



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
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SANTA FE COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EMERGENCY MEETING

June 22, 2010

Harry Montoya, Chair – District 1

Kathy Holian – District 4

Liz Stefanics – District 5

Virginia Vigil – District 2

Michael Anaya – District 3

**Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners
County Commission Chambers
County Administration Building**

EMERGENCY MEETING

June 22, 2010 at 1:00pm

Please turn off Cellular Phones during the meeting.

Agenda

- I. Call To Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval Of Agenda**
- IV. Matters From The County Attorney**
 - 1. Executive Session**
Limited Personnel Issues – County Manager’s Employment Contract
 - 2. Discussion of County Manager’s Resignation**
 - 3. Appointment of Interim County Manager**
- V. Adjournment**

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SANTA FE COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 22, 2010

This special emergency meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. by Chair Harry Montoya, in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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

Members Present:

- Commissioner, Harry Montoya, Chair
- Commissioner Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair [late arrival]
- Commissioner Kathy Holian [late arrival]
- Commissioner Liz Stefanics
- Commissioner Mike Anaya

Members Excused:

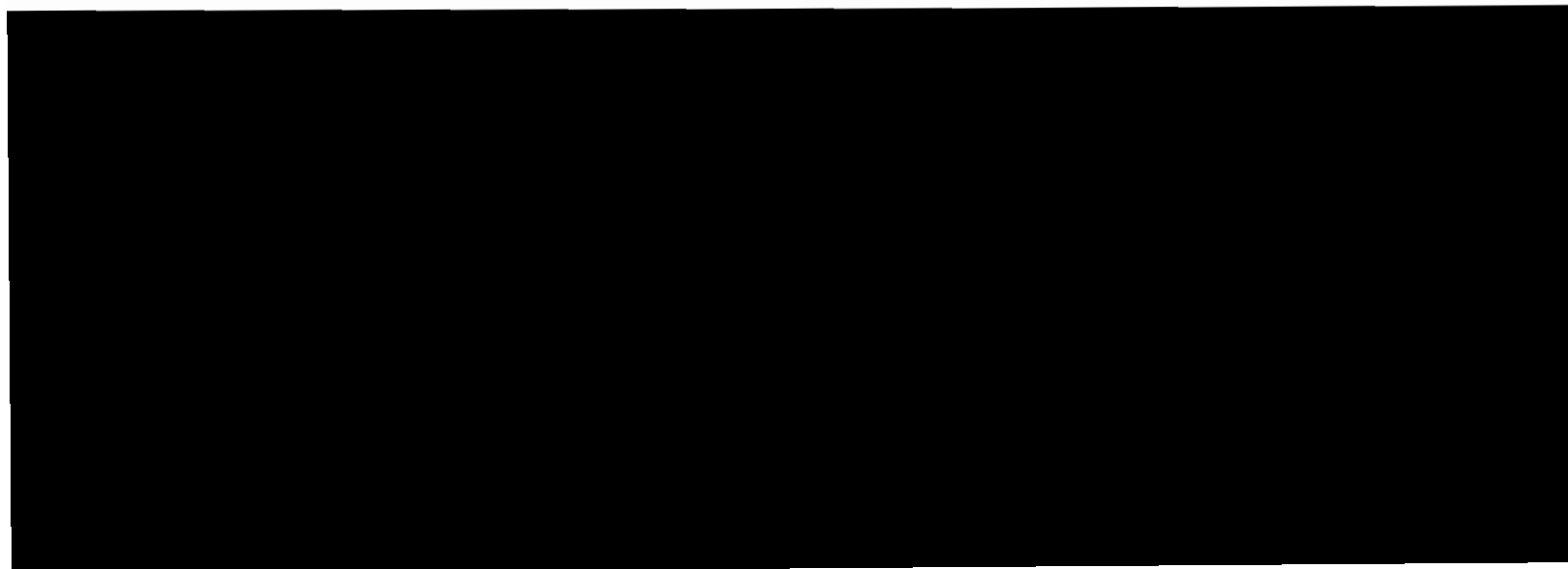
[None]

III. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Stefanics seconded. The motion passed by 3-0 vote. [Commissioners Holian and Vigil were not present for this action, arriving shortly thereafter.]

COMMISSIONER STEFANICS: Mr. Chair, I guess I should have amended the agenda. I wanted to ask if our County Manager wanted to say a few words for the audience before we end up going into a lot of private meetings or anything.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Good. Let's go ahead and do that.



ROMAN ABEYTA (County Manager): Mr. Chair, I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart and thank you to my staff. This is a really tough decision for me but I can't do it anymore. Like I said in the paper, I've been here 19 years. I started at the bottom; I worked my way up to the top and I love it. I love the County. I love the employees, but I've reached a point in my life where my family can't take it. It's a tough job. And I knew it taking it and I accepted that, but I had the energy and I had the drive and the passion to do what I had to do, and I can't – I won't be able to handle another problem if it comes up.

I'm reminded of the story of the guy that has coins in his pocket; he just doesn't know how many coins he has. Every time an issue comes up, I spend a coin. And then I spend another coin, and I think I'm running out of coins. But I love you guys. I really do, all five of you. And I love you guys, the staff, especially. I love all the department directors and I love the guys at the bottom, and the County's going to be fine, because you guys are all incredible with what you do. I wouldn't have had the successes and I wouldn't have been as successful as I've been if it wasn't for the staff and if it wasn't for the County in general, because since I walked in the door as an 18-year old, not knowing anything, the County has always been good to me. Benjie Montaño for hiring me, Gilbert Chavez and Linda Grill for putting me in Land Use and Commissioners Campos and Sullivan and Anaya and Montoya and Vigil for making me County Manager. It's been a pleasure, and this has been the toughest decision I've ever had to make, but I think it's time. It's time for a change.

Again, I will forever be grateful to all of you. I love you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Thank you. Commissioner Stefanics.

COMMISSIONER STEFANICS: Thank you. And Roman, thank you very much. As I said to you privately, I do believe that whatever you choose to do you'll be a success at, and I know that you have had a great working relationship with most of the County staff and I know that there's always a void when a leader moves on. And I ask that the County staff respect the decision of the County Manager and support him and his changes, and thank you, Commissioner Vigil for sending out the email to everyone that you did, regarding our County Manager. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Commissioner Holian.

COMMISSIONER HOLIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Roman, I count myself truly fortunate that you were the County Manager when I came into office. I just so appreciate how you helped me grow in this job. I appreciate your knowledge, your hard work and I am just seeing how you can bring so many people together, so many different people and different points of view and so on. It's truly a remarkable talent, and I just can't speak highly enough of your dedication, your knowledge, your ability, and I'm truly going to miss you very, very much.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Commissioner Anaya.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Roman, thank you for everything that you did to help me out in District 3. I know you worked hard and I know your job wasn't easy. And good luck in whatever you come across and whatever you do, and take care of your family.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Commissioner Vigil.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, Roman, I don't even know where to begin. First of all I want to make a statement that this void is not only huge it's probably the largest void that Santa Fe County will ever experience. I just don't know of anyone in the County who has the institutional memory and the institutional experience that you have that has been able to move us forward in the directions that we're taking now, which are huge, huge. You're a wonderful man, you're a wonderful father and an exemplary manager.

I feel bad because I do not believe that managers or anybody in the County should exit in a manner that we had to see your exit occur. I do respect your decision and I recognize that it's a personal decision and I honor it. I have no choice. I would love to be able to rope you back in somehow but I know you do have a wonderful future no matter what you choose to do. You have been the best possible manager that I have ever worked under and you will have huge shoes to fill. There's nobody that's going to bring the package that you came to us with. And so with that, I can only say thank you so very much for all the support you provided for each and every one of us, each and every one of the County employees. I'm particularly, particularly impressed with the leadership and the leadership training that you provided and how you incorporated that and applied it to County government, which is huge. I think you've even written a book about it. I'm not even sure. Is that correct?

What success that is. That's phenomenal. Please continue on the path of success and making the choices you have to make your life better for you and your loved ones, and the best, best of luck to you.

CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Roman, I just want to echo what everyone has said. When I first met you I was on the CDRC, back in 94, 95, 96. I knew then that the leadership that you provided at that time was invaluable. When I came on as a Commissioner and went through a couple of years and then saw what you were doing while you were here – I was going through my first couple of years trying to figure out what was going on, you were very helpful. I think we saw the potential that you had to lead this County. What you have done in the last 3 ½, 4 years for this County, in my opinion, is unmatched. I don't think that everything that has gotten done and accomplished under your leadership would have ever happened without you leading the ship.

So I really wish you well. If there's anything that I can ever do. You certainly made me, you made this Commission look good in terms of the work that was accomplished and the feats that we were able to complete under your leadership. So I wish you the very best. God bless you. God bless your family and we will be in touch.

IV. Matters from the County Attorney

A. Executive Session

1. Limited Personnel Issues – County Manager's Employment Contract

MR. ROSS: Mr. Chair, we have a closed executive session. Number one on the list here, if you desire to go in there and talk about the County Manager's contract.

Commissioner Stefanics moved to go into executive session pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1-H (2) to discuss the matter delineated above. Commissioner Holian seconded the motion, which passed upon unanimous roll call vote with Commissioners Anaya, Holian, Stefanics, Vigil and Montoya all voting in the affirmative.

[The Commission met in executive session from 1:14 to 2:04.]

Commissioner Stefanics moved to come out of executive session having discussed only the matter outlined in the agenda, and Commissioner Holian seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

**IV. B. Discussion of County Manager's Resignation
C. Appointment of Interim County Manager**

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Commissioner Vigil.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Thank you. I move that we reluctantly accept the resignation of Roman Abeyta, effective July 2nd. In my motion I include that we provide a six-week severance package pay, that's in addition to any pay that is owed him, and that we appoint Steve Ross as the interim County Manager through July 4th, at which time he is leaving on vacation, and we appoint Penny Ellis-Green July 5th, at which time she will be returning from vacation, and that Penny Ellis-Green be our interim County Manager until a replacement is found.

COMMISSIONER HOLIAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: We have a motion by Commissioner Vigil, second by Commissioner Holian. Discussion?

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

CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Then I just want to describe what the process is going to be now that we have a vacancy for the County Manager position. I think first and foremost it's important that we look at someone that has local government experience. Certainly state government, federal government is a lot different than local government where we have to deal with jails and we have to deal with roads and have to deal with youth detention facilities, not necessarily things that are covered under different types of government. So certainly local government experience is going to be critical.

Public Administration experience is going to be something that we're going to consider. We would ideally like to have someone with an advanced degree. That would be preferable if we could get that. And first and last and certainly not least is a good

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communicator. We feel that someone in this position needs to be able to communicate well along a lot of different lines amongst a lot of different people, and certainly we see that as being critical in terms of an individual who has characteristics.

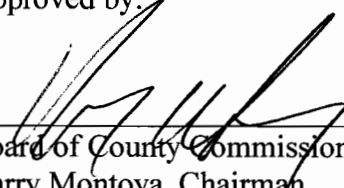
We're looking at June 29th, accepting applications until that date. We are asking that anyone that may be interested contact Rachel Brown. Rachel's number is 986-6326. June 29th we will be having our meeting. As part of our meeting we will be screening the applicants. We're hoping that we'll be able to interview people that first week in July and have someone appointed no later than July 22nd. So that's our timeline in terms of what we're looking at for replacing our County Manager and filling that position.

Any other comments?

V Adjournment

Chairman Montoya declared this meeting adjourned at 2:08.


Approved by:


Board of County Commissioners
Harry Montoya, Chairman

ATTEST TO:


VALERIE ESPINOZA
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork
227 E. Palace Avenue
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