel network that is

here, we have people with money. We are very lucky and blessed to have some wealth in this community, and so how we deploy that locally is a great opportunity to leverage what we have and to make sure that we recognize that and cherish that.

Again, to Commissioner Bustamante's comment about agricultural support, it's not only water. It is agricultural land. And so if we're willing to give up land for housing, because housing seems to be really important, but we're destroying farmland at the same time, that's like cutting off our nose to spite our face. We need to start to look at how do we balance this and do appropriate development where it's not agricultural land and we cherish that and preserve that, but we also have housing and development in those places. So making sure that we don't destroy our agricultural land and water resources as well.

Again, one more thing. The film industry, workforce development, I think we talked more specifically or you spoke more specifically about post-production and some of these things, but a lot of this goes to the workforce for these folks and how do we amplify and invest in programs like IAIA, or the Community College's Film Schools, or whatever hands-on programs with the unions to leverage the internship programs or whatever these programs that exist. Let's make them stronger and more robust so that our kids who want to stay here, see an industry that they can get involved in and have the training for that, and especially film because that's another aspect of that.

Two more things. Pardon me for going on, but you can tell that despite not having caffeine I'm passionate about it. A tool for buying local. At the end of the day we're killing our community by ordering from Amazon, even though Amazon might have created a center down in Albuquerque so it's really convenient, we need to find a way to help our mom and pops and our local businesses compete in this space. So this is a technology opportunity that on the fingertips, that are just as convenient, we need to make it just as convenient for us to order locally as it is to order from Amazon. And to create some sort of app that it becomes our first – this would be one of our bold initiatives here. Create an app that really becomes our number one resource for Santa Fe, whether it's a tourism app so people don't think of it when they're tourists here to go to it to buy locally. They go to it to find the events that are happening this weekend. So it's an arts and cultural app. And that becomes the gateway for people to adopt it, whether it's the margarita trail or whether it's an arts and cultural studio tour thing, but at the same time it could say, but if you're looking for anything here, this app might have it. And it becomes a resource for locals as well as tourists to buy local as much as possible.

I forgot my last one, but I appreciate this. I agree with Commissioner Bustamante that a lot of this – there's pent up demand to have some action items. But I'd like to have this sort of brainstorming of what are these bold moves that we can do to really jump start some major change and economic development here because if we talk about housing affordability, if all we do is have low wage jobs, there's nothing we can do to make things affordable here. So we need to work on economic development so the next generation and all of our kids have a fighting chance to stay here because there are great jobs for them. But thank you very much. I look forward to this and helping deploy the next steps with this and having these big, bold initiatives.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you. I too agree with Commissioner Greene and Bustamante. I feel like I've seen this plan. I've heard about broadband for

eight years and nothing has really happened. And so it's frustrating to me also to hear and see this plan. First of all, value added agriculture. Okay. Horrible description. How about regenerative agriculture? How about some other kind of words? I find value added agriculture just like boring as sin. But we've had this Agri-Gate program also since I've been here, and we still don't have any real basis. Like I think Agri-Gate needs an app, absolutely. That is one way it could really be functional for the community of actually making it work. So regenerative agriculture is a little more modern term, even though it's an old way of doing things.

So I think we need some modernization here and looking at this it's not just taking all the stuff that we've had in the plan for the last eight years or ten years or twenty years and just regurgitating it. Let's have some action items. I agree. Yes, we have to have a plan to get to the next stage, but plans just sit on shelves. That is the biggest problem that I've seen with plans is where's the action?

And then with outdoor education, or outdoor activities, it says partner with other groups. Well, we have the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. That encompasses a good part of northern New Mexico. Since I have sat on that board for the last seven years I have seen it develop and grow. And it is interested in economic development. It is part of Santa Fe County. It does include three counties, but there's somebody right there who is already doing some pretty interesting things at Los Luceros and other places. It just says partner with other organizations, but who and what and when and how? Those are the kinds of questions that I want to see.

Housing. Okay. There are a lot of people doing really innovative things. One of my friends is working with the Hotel Santa Fe who's coming up with a new form of light-weight concrete but not anywhere near as detrimental to the environment that is a way to build housing, who's thinking out of the box. And I would like to see Santa Fe County think out of the box, be a little more – I know it's hard for government to do that, after being here for seven years, but at the same time I would like to see us find these more interesting technologies that are being developed and work with them, because that is what is going to help our children who live here.

The south side has way too many children and not enough schools. And so that is where the population has gone. People don't want to bus their children to Acequia Madre or some of the schools on the east side because the east side has gotten too expensive for any of them to live at. So we need to come up with some smart ideas about education for children, families supporting families, because the more we support these families the more they're going to support us. And I'll not belabor all the other things that have been said but thank you for making an effort to get us a plan. I thought we had a plan when I first came here but it was way too long and way too dense so I like the fact that this is targeted and short and has some measurements and ideas, but a lot of these have been around for a long time.

MR. TORRES: Commissioner Hansen, Mr. Chair, if I may, to contextualize the plan, the plan that's been several years in the making, has undergone several leadership changes, both at the department level and the director level, Manager level, moving from one department to another. It's not to excuse anything other than to explain that when I came on board here about a year ago the first thing I heard was, where's the plan? What's going on with the plan? What's happening with the plan?

In general, I agree with a lot of the comments made. There's not a lot of information in the plan that boldly steps out from the previous plans. It doesn't really identify any innovative concept or ideas. The mandate was to finish this plan and present it to the Board, and not to stop and redo the whole plan, as far as I understood it, unless that was direction that I might have missed. Finish the plan; get it to the Board, and that's what I was attempting to do.

With regard to actions, in the year that I've been here, it's not been dependent on the plan, in terms of not looking for what is the plan say to do? We worked on an innovative, sustainable film project, a pilot project over the summer with Sustainability, with the Film Division, with Economic Development. We funded a consultant. We spent three months developing the framework for a pilot that would support the needs of remote production facilities based on conversations with Netflix, and NBC Universal in terms of what their needs are. We came up with a pilot that had a three-pronged approach and we've been trying to figure out a way to roll this out in some fashion.

We immediately went into partnership with the Outdoor Recreation Conference. We worked with the City to put that on in the September, October frame. Did outreach to those industries, worked with a number of different companies. We've been having continuous meetings from that conference until now, following up on the needs of those individual businesses, identifying area where we can support arts, culture and creative industries by supporting and sponsoring events, identifying the events that are important to the County.

So these are actions that have been taken. They're not in the plan; we've been doing these things. With respect to broadband, we've engaged two complete – one solid attempt at a broadband application for a Connect New Mexico grant, which we came up short because we're technically unable to complete the information. So we're in the process of a very technical, a very difficult challenge process for map on broadband to try to challenge the assertions of certain carriers that say that 95 percent of Santa Fe County is covered. That's what it says. 95 percent of Santa Fe County is covered. We don't need broadband. That's what it says. So we have to spend all of this last 30 days to dispute what seems to be a ridiculous statement. We have to come up with the evidence. We've got a team of people working as much as around the clock for the way we can do this as one of many projects. So actively doing that while having submitted and RFP to get a broadband and a planner on board.

Commissioner Greene speaks about local. So we researched. And I say we, because being a division, a department of people, we researched. There's a solution to the problem. The question is, is it a problem? I didn't know that it was a problem. We found very great – I can roll this out in weeks. Boondocks is the name of the company. They make a solution for buy local. It's a very simple program. It removes us from having to do any interaction with the financial side or the credit card business. It's a very simple program, and it sounds really great. Is there a demand? Is there a need? Looking at the spectrum of needs, while at the same time trying to complete the work of others over a very short period of time.

So I agree that what's represented in the plan is not innovative in and of itself. What I would say is the work that I and Andy and the department has been doing is innovative, and we haven't had an opportunity to roll these things out for you and to

present them in a fashion that will give you the confidence in the strategies that we are following in the areas that have been identified. Again, we've made very solid progress in understanding what the needs are for an Arts Council, and moving forward ahead with getting a consultant to move that project forward, while at the same time again, engaging in activities that support the arts right now.

So I'm a little bit at a loss to say what could we have done better with a three-year-old plan with multiple kind of fathers and mothers if you will, with different directions, shifting and turning, and people wanting to know where's that plan? Well, here it is. Here's the plan. It's not the plan I would have written. It's not the direction I would have gone, but it's complete and it's delivered. And I think there's an opportunity to build on the comments and the responses to both improve this plan, potentially, although I would say that our best bet is to complete this plan and supplement it and do – come up with an innovative, forward-looking document that this body demands, and I'm happy to start work on that process to alleviate any feelings of disappointment that have come from, again, a changing plan that has multiple inputs. At one point it was almost all about the SLDC and the SGMP and codes and things like that. And when I wrote that I want, my god, there is no innovation here. There are no forward-looking things.

So I think we take your comments seriously. Obviously, they're very passionate, very felt and we'll do what we can and look for direction. Do you want us to rewrite this plan to reflect those sentiments or would you prefer that we focus on starting over with a new – let's call it an economic development strategy going forward? It doesn't have to be an economic development strategic plan, but a forward-facing concept paper to guide us in the future.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene first.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. So all support and appreciation for where this has gotten to and I understand this has been something that languished since before I was a Commissioner. So it's great that you've grabbed it and sort of not quite put it to bed, but you can kind of expect that this has languished and it seems similar to the things in the past. Today we passed an interim budget and if we up here are sitting here going, wow, the key to prosperity in this community is not in affordable housing for just a few people; it's in lifting people up to the next generation of jobs and the next opportunities. And that goes through economic development. That doesn't go through affordable housing, although they're somewhat related, but on.

And if a third staff member, or a fourth or a fifth, or a contract that says let's do this again, is something that you would recommend and we think is a priority, we probably would support this. Right? And so this is great. This is a milestone. I certainly don't think that this plan can hold up for ten years, but it's a sort of reiteration of the past, and yet I think there's an opportunity for us to go, hey, wait a second. Let's in a year from now or nine months from now, can we have an action plan? Whether it starts to go to the strategic doing level of things that Lauren has brought to us, or a combination of strategic doing and really aggressive looking at – as she uses as a tool, the asset-based look at our community. The assets and needs. And so it's sort of like a SWAT thing, and say, what are the opportunities that we have? Who are we as community? Whether we're an aging community, we want to cultivate the next generation of kids. We're an arts

community. Those are assets, and then there are other opportunities. We do have a lot of science and technology. We have culture and film and hospitality and tourism. All these things should be how do we take what we've got and what we love and what we cherish and move this on?

I think this is a great start to sort of reiterate what we think. I don't know whether this is something that we say, let's put this one to bed, adopt it, and then invest in the next one immediately. But again, more doing. If that means more staff or whatever you think is right for your department. We are blessed to have enough money to fund a lot of things, especially in the affordable housing spectrum, but again, affordable housing is not the only answer here. Housing affordability is a bigger key than affordable housing, and economic development is a bigger impact than affordable housing. And I think that's probably a more worthy investment in us and probably has less of a cost to us and a bigger bang for the buck.

So all support for this. Love your passion for this too because I've seen you for well over a decade working in this spectrum. Let's get it done. I appreciate this and now, your recommendations, pass this move on, but move on with intention.

MR. TORRES: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, just to address a point, we did request an FTE, did not get that, so we're making the right requests and the recommendations. It's obvious the need is there and the desire to be engaged in a number of different areas, and to the extent that we can do it with what we have currently, we try to do that, try to supplement that with any contractual assistance that we can get as well, but maybe I was inelegant in my request in terms of the specifics of that information and maybe we can do better the next time around to better quantify the need and to qualify how that person might be used.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'm sorry that we didn't respond to that appropriately from our side because we passed a budget just an hour and a half ago, and we probably should have looked at the specifics, because obviously, everyone up here cares about this dearly. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I was going to say exactly what Commissioner Greene was saying with regard to I think this is the next step is strategic doing, to identify your top things that you want to get done, and identify all the players who would help get it done. That really is an opportunity here. And I think there's a lot of folks up here who will tell you exactly what needs to get done, but you can identify your priorities, and I think I would ask, and I was prepared to wait until we call for items from the Commission to direct the Manager to provide some support for strategic doing for economic development, and identifying those projects that would be your highest priority and do-able. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. I found the discussion rather inspiring, but I don't think I need to add anything. Anything else? Thank you very much.

MR. TORRES: Thank you.

8. Matters of Public Concern

CHAIR HUGHES: Do we have Chris and Jeff online?

DANIEL FRESQUEZ (Media Specialist): Mr. Chair, yes. Chris Mechels is online.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Let's give him three minutes.

CHRIS MECHELS (via Webex): Thank you so much for giving the public three minutes. Do we really deserve it? For three hours you were talking to yourselves.

What I want to take up with you today is, first, here's what I find you've taken the public out of your process. The information that in the past, and currently by law should be available to the public is not. For example, this is directly and recent. On your website, once upon a time, on your current website, you have the budget listed. The last budget on the website that's listed is 2016. We didn't change the law; you folks stopped putting the budget up there. You apparently don't want the public to see it.

Second, your sunshine portal, which we're so proud of, going back to 2011-72, has a direct requirement – this is a resolution by the council, a direct requirement that the budget be on the sunshine portal. It is not. Why not? Because you don't want it there. You're got direct laws at the Department of Finance Authority with which you negotiate your public, every year your budget, your interim budget is going to be sent to DFA for their approval. When they send it back as approved, it ought to be, by law, be put – made available to the public through putting it in your minutes. You haven't done that for about five years.

When you finally get your final budget, which the public won't have any input to because you'd rather do that without asking for the input. When you finally get the final DFA approval, you will, by law put that in your minutes. You don't. You basically – you give the public [inaudible] If we're interested in the budget it's nowhere to be seen. You're running a little talk show for yourselves.

Here's an example of other large communities. In Los Alamos, in New Mexico, they actually do this right and sometimes even legally. Los Alamos, Taos, Doña Ana, Bernalillo – none of them hide their budget. You hide yours and you violate laws. You violate state law. You violate the sunshine portal resolution. You took it off your website. Ask yourselves: Why are you doing this? These are laws. The first thing you've got to do if you're going to serve the public is follow public laws, and you have a terrible – you're terrible. You're not doing it.

It's not just this. On some other day maybe I'll take up with you the failings that you have of IPRA. We are in constant violation of the IPRA Act and you folks don't seem to care. All of these areas where the public want to be involved, they aren't and it's because of you. It's not those people you're chastising. Look to yourself. Why are violating the law? Why are you blocking the public out. And look at that. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Okay. And do we have Jeff DeGroot on line as well?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, I do not see Mr. DeGroot online.

CHAIR HUGHES: And do you see anybody else with their hand raised?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, I do not.

CHAIR HUGHES: And no one from the audience? Okay, so much for the public hearing. Thank you.

9. Matters from the County Manager

A. Miscellaneous Updates

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners.

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. I don't have much in the way of additional updates. I do think relative to some of the items that were addressed in the draft economic development plan, that they can appropriately be addressed as part of the capital planning process in terms of where the County makes some of those strategic investments. So I look forward to that dialogue and we'll definitely work with Cindy to ensure that we're continuing to support our Economic Development Department relative to taking this plan and moving it forward into a strategic doing direction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you.

10. Matters from County Commissioners and Other Elected Officials

A. Commissioner Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations

CHAIR HUGHES: Let's start with Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On May 11th I was planning to have Coffee and Tea under the trees but because of the weather being so unpleasant and it will be this weekend, May 18th, from 10:00 to noon at the Reunity Resources community farm. John Dupuis from the City of Santa Fe Water Department will be speaking along with his wife who is the Interstate Stream Director Hannah Riseley-White. She is the Interstate Stream Director and they are doing a series of meetings that are incredibly important about water throughout the state, so I hope that people will attend.

We had a wonderful San Ysidro River Blessing on Sunday, May 12th, on Mother's Day, so happy Mother's Day to everybody, but also San Ysidro's Day is actually really tomorrow, May 15th. But it was done on Sunday because it had gotten moved up. I know that many of you know that I sit also on the Santa Fe River Commission and so we were able to move up the water release and there was water in the river. And everybody was really happy. There was about 200 people there at the River Blessing.

Our Lady, the Virgin Mary showed up, brought by the Caballeros. The priest was there from the San Ysidro Church. The Three Sisters Collective was also there along with all of the community members from the Village of Agua Fria. It was really an amazing group of people celebrating San Ysidro who is the patron saint of farming.

Then earlier that week, Homewise, gave an easement on a piece of land off of Maes Road that connects the Casa Alegre neighborhood to the Los Hermanos Park and because of that it allows for the acequia trail to continue down even further towards Rufina and so that was another celebration, and a young man of seven years old got to cut the ribbon and he did it without any fanfare or ceremony. He just came and cut it. It was

quite nice.

Then on June 1st is Casa Alegre, which is the neighborhood I live in is 75 years old, and we will be having a celebration on the Salazar Green for that neighborhood. It is the first neighborhood that Stamm built in the City of Santa Fe, and many of the houses were built 75 years ago. So that is exciting and that is all I have for today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So a couple things to report. First off, this morning, I was happy to take a tour of some County facilities up in Chimayo in an effort to figure out how to secure a new post office for the Chimayo area. I want to thank Leandro Cordova, Deputy County Manager, for helping lead this and some of the folks from Public Works and some of the folks from Senior Services that have helped coordinate. The post office sent reps from Albuquerque, Denver and Phoenix and it looks like we might get lucky and be able to secure a replacement post office for Chimayo. No promises. It's in their hands but we did a good job on their side to present them with some options

As was mentioned in both the *New Mexican* in this room today, Santa Fe County have been doing a pretty extensive exercise and effort to challenge the broadband planning maps. And so as Juan mentioned a second ago, the current maps show that 95 percent of the county is covered by broadband. That's a perfect furrowed brow there, Commissioner Bustamante. The recorded can't record the furrowed brow but I thought I'd say it out loud, because you know just as well as I know that it's not true. That broadband is not available at 95 percent of the county. So we are taking advantage of a state challenge period and we're putting together challenges to census block groups that are the statistical areas and the mapped areas. There are 113 map areas in the census block areas in Santa Fe County. Probably about 50 percent of them are not under the County's jurisdiction, but about 50 percent of them are and they're in all five of our Commission districts and we need to challenge that so we will be able to get federal money.

As a part of that we put together a public survey for our constituents, and that was reported in the *New Mexican* and we posted it on our website at the County website. We distributed it on Facebook and Next Door and as of earlier this afternoon we had 316 submissions, which considering we thought we would get 20 to 30. 316 is ten times more than what we thought we were going to get. And it is pretty amazing what people will say when you ask them, especially when broadband is the topic. So we're going to be using these survey results as evidence for the challenge maps and for further insight about what areas need better broadband and what solutions and how people are using it. It's pretty insightful. We'll be publishing results in the next few days and hopefully all of you can send out a last call tomorrow to your constituent newsletters to fill this out, today or tomorrow, because on Thursday morning at 8:00 am we are going to stop taking submissions and we're going to publish the results so that we can use it for a Thursday afternoon or Friday set of challenge submissions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. And will you send us the thing to put in our newsletter?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I'll happily do so and Ambra, I bet you're

listening to this right now and can send it out right now.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. Yes, so I really want to say thank you to the planners who are working with the Water Subcommittee out of the La Cienega Valley Association. They have been responsive and there had been concerns. There was \$150,000 – for those on the Commission who may not be aware that had been requested a couple of years ago. They're down to we better use this money to get water planning, and it's very specific to planning.

There had been a large group and somewhat in the spirit of the caller, a lot of movement to get the money without a lot of the community involvement and very specifically, the traditional use entities, the acequias and the mutual domestics, had not been involved in that process, and Santa Fe County's Planning has really stepped up, re-evaluated, what does it really take to get this money used in a manner that helps support the water in that particular area, and acknowledging the voices of the community members who frankly have the senior water rights, which was never a part of the conversation. And I say that quite sensitively. It is a big deal. There have been historic Commissions and historic County staff – when I say historic I don't mean 1800s, I mean just in the early 2000s, who had really made efforts to somewhat acquire water in that area, which would ultimately mean the relinquishment of the senior water rights. And that really came to a head in the last couple of weeks and now seems to be on track with what it would take to assure that those senior water rights are managed in the interest of local food in that area, which is what that water would be used for for those acequias.

As well, I want to – we didn't really get a chance – it wasn't part of the timing, but there was a recent meeting where Commissioner Greene went to the park here in his district where they were going to take trees down and I just wanted to thank the Commissioner publicly for having to leave our meeting but to make his voice heard in the protection of those trees. They are Siberian elms. Siberian elms are problematic and the County's opportunity to acknowledge the importance of trees unless you have an alternative for where we get oxygen, etc. But really that canopy matters in that particular location and people showed that, so I wanted to make sure that I thanked you for that.

As well, Manager Shaffer, I want to thank you for being responsive in helping economic development with some strategic doing. It is a good process and things will move along. So thank you for that.

I am encouraged with what's in front of us with the WPAC and want to thank my fellow Commissioners for your confidence in that area as we move forward. It's something that feels like a big bit but it won't be a hard chew.

And then the other – the last – I have been asked – so the La Cienega Valley Association, every other month they have a community breakfast and this was the second meeting where they had a request for support from the City of Santa Fe to support some funds to repair their wastewater treatment facility. And then I was asked to please move forward and direct the County Manager to engage in conversations with the City of Santa Fe officially, in the interest of doing joint wastewater treatment. So that came from that meeting with the community members. We had a discussion of well, why wouldn't we? And the answer is well, we haven't gotten there. So the next step is a formal request for you to please – a request to the City for you to please engage with the City of Santa Fe in

this interest so we can see how and where it will go.

There is hope and there had been stated support on the Council a couple of months ago at one of their meetings. They were very clear that we should work together and in light of that, as things don't go necessarily as smoothly as they can, we just appreciate the start on the conversation and see how we can repair that problem because we are currently exceeding the *E. coli* levels on a daily basis. Not we are. We are receiving the exceeded *E. coli* levels downstream from the wastewater treatment facility, which is very problematic for the residents in that area who feel that they've just been slighted all the way around.

The good news is the PFAS issue is becoming more understandable by the community. Community leadership has taken their time to get fliers and I'm very much grateful to Shelly for taking the time to make fliers available, sending them to them so they can make their own copies, and then they're meeting to show people how they can apply for the money for support and remediation if they need the remediation of their well, filtration, basically, is all it would be.

So there's a lot of action there but the PFAS is less of the concern. There's continued conversation about the – I won't say it's less. It's more of an understanding. It's still a very large concern. But the *E. coli* and the wastewater treatment facility and how we're going to move forward as a County keeps that community hopeful.

And then lastly, Galisteo has a request – and I don't know if this is something that would have to be approved by the Commission or if it's something that the County can take action on but in the interest of just putting it out there now instead of waiting, Galisteo has – Representative McQueen is acquiring signage that says Entering the Historic Village of Galisteo, or something comparable to that, and they have a couple of locations identified. One of the locations is actually owned by the Galisteo Community Association and the signage would have to be on public lands. So the request – it's a very small plot where they'd like to put it, but ultimately they're requesting that the County would lease that land or buy it for a dollar – whatever. It's not even an acre. It's a tiny little piece. It's a corner as you're coming in from the southwester side of sorts. That we would enter into an agreement so that the sign letting people know that they are entering the historic village would be able to be placed along that roadway. So that will be – I don't know if we need to have an official – if this needs to be brought to us and if it does –

MANAGER SHAFFER: We can look into it, Commissioner, to see what actually is on offer and come back to the Board as appropriate.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much. That's all I have. Thanks.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you. I suspect – I wanted to see about the request to talk to the City about a joint wastewater pursuit. I think that also has to come from the full Board. I think it's a great idea but to give direction to actually talk to the City, we actually have to discuss that. And so it would be – I think it would be helpful to know – you and I chatted and I know like City Utilities, some people have talked about it. So there's a lot of talk about it, but maybe if we made an effort to formalize that into a resolution that actually brought the information about status, just so

that it was a little more clear. I think it would be helpful. And I'm happy to work with you on that.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I appreciate any direction. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: But it was a good thing to bring up because it's starting to bubble closer to the surface and whatever. And no pun intended on any count.

And I'm going to do Coffee with the Commish in the middle of June on Wednesday, but it's one of the two middle weeks. I think it depends on when we can get Hondo Station #2, and so the District 4 liaison, Tina Salazar will be sending out the actual date to everybody. And I look forward to actually for a change seeing everybody in person. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. From District 5, I just wanted to mention that several events that are coming up. On May 23rd we're having a meeting with Valle Vista community to discuss their trash option on land that has been littered. On June 1st, on a more hopeful note, we're having the grand opening of the Nicholas Sanchez Park, and that's in the Carlson district, a very popular park. Anybody who wants to come is invited. That's 11:00 on June 1st. And then finally, June 6th would be Hour with Hank and I'll see what issues people want to bring to me. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Mr. Chair, if I might. One of the initiatives – I know we have NACo coming up and I don't know who's going to NACo, but I plan on going to NACo. At last year's NACo I spoke to our EPA administrator and he very specifically said please bring the regional City-County project to them and it is eligible for much more money if we do it as a partnership than what the City would have available on their own. And I don't know if the City actually understands that or cares, but let's go make that much more obvious to them, to know that there's – I think it's like three times more money if it's considered a regional project as opposed to a municipal project. So if there's any way that we can reach out to the EPA to sort of get some of that stuff so that we can start to make the pitch to them and maybe go to NACo prepared with something. We might expedite this process.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I am going to NACo and I agree with that pursuit. But I also want to comment that there is E. coli on the other side of the wastewater plant. It is not just on the downstream side. So it is clearly a problem for a good portion of the Santa Fe River. But I agree with you also on the fact that there is a lot more money to do a wastewater plant when it is a regional effort.

10. B. Elected Officials' Issues and Comments, Including but not Limited to Constituent Concerns, Recognitions and Requests for Updates or Future Presentations

CHAIR HUGHES: Do we have any other elected officials who are online or in the room for matters for us? No.

11. Matters from the County Attorney

A. Executive Session. Limited Personnel Matters, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978; Board Deliberations in Administrative Adjudicatory Proceedings, Including Those on the Agenda Tonight for Public Hearing, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978; Discussion of Bargaining Strategy Preliminary to Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between the Board of County Commissioners and Collective Bargaining Units, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(5); Discussion of Contents of Competitive Sealed Proposals Pursuant to the Procurement Code During Contract Negotiations as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(6); Threatened or Pending Litigation in which Santa Fe County is or May Become a Participant, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1 (H)(7) NMSA 1978; and, Discussion of the Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property or Water Rights, as Allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, including:

- 1. Board of County Commissioners for the County for *Santa Fe v. Turquoise Trail Community Association, Inc., et al.*, First Judicial District Court, Santa Fe County, Case No. D-101-CV-2023-01243**
- 2) Acquisition of Real Property for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System**

CHAIR HUGHES: Attorney Young, do you want to give us the update?

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners. I'd ask that we go into executive session this afternoon to discuss threatened or pending litigation in which Santa Fe County is or may become a participant, as allowed by Section 10-15-1 (H)(7) NMSA 1978; and discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights, as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, specifically including number one, Board of County Commissioners for the County for *Santa Fe v. Turquoise Trail Community Association*. It's in the First Judicial District Court, and the Case Number is D-101-CV-2023-01243: and secondly, acquisition of real property for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move that we go into executive session to discuss the matters just presented by the County Attorney.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'll second that.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, we need a roll call.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair, may I ask, would it be appropriate, since we don't have any further matters after the meeting to adjourn the meeting after that?

CHAIR HUGHES: Good point.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I can include that in my motion.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It's a friendly amendment on my part too.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay.

The motion to go into executive session passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows:


Commissioner Bustamante	Aye
Commissioner Greene	Aye
Commissioner Hamilton	Aye
Commissioner Hughes	Aye
Commissioner Hansen	Aye

[The Commission met in executive session at 5:16.]

12. **Concluding Business**
A. Announcements
B. Adjournment

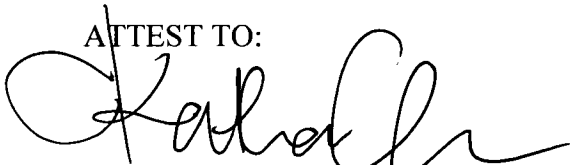
Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this body, Chair Hughes declared this meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Approved by:

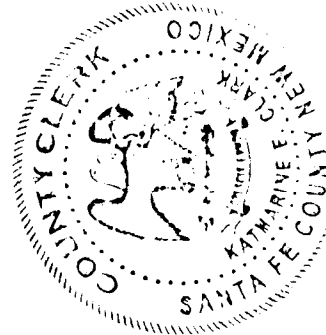


Hank Hughes, Chair
Board of County Commissioners


ATTEST TO:



KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK



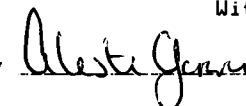
Respectfully submitted:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork
453 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501

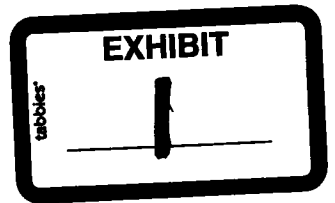
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 49

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of June, 2024 at 09:50:37 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2035731
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 06/14/2024



DEPARTMENTS	INTERIM FY25 BUDGET REQUESTS
County Manager Department	\$ 31,877,969
Adult Detention Center	24,181,287
RECC	5,336,848
Fire Department	23,781,866
Public Safety Administration	1,887,174
Community Services Department	21,630,660
Community Development Department	11,812,566
Growth Management Department	8,212,099
Public Works Department	24,581,756
Utilities Enterprise	10,679,667
Housing Enterprise	1,491,267
Self Insurance	11,714,438
SFC Assessor	5,287,183
SFC Clerk	4,976,046
SFC Probate	45,615
SFC Sheriff	17,796,865
SFC Treasurer	1,732,467
Capital Outlay	24,877,565
Debt Service	26,878,853
Transfer Out	79,425,383
NCRTD	9,069,821
Total Expenditures	\$ 347,277,395

* New FTE and proposed reclassifications included in Department's budget request.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 06/14/2024