

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

October 8, 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

SANTA FE COUNTY

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October 8, 2024

1. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 2:03 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 Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Wilson 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. He 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." The Moment of Reflection was led by Gabriel Bustos of the County Manager's Office.

Commissioner Hansen requested a moment of silence for those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/13/2024

G. Approval of Agenda

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

GREG SHAFFER (County Manager): Mr. Chair, Commissioners, there are no recommended changes to the agenda as presented from staff. I would just note that the initial agenda for today's meeting was posted on Tuesday, October 1st, and the amended agenda was posted on Friday, October 4th, more than 72 hours before today's meeting as required by the Open Meetings Act. And the substantive changes between the two agenda were to add item 3. B and item 6. G to the amended agenda. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Motion to approve as presented.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

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

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Request Approval of the September 5, 2024, Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

CHAIR HUGHES: Are there any changes from the Board?

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

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

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

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

B. Request Approval of the September 10, 2024, Board of County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

CHAIR HUGHES: Any changes? Does someone want to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I move to approve the September 10, 2024.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

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

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

3. Consideration Proclamations, Resolutions, and/or Recognitions

A. Request Approval of a Proclamation Proclaiming October 7-11, as

“Customer Service Week”

CHAIR HUGHES: This is Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you, Commissioners and Chair Hughes and fellow Commissioners. Especially thank you to Santa Fe County staff and everyone who’s been working on customer service. I see that our Assessor’s Office is in the house and that is an absolute excellent example of leadership in customer service, and we have all been working and striving towards better customer services Countywide. So grateful for all of the people who’ve stepped in to staff the kiosk at the main building, making sure that we’re responsive to our constituents and those people who were set up to serve.

County government exists because we’re here to begin service of individuals in the county and I am so grateful for the work that’s been done. I’ve asked for Chair Hughes to make sure that we all have a line to read in this proclamation so, Chair, thank you for organizing that.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. I guess we’ll read the proclamation starting with Commissioner Greene going this way and then go back to him till we get it all done. Go ahead, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you, Commissioner Bustamante. Santa Fe County Proclamation proclaiming the week of October 7th to 11th as Customer Service Week. Introduced by Commissioner Camilla Bustamante.

Whereas, Customer Service Week is an international celebration of the importance of customer service and of the people who serve and support customers daily; and

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Whereas, in 1992, the United States Congress proclaimed National Customer Service Week to be recognized as an annual event celebrated during the first full week in October; and

CHAIR HUGHES: Whereas, this year's National Customer Service Week theme is “Above and Beyond” to recognize those in the service industry who prioritize the experience of their customers and are boundless in their support; and

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Whereas, customer service in local government is critical for connecting people with services, building trust with residents, helping business representatives navigate complex processes, addressing unique challenges, and creating positive experiences with government agencies; and

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners believes that mutual respect, integrity, empathy, and innovation are necessary to provide consistently positive customer service and recognizes that customer service is the responsibility of everyone at all levels of Santa Fe County’s organization; and

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Whereas, excellent customer service requires an inclusive culture where diversity is valued, all constituents are welcomed, and equitable access to services is provided; and

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Whereas, the Board desires to express its appreciation for the excellent services provided by Santa Fe County employees; and

CHAIR HUGHES: Whereas, in January 2024, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-001, which confirmed the County's commitment to customer service as reflected in its strategic plan and set forth a customer service initiative to deliver the highest level of customer service; and

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Whereas, the County Manager's Office, in partnership with Human Resources, established the Customer Service Task Force, a group of staff members who exemplify top-notch customer service, to develop key goals and actions to help staff across the County achieve excellence and foster a stronger service culture for our community; and

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Whereas, the task force defines customer service as providing solutions for and information to our customers through positive and respectful interactions; and

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Whereas, staff takes full responsibility for serving our customers from the first contact to the complete resolution of their needs; and

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Whereas, staff from across the County have been instrumental in the development of a customer service center at the County Administrative Complex, devoting their time, expertise, and creativity to improving customer service; and

CHAIR HUGHES: Whereas, many staff have undergone customer service boot camp, leadership power skills, and other training that focus on elevating the customer experience and developing employee tool kits for accountability and professional growth; and

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Whereas, staff have developed a customer service campaign with stickers, banners, and videos to help create a culture of recognition, pride, and professionalism; and

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Whereas, with this initiative underway, the County joins the thousands of governmental entities worldwide, representing public servants who routinely demonstrate their commitment to providing excellent customer service to constituents day-in and day-out. Commissioner Bustamante, do you want to finish it out?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7-11, as: "Customer Service Week". Approved, adopted, and passed on this 8th day of October 2024.

CHAIR HUGHES: All right. That's assuming we actually pass it.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: That's assuming.

CHAIR HUGHES: Would you like to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I would like to make a motion that we approve, adopt and pass on this 8th day of October the Customer Service Week Proclamation.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Second.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Second.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It was a photo finish.

CHAIR HUGHES: I heard Commissioner Hansen's second first.

Okay, Commissioner Bustamante made the motion; Commissioner Hansen seconded and Commissioner Greene third and Commissioner Hamilton fourth.

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

3. B. Request Approval of Letter from the Board of County Commissioners to the National Nuclear Security Administration and Forest Service Objecting to the Los Alamos National Laboratory Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project Final EA and Draft DN/FONSI and Associated Plan Amendment to the Santa Fe National Forest's Land Management Plan Assessment

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. So we have – the reason we're writing this letter is, one, we have standing because we made objections in the beginning of the year, so we are able to again make comments to the finding of no significant impact which, in my letter, in our letter, we do not agree with that, and there are many issues at hand, not the least is that our pueblo brothers and sisters are in support of the protection of the Caja del Rio and believe that it is an integral part of their cultural heritage and that without it, it could really harm their culture.

And so because they are located in our county and because the Caja del Rio is located in my district, Commissioner Bustamante's district and part of Commissioner Greene's district, we feel strongly that it's important that object to the scoping or the finding of no significant impact. There was inadequate consultation with stakeholders. The federal government is ordered to stop, look and listen. The pueblos feel that they have not been listened to and they did not actually have a consultation with the Board of County Commissioners. Consultation means the process of seeking, discussing and considering the views of other participants and where feasible, seeking agreements with them regarding matters arising in the Section 106 process.

Neither NNSA nor the Forest Service has discussed or consulted with Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners regarding this project. The consultation process with pueblos also appears to have been minimized. However, no tribes, apparently have agreed to an MOA with NNSA or the Forest Service regarding this project to date. Just to be clear, the finding of no significant impact states that there will be an MOA provided. In fact we understand that the Pueblo of Tesuque has unequivocally rejected the draft decision and has called upon the Forest Service to immediately rescind this notice as the preservation of the entire Caja del Rio cultural landscape is necessary for the Pueblo of Tesuque cultural survival.

The main issue is that the Pueblo of Tesuque requests for a tribally led ethnographic study to comply with NEPA and NPSA sections 6 and 106, and we also

support that. We also support an environmental impact statement. In 2022 the Forest Service designated the Caja as a special management area in its 2022 Santa Fe National Forest Land Management Plan. So the Caja del Rio cultural and wildlife special management area, and in their plan it requires the project to propose to maximize use of existing utility line corridors for additional utility line needs, and expressly prohibits a new utility corridor.

Also, the Caja del Rio is sacred to many pueblos and traditional communities. It also explains and considers additional alternatives. Well, they are supposed to explain and consider additional alternatives and conservation methods and the executive summary states electrical power supply forecast projects that the existing transmission line that serves LANL and Los Alamos County will reach its capacity before 2027, and DOE and NNSA will not have the electrical power supply to meet its mission requirements, given that DOE is a federal agency in charge of energy conservation the question remains as to what steps has LANL taken to implement conservation measures as an alternative to the EPCU project.

If reasonable alternatives exist, NEPA and NHPA require agencies to rigorously explore the objectives evaluated by them. It doesn't state in here but last year, Los Alamos County made an agreement with Foxtail Flats for a huge amount of renewable energy that will be coming into LANL and that was not considered in this finding of significant impact.

So in conclusion, we call upon NNSA and the Forest Service to withdraw this FONSI and the Forest Service should conduct further analysis through an environmental impact statement as required by NEPA and genuinely collaborate with effective stakeholders, including Santa Fe County and pueblo governments to conduct a comprehensive tribally led ethnographic study and explore alternative solutions.

We all know that LANL is a major employer. It has a major super-computer that is necessary for diversification, but one of the most important things also about this lawsuit is that just recently, Nuke Watch and Savannah River won a lawsuit against NNSA for not completing an environmental impact statement in regards to pit production and not following the NEPA rules. And this is the same issue that we are facing right here is they are not – they have not met or faced the NEPA rules that they are under, that NNSA is under. And so there is now precedent for this type of lawsuit to go forward if necessary.

What we are all hoping is that the Forest Service and NNSA will work on finding alternative routes for this major power line and that it does not have to go across the Caja del Rio. And if they do not have sufficient power or electrical power that they suspend pit production, because that is also one of the main supporters. I would support the super-computer over pit production. Those are just my personal comments, but with that I would be grateful and request approval of this letter from the Board of County Commissioners to the National Nuclear Security Administration and Forest Service objection to the Los Alamos National Laboratory electrical power capacity upgrade and project final EA and draft DN/FONSI and associated plan amendment to the Santa Fe National Forest land management plan assessment.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I would second but would have some discussion.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes. Commissioner Bustamante, do you want to make comments?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. All things being equal in the natural environment, this is not – we're talking about the Caja del Rio that has both spiritual, ethnographic, cultural, societal value to both our tribal and our Hispanic, which are now to so many culturally intertwined that those of mixed blood recognize the sacredness of this particular location. And not taking this land and the cultural and societal context into account while putting a power line, which is not a location that would be appropriate for something sacred. Again, it is not equal to any particular location. It is of a different value of locations. It is absolutely not appropriate to not take those considerations into account.

That being said, there has been also other discussions about alternatives that just aren't being considered. They're not going to be placed in or it would be expensive to actually bringing in this line. So there are other ways of taking care of that need. I have had a number of conversations from people who've said, look, the laboratory brings a lot of jobs. I think we're all grateful for the jobs. I think people's lives in that respect have been beneficially impacted. But this is another one of those cases similar to the types of things that happen when people work in a nuclear facility and have shortened life spans because of exposures. Whatever the case may be, and if someone says that doesn't happen I will say that that happened in my family. Through a dose reconstruction we lost my dad at 56 years old. I'm grateful. We were raised well. We had everything we needed to eat.

But when we look at the different factors and variables that need to be brought into consideration when putting a power line through what is otherwise recognized by at least the native puebloan cultures and those that I will refer to as chicanismo, chicano, chicana, that this is sacred land. We have alternatives. There are other ways to do this. I couldn't be in more support of finding an alternative to taking a power line and putting a scar on something that is not equal to just any other physical location. So thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns on this and everything is interconnected, and it does have its intrinsic value. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you, Commissioner Hansen, for bringing this to our attention and preparing this letter. My first comment is nobody likes a bully. Right? LANL has the strength to push this through. The NNSA has the strength to push this through without very much consultation and can bully the NEPA process and really avoid all these requirements. But they shouldn't. Right? They're a partner of ours and a neighbor of ours and part of our community. As Commissioner Bustamante mentioned, we are appreciative of their jobs for the most part. We also want them to be a collaborative partner on all dimensions of everything.

And so they're sort of caught in a Catch-22. They've been told that they cannot lobby us in any way, shape or form, and I think that is wrong. I think that in this case, the other laws out here, like this consultation portion of this assessment needs to then have them sit down with us and give a presentation before the Board of County Commissioners, or ask for some special community-wide meeting that can really address this and educate us as to all the different solutions that were considered, and why this was

the only one and the natural one.

And so I wish that they were consulting with our pueblo friends. My district has four and a fraction – four entire pueblos and a fraction, and all of them consider this land sacred to them. I wish – anyway. I do like this letter. I think it states pretty well the consideration. I hope that we can work with them to find an alternative. I've been made aware of an alternative that already has been desecrated by utilities, albeit water for the Buckman project, but nonetheless, we need to work on the better solutions out here.

I also wonder – I don't know the capacity of our pueblo friends to file a lawsuit but I wonder if our Legal Department can step in and find a way to ask and support our pueblo friends in their desire to at least have this pulled back and studied more comprehensively. If they can convince with us and consult with us and "us" I use royally for everybody in the community and all the stakeholders, if they can convince all of us that this is the right thing, so be it. But at this point the lack of consultation and the lack of sit-down, one by one, with each of us, by the NNSA, shows a lack of consideration for our community.

So I am in support of this letter and wish that they were consulting all of us and doing a better job at discussing the alternatives and making sure that they were listening to us.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So, Mr. Chair, so I have invited Ted Wyka, the manager for the Los Alamos Field Office for NNSA to please come to our Board of County Commissioners. I don't know if we have heard back from him yet. Sara's shaking her head no, which I asked him either to come this meeting or the meeting at the end of the month. I will reach out to him again because I do feel that it is really important that they come here and talk to us. I would have liked to have had more discussion with them. I want Commissioner Bustamante to know that right up in the beginning, we do include the puebloan and traditional Hispano communities right at the beginning. I know I didn't cover that but thank you for covering that because I want people to know that we are not just talking. This letter about the pueblo communities because we know the traditional Hispanic communities have a strong connection to the Caja del Rio also.

Our code, even though because they're a federal agency are not covered and not under our code, it does require any new power line to be put underground. So our code says the power line has to be underground. That would be – has to be. Except for places where it's [inaudible] and like it might not be possible. But since they're federal agencies – and also I do believe that having – putting it underground would even be more disturbing to the Caja del Rio than having a power line because tribal nations have expressed to me that they consider the land above and below the ground as also sacred. So it's a complicated thing but we don't have jurisdiction over federal lands. We can request things of them and I think that it is incumbent upon NNSA, BLM, the Forest Service, to be good stewards and work with us. And I am grateful and honored to have the support of this Commission on this important issue.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you. I know I shouldn't belabor this since we all seem to be with different thoughts on what seems to be egregious. We all seem to be on the same page. But NEPA is a really valuable instrument because it affords the opportunity to evaluate what trade-offs are when implementing large projects like

this. Fifty years ago when I started, when NEPA was just two years old we started working and doing studies on NEPA, nobody knew how to either effectively handle the kind of public outreach to do the consultations that were envisioned, or how to handle evaluating trade-offs that are apples and oranges trade-offs to the people doing the project.

In this case, it's a federal project so it impacts taxpayers. The economic pros and cons are easy to evaluate. Sacred land is difficult to place a value on in a way that lets you compare that trade-off. So after 50 years we still do such – it seems so difficult and we still do such a poor job of that. But to have had inadequate consultation in the first place, I find incredibly disappointing because that is supposed to be like the cornerstone of having real community development and finding the best alternative.

So after you make comments enough and enough time goes by, now it becomes an urgent matter to them, and I hope that's not used as an excuse. Like I can sympathize but I think it's so important for something like this to fulfill the spirit of what the law was asking for and to try and achieve that community relationship building and figure out alternatives. So thank you very much for bringing this forward.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: I have comments.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Oh. Go ahead, please.

CHAIR HUGHES: Not very many, but I think this is very important, and it's so easy to put things across open space and yet open space is so important, and this space is so important. And so I fully support this letter. I hope that we can figure out a legal way because that's probably the only way we're going to stop it is judge. I don't know. Anyway, I support this, and now, Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So we're not quite at the stage where we could file a lawsuit yet, in the process of NEPA, but we can make these comments. But I just want to close on the one thing that former Governor Mitchell said to me. How would you like a power line through the basilica? And that's kind of how they feel about this. So I'll close on that comment.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Have you already made a motion?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I did. I made a motion.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Hansen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bustamante.

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

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Request (1) Approval of Addendum No. 7 to Agreement No. 2020-0056-FIN/BT Between Santa Fe County and Immix Technology, Inc. for the Workforce Dimensions and Telestaff Enterprise Software, Increasing Compensation by \$142,385.38, for a Total Contract Sum of \$908,946.94, Inclusive of NM GRT, and Extending the Term of the Agreement to September 27, 2025, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order (Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor and Finance Division/Yvonne S.**

- Herrera)
- B. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 8 to Agreement No. 2019-0079-AO/KQ with Master's Touch, LLC., Increasing the Compensation by \$76,143.66 for a Total Contract Sum of \$542,271.46, Exclusive of NM GRT, and Extending the Term of the Agreement to October 23, 2025, and (2) Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s). (Purchasing Division/Bill Taylor and County Assessor's Office/Isaiah F. Romero)**
 - C. **Resolution No. 2024-126, a Resolution Requesting a Budget Increase to the Corrections Operations Fund (247) in the Amount of \$250,000 (Finance Division/Yvonne S. Herrera and Public Safety Department/Derek Williams)**
 - D. Resolution No. 2024-___, a Resolution Rescinding Resolution No. 2024-90, Granting the County Manager Authority to Negotiate and Execute a Lease of the Bennie J. Chavez Senior Center on Behalf of Santa Fe County with the United States Postal Service to Provide a Location for a Post Office for the Residents of Chimayo and Northern Santa Fe County. (Public Works Department/Michele Caskey) **ISOLATED FOR DISCUSSION**
 - E. **Resolution No. 2024-127, a Resolution Delegating Authority to the County Manager to Sign Amendment No. 1 to Lease Agreement No. 2023-0234-PW/BT Between Santa Fe County and Paul Thompson & Associates, Inc. dba Santa Fe Valet, and to Approve and Sign Any Subsequent Amendments or Changes to Amendment No. 1 That May Be Required by the State Board of Finance (Public Works Department/Michele Caskey)**

CHAIR HUGHES: Are there any items on the Consent Agenda that people want to remove and discuss? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to remove item D, please.

CHAIR HUGHES: Item D. Okay. Any other items off the agenda?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: No, Mr. Chair. I'd move to approve the Consent Agenda with D removed.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Motion by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton for A, B, C and E.

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

- 4. D. **Resolution No. 2024-128, a Resolution Rescinding Resolution No. 2024-90, Granting the County Manager Authority to Negotiate and Execute a Lease of the Bennie J. Chavez Senior Center on Behalf of Santa Fe County with the United States Postal Service to Provide a Location for a Post Office for the Residents of Chimayo and Northern**

Santa Fe County. (Public Works Department/Michele Caskey)

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to – thank you very much. Nice to meet you. Welcome to Santa Fe County, I think. Or at least your first time presenting in front of us.

MICHELE CASKEY (Public Works): This is the second time.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. My apologies.

MS. CASKEY: I am new, Commissioner Greene. Correct.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So just to have a moment to speak about this resolution that would rescind a resolution and to discuss what we're trying to do and not to just – and to add some context to the situation. So just to make sure that the seniors that so cherish the Bennie Chavez Senior Center up in Chimayo understand that while we tried to find a good resolution that would keep the level or increase the level of service to the Chimayo area, that their love of the Bennie Chavez Center made us think twice about putting a post office and offering a post office.

So we are going to rescind this through this resolution, should it pass, but the Chimayo community should also understand that we are continuing to work with the post office to try to find a solution for bringing a new post office to the Chimayo area. There's a private proposal that is being formulated and then Santa Fe County is working on an alternative proposal as well, in my understanding, and so fear not. Santa Fe County is doing everything we can to help bring another post office to the Chimayo community.

And as an aside to or a related thing, we had a community, the beginnings of some community planning meetings last week to start to discuss how to comprehensively plan for the Chimayo community and it includes how to make sure a post office gets rebuilt in the Chimayo area. If there aren't any other comments here I will make a motion to pass a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2024-90, granting the County Manager Authority to negotiate and execute a lease of the Bennie J. Chavez Senior Center on behalf of Santa Fe County with the United States Postal Service to provide a location for a post office for the residents of Chimayo and northern Santa Fe County.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Second, with comments.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen, do you have a comment?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I just want to state that I think it's great that this whole discussion happened, but that the increase in participation at Bennie J. has increased because of this situation. So it's kind of like a hidden benefit, and so we're grateful to the participants in Chimayo for the use of their senior center and that they love it so much and that we're happy to be supportive of them.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: It's great to see a 300 percent increase in use up at the Bennie J. So yes, indeed.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any other comments? Okay. A motion by Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

The motion to approve 4. E passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

Deputy Clerk Wilson provided the resolution numbers throughout the meeting.]

5. **Appointments/Reappointments** - None were brought forward.

6. **Miscellaneous Action Items**

A. **Resolution No. 2024-129, a Resolution to Request an Extension to Complete Local Governments Road Improvement Fund Project No. L500551 for Pavement Rehabilitation/Improvements of Valle Vista Boulevard, Las Lomas Drive, San Mateo Way, Sierra Place, Tusa Drive, and Val Verde Drive**

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead, Mr. Snyder.

BRIAN SNYDER (Public Works Director): Mr. Chair and Commissioners, this item, along with the next two items, 6. B and 6. C, are before you today to request a time extension to utilize the local government road funds throughout the 2025 year. We have to expend the funds by the end of this calendar year and we do not believe that we'll be able to expend them by the end of this calendar year.

So I wanted to provide a little bit of background for this item as well as the next two items. As we've talked before, Public Works utilizes LIDAR to assess our road paving, so we use that to assess the condition and then based on that condition assessment we score and rank the roads, and then based on that, we do a needs analysis on how we maintain the roads and upgrade the roads.

Annually, in addition to that, we have a multi-pronged funding approach. We use our operating fund. You're familiar with the budget from that. Two million dollars we put towards maintaining the roads. We're actually wrapping that project up currently from the fiscal year 24 budget and we're planning on going to bid this fall/winter for fiscal year 25 budget to do the work in the spring of 25.

In addition to that we do the New Mexico Department of Transportation funds, TPF funds. We've come before that. They were instrumental in building out our northeast-southeast extension I believe. It was somewhere in the neighborhood of about \$7 million through that funding source to get funds for that project. And then lastly, we apply for and typically get local government road funds, which is what's before you today, both this item and then items 6. B and 6. C.

Once the funding comes before you and is approved, we then start the process on getting clearances and certifications from utilities, environmental clearances. That's a somewhat laborious process. Takes quite a bit of time. And then after that's completed we begin the process to procure materials. We do all the LGRIF roadwork in house. If we have to mill a road and then do an inlay we will sub out the milling of the road because we don't do that in house, but otherwise, chip sealing, fog sealing, overlays, those types of things we'll do in house.

So we procure the materials. This year we ran into a challenge that gave us some delay. Two of our local vendors, Associated Asphalt closed their plants here in Santa Fe, and that created quite a disruption with our procuring of materials. So we have worked with our Procurement Office and have a pathway forward without Associated being in operation anymore, but we don't expect to get that work completed this calendar year. So therefore we're asking for an extension with the intent that we'll be doing the work in

spring of 2025. And I'll stand for any questions you may have.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you, Brian. I'm wondering, why did the two asphalt plants shut down?

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hansen, I'm not sure on the reason behind that. I know that it was very short notice. I understand they closed down overnight in some ways.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So which two plants were they?

MR. SNYDER: Associated Asphalt.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: And they don't plan to reopen?

MR. SNYDER: We have not heard that they plan on reopening. I've heard that they lost their lease at Waldo Canyon to get materials, but I don't know that to be completely factual. But that's what I've heard.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I don't have a question. I make a motion to approve, if –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And I'll second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. I have a question just quickly though. At what point in the year do you make the decision? You get your operating funds and then you look at the roads. Do you look at dirt roads with your LIDAR? I don't think so.

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Chair, no, we do not assess our dirt roads with LIDAR. We assess just the paved roads and their condition.

CHAIR HUGHES: Do you have a way to assess dirt roads or do you just – like you may have mentioned, sort of do them by request?

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Chair, we don't have a formal way. With LIDAR it takes out the subjectivity. That's what we like to use. We do assess the roads throughout all the districts that are dirt and other materials based on work orders that we have to utilize to maintain. If we are constantly out there doing grading, or the material becomes soupy when it rains, we look into solutions for that. But other than that we don't have a non-subjective way to assess the roads.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. So I guess what I'm saying is it would be good for me to know when you've decided which roads you're doing in my district just so I can keep people informed. But it's actually good that you didn't tell me you're doing these roads this year since you're not doing them this year. So that's fine. Any other comments? Okay. Motion by Hamilton, seconded by Greene.

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

6. B. **Resolution No. 2024-130, a Resolution to Request an Extension to Complete Local Governments Road Improvement Fund Project No. L500526 for Pavement Rehabilitation/Improvements of CR 74, Frasco Road, Frasco Way, Frasco Terrace, Avenida Buena Ventura, and Dinkle Road (CR 8)**

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Mr. Chair, is there any reason why we don't combine these two?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: They're three related. I think we have to move on each one.

CHAIR HUGHES: You can tell us quickly what 6. B is about.

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Chair and Commissioners, it's the same reasoning behind the LGRIF request for item 6. B. There are three different funding requests that we put into LGRIF because of the funding sources that come through the DOT for school bus routes, state funded roads as well as – not state roads but state funded routes for the county as well as then County funding. So there are three different funding sources there for the three different resolutions, three different requests that we have to make annually to the state. And with that I'll stand for questions.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Wonderful. I will make a motion to approve a resolution to request an extension to complete Local Governments Road Improvement Fund Project No. L500526 for pavement rehabilitation/improvements of CR 74, Frasco Road, Frasco Way, Frasco Terrace, Avenida Buena Ventura, and Dinkle Road, County Road 8.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

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

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

6. C. **Resolution No. 2024-131, a Resolution to Request an Extension to Complete Local Governments Road Improvement Fund Project No. L500546 for Pavement Rehabilitation/Improvements of La Joya Road (CR 63)**

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Chair and Commissioners, this is the same item that is before you as in the previous two. These are county or material projects. It's a different funding source, as I mentioned, for the last item. With that I'll stand for questions.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I move to approve 6. C.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

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

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

6. D. **Request (1) Approval of Amendment No. 7 to Agreement No. 2017-0074-AO/BT with Pictometry International, Inc., Increasing the Compensation by \$768,336.24, Exclusive of NM GRT, and Extending the Term to September 2028, and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Order(s)**

CHAIR HUGHES: Go ahead, Bill Taylor.

BILL TAYLOR (Purchasing Director): Thank you, Mr. Chair, Commissioners, pleasure to be here this afternoon. We have an amendment #7 with Pictometry to extend the term for an additional four years to their contract. Pictometry provides the Assessor's Office of the County for digital aerial photographs of properties, assessments, conditions, safety issues. It also provides for including an unlimited E-911. GIS reviews public infrastructure information. This is a four-year term at an additional cost of \$768,336.24, and with that I will stand for any questions. And we have the Assessor here.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Just a comment to congratulate the Assessor and Jennifer and Ivan for all the work you do with this amazing program. And I think that it's so important that we have this program available to us and to be able to do accurate assessments and really be on the cutting edge. And so I want to congratulate you on that and if there's not any objection I'll make a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Motion by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Bustamante. Any other questions?

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

6. E. **Request (1) Approval to Enter into Multiple Source, Multiple Term, and Indefinite Quantity Agreement Nos. 2024-0084-CORR/APS A, B, and C with Bob Barker Co., Charm Tex. and Victory Supply, LLC, Respectively, to Provide Inmate Supplies for the Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility and (2) Delegation of Authority to the County Manager to Sign the Purchase Orders**

CHAIR HUGHES: And again, Mr. Taylor.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. Together with the Corrections Department, Purchasing issued an IFB for multiple award for suppliers for inmate supplies and materials – mattresses, clothing, other supplies, and we are asking to enter into these contracts. We have done numerous invitation for bids and solicitation for these services for the inmates and they are a four-year term contract for supplies for the inmates. And with that I will stand for any questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Bill. I'm just wondering, is this the Bob Barker of the Price is Right?

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, the price is right but it's not the same Bob Barker.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you very much. If there's nothing else I will make a motion to approve item E, request approval to enter into multiple source, multiple term, and indefinite quantity Agreement Nos. 2024-0084-CORR/APS A, B, and C with Bob Barker Co., Charm Tex. and Victory Supply, LLC, respectively, to provide inmate supplies for the Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility and two, delegation of authority to the

County Manager to sign the purchase orders.

CHAIR HUGHES: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

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

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

6. F. Resolution No. 2024-132, a Resolution Granting the County Manager Authority to Negotiate the Purchase and Acquisition of Office Space in Santa Fe, NM, to Support the Functions of the Santa Fe District Attorney's Office

CHAIR HUGHES: And again, Michele Caskey, and if you could particularly explain the mistake that a constituent found in the resolution and how it was corrected.

MS. CASKEY: Yes, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. So regarding your packet materials for this resolution, a constituent did point out that there was a mistake, an administrative error in paragraph 7 where we were referencing a Commission resolution that had to do with purchase of public lands for open space and trails. How that got in here – I didn't catch it for sure because I'm new and that was really my job to catch it and notice it was there, but we I don't really have an answer for why it was in there. So it's been redacted, that part of the paragraph. It really never had anything to do with this resolution that we have before you. So substantively no effect, but we are glad the error was picked up before we approved it.

So I'm here today regarding office space for the DA's office. We have been working for a number of years on a plan to remodel the existing DA's office and as we have been going through that process it has been brought to our attention that the remodel was still considered inadequate. It was an expensive project but still really not going to solve all of the DA's needs.

So we were continuing to look for other solutions. We have found a building that we are proposing we buy to house the entirety of the DA's office. It's much larger than their current space, better parking, better access to the freeway, better able to handle their increased security needs and some things like this. So we are asking for your approval to allow the County Manager to negotiate purchase of this building on Rodeo Park Drive.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Any questions? Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you very much for bringing this forward. I think this is a really positive solution for the district attorney. I know that she is in support of this and I think that providing them a more secure space – parking is a huge issue downtown, and even though it's right next door to the courthouse it still allows them I think a better working situation, which I consider really important. I know when we built and finished the Catron Grant Building employees were really happy to be able to move into a space where they had the room to function in a more holistic manner. And so I think negotiating this is really important, especially for the workforce also that they have a better environment to be able to think and create and protect our citizens. So

thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Michele. Generally in support of this, knowing that the DA's office needs the space. I do have concerns about accessibility for – mostly for victims and folks and witnesses. To my knowledge this is not in the most accessible spot with bus routes nearby and while it may have parking for people who have the privilege of having a vehicle which is a good percentage of our community, sometimes victims are the least privileged of us all and we need to make sure that there is definitely shuttles or buses or whatever nearby.

So while this is in the city it is literally at the fringe of the city where I do have a concern about that.

MS. CASKEY: And actually, if you'll let me respond.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Please, yes.

MS. CASKEY: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, it is on bus route #6, because on this Rodeo Park Drive there's a number of medical facilities down that road, so it's actually well serviced by public transportation, more than you would think given its location.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: More than I would think. That's fantastic. So thank you for allaying that fear. I think the accessibility for the folks that commute, having worked with a number of folks at the DA's office recently, a lot of them do commute from out of town, especially from the Rio Rancho/Albuquerque area. So I think this is going to be much more convenient for them. They're just not going to have as great a restaurant selection nearby. Anyway, but good. Thank you very much for bringing this forward.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair, with all due respect, why are we dogging the restaurants in the area? There are some very good restaurants very close by, if I need to name them on Airport Road, and it's not the very edge of town.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Not so walking.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: It's not in a bad location but there are restaurants there that are actually good.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: There are, but they're just not so walkable.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Who wants to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair, I'd be happy to make a resolution granting the County Manager authority to negotiate the purchase and acquisition of office space in Santa Fe, NM, to support the functions of the Santa Fe District Attorney's Office.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, we have a motion by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. I just wanted to say that I appreciate that Mr. Mechels found the mistake and that we were able to fix it and do things perfect. And also I think it's important to recognize that we actually did spend a lot of time considering this site and it is the best solution.

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

6. G. Resolution No. 2024-133, a Resolution Adopting Projects for Inclusion in Santa Fe County's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for Fiscal Years 2026-2030; Authorizing Submittal of Plan to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA); and Replacing Resolution 2024-092

CHAIR HUGHES: Leandro, or –

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners.

Leandro is actually participating remotely due to an illness so he'll be available virtually, and we also have Maxx and Hvtce available to answer any additional questions. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions or any suggestions, I think, right? This would be suggestions to add or subtract from the ICIP.

MANAGER SHAFFER: That's correct. Leandro will be presenting the item but he'll be doing so virtually.

CHAIR HUGHES: He's going to present now?

MANAGER SHAFFER: That is correct.

LEANDRO CORDOVA (Deputy County Manager via Webex): First of all, my apologies for not being there today. I'm not feeling well, but I did want to introduce this item. We were a bit rushed to put this on the agenda due to some correspondence we received from the Governor's Office at the end of September. The deadline for this submission, our final submission of the ICIP is coming Friday. And there is one project that has come about since being adopted in July based on the original deadline and it's the Galisteo signs project, which has been a project in Commissioner Bustamante's district and so supported by Representative McQueen.

There was also a request from the Governor to better – a clarification letter to let us know that the top three in our ICIP would be the preferred projects funded by the Governor, although we haven't gotten the same from the legislature. So at this time I can just go through the top five projects that we have adopted in the past to make sure that these are still the top ones that everyone wants to move forward with.

First, Glorieta Village collection system. Second, the Aamodt rural water phase 1 distribution lines. Third Agua Fria Village utility sewer expansion. Fourth, Avenida Azul Path, plan, design and construct. And the fifth is the Santa Fe River Trail, design and acquisition of the Santa Fe River Trail from Caja del Oro to Cottonwood Drive. And at this time I'll stand for any questions.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, any questions? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Leandro. First off, I hope you feel better soon. But the question I have has to do with the communication from the Governor's Office. Are we going to have to come forward in the next few weeks or months to address the two projects that were deemed too big for the Governor's Office? Is that something that we should look forward to in the next few weeks and months?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: What do you mean, too big?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So my understanding from the communication from the Governor's Office was that two of the projects were beyond the scope of what the Governor was going to be entertaining. Am I misunderstanding that?

MR. CORDOVA: No, Commissioner Greene. That's correct. However, the project, Phase I would be able to be below the lower threshold which would constitute that.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So that would be in the case of like – just because I know the project well, the Aamodt project. While the scope is – the request could be as much as \$48 million that we could be asking for an amount that was acceptably within the threshold that the Governor is talking about.

MR. CORDOVA: We think so, and there's also still the opportunity to request these funds from the legislature.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. Great. I just wanted to get some clarity about that, so thank you.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So one of the things the Governor asked me when she did fund the Agua Fria utility sewer expansion last time was because she knew I asked for six or seven million instead of four, she wanted to make sure that this was an ongoing project that she could fund. Again, like we're asking for \$7 million, but if she gave us another \$3.5 million we could then immediately put that to work. And that was the kind of thing that she was asking me last year about capital outlay.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. I read the memo from Hvtce and I was concerned that we were going to have to come back so I just wanted to make sure that we didn't have to come back and that we were going to have an adequate proposal for the Governor's Office. So thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Hvtce, do you want to add to that?

HVTCE MILLER (County Manager's Office): Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, that's correct. I think it's up to the purview of the Commission about the actual ask that we'll be putting in to the Governor's Office and/or to the legislature, so it doesn't have to be that total \$48 million request. It could just be a lower amount. Looking at past thresholds of what the Governor provided capital outlay in the past to come in, I don't think that the County would have any issue using any amount of money that's provided to the County for the Aamodt project.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chair, just in the interest of asking for support from the Board per the staff's recommendation to add the Galisteo monument signs, it doesn't have any additional labor or effort on behalf of the County. It's just to serve as the vehicle to get the signs up. I just want to make that clear.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. And it appears to be on the list as the last item. It's \$100,000 for the Village of Galisteo signs, so we can get those, hopefully, from the legislators.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I just have a logistics question. I support adding that for all kinds of reasons, but do we have to make them as separate motions? Or can we just move to approve the ICIP list as revised?

MANAGER SHAFFER: Mr. Chair, Commissioner, I believe that making the motion to approve the resolution as presented would reconfirm the priority two

projects previously given by the Board but also add the additional Galisteo project. So separate motions in my view wouldn't be necessary.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So if that was a motion I'll put a second in.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yes, that was going – I was going to convert it to a motion, so, yes. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: You said the words.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: So this is the motion.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And this is a second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, motion by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the ICIP as presented today.

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

7. Presentations

A. Presentation on the Santa Fe County Fire Department's Volunteer Program and Update on the District Volunteer Staffing Plan

CHAIR HUGHES: Chief Black.

JACOB BLACK (Fire Chief): Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,

Commissioners. I'm here before you this afternoon to present to you an update on the volunteer component of the Santa Fe County Fire Department. This is to fulfill some of the items outlined in Resolution 22-87, which was passed in October of 2022, which stated that upon appointment of the next Fire Chief, the next Fire Chief would work to develop a volunteer district staffing plan. Furthermore, this resolution captures the rich history of Santa Fe County and the emergency services that were started by 100 percent volunteers, and for over 30 years, volunteers diligently provided emergency fire, emergency medical services and fire services to the people of Santa Fe County.

In 1997 as you are all aware the Santa Fe County Fire Department was formed when the department became a combination paid and volunteer department. Since then, Santa Fe County Fire Department has seen some of the same effects and same trends that have been facing departments across the country which is a decline in volunteerism. Hence, Resolution 22-87 wanted to refocus and bring attention to the good work that volunteers have done for Santa Fe County and highlight the need to prioritize, invest, and focus on the volunteer component of our department to ensure that we have a healthy and robust combination paid and volunteer department.

So with that, I had the opportunity to begin serving as Fire Chief in December of 2022. The subsequent four months I worked with the volunteer district chiefs and we collaboratively put together the district staffing plan that we presented to you in April of 2023. In that staffing plan we outlined a number of goals, and I would like to present – to update you on some of those goals.

First, for FY 24, the goal was to increase our district staffing from 112 to 130 district members across the entire county. Well, over the last year and a half, in 2023, we onboarded a total of 34 volunteers. Subsequently, in the last eight months of 2024 we've onboarded an additional 50 volunteers, for a total of 84 volunteers since April of 2023.

So this greatly surpasses the goal of meeting 130, and that's countywide. We do

recognize that there are some individual fire districts that still have a significant need for volunteers, and the reasons for that are geography, population density. Also the demographics of those districts as well. So we're working with those. However, from FY 25 through FY 28 the goal is to get at least 200 district members to be strong contributing volunteers within the department.

So the goals of us onboarding or the fact we were able to onboard 84 in the last year and a half really sets us up for a good foundation for the subsequent years. Additionally, some of the goals that we outlined in the volunteer staffing plan was to reorganize Fire administration to fill vacancies to support our fire districts. Some of the things that we've been able to do is we were able to fill a battalion chief of operations and district liaison that has really been able to come alongside the district chiefs and provide a tremendous amount of support to them, in day-to-day operations as well as their recruitment and retention.

This goal of ours is only partially complete as we were trying to fill a captain of recruitment and retention. We ran into a number of obstacles filling that position and so we're re-evaluating and we'll be bringing you forward a plan of how to address that FTE in the next month or so.

Next, we had wanted to increase our volunteer stipend. This was outlined in Resolution 2019-5 and per that resolution we can increase three percent annually, which we did in 2023 and then now in September of 2024 we did that yet again. So we've seen two increases there. However, we want to address the stipend program as a whole. And we are working with the district chiefs as we are looking to address some very high priority items within the department with the district chiefs, at the recommendations of the district chiefs we are going to put that – still work on it, still do research on what a healthy and comprehensive stipend program looks like. However, that's something that we will be working on in the upcoming months after we work through a number of other higher priority items.

Next is also to evaluate and implement a reasonable benefits package. That's something that our administrative staff is working on to see what we can do in the context of keeping volunteers, what benefits volunteers can receive that are separate from staff, and so we're working through that and we'll be working with County Legal on that as well.

Next, we wanted to work on really enhancing our junior member program. That is something that is outlined in our current volunteer bylaws and that's something that we are wanting to prioritize and to continue to invest in. However, with that, of the 84 volunteers that have been onboarded in the last year and a half, seven of them are junior members. So we are seeing an increase in our junior membership program within the department.

And then the next two items to talk about – a high school education program engaging in first aid CPR programs as well as potentially an EMT basic program. We have run into a number of hurdles over the last year and a half. One of those were we had some staffing challenges in the training division and we are understaffed which limited how much we could engage and develop some of those programs. Another hurdle that we ran into specifically with the EMT basic program was working with one of the local educational entities and really getting minors into clinicals, because now we actually

have somebody going through an EMT basic program actually has to do clinicals in hospitals and various healthcare, and so having people under the age of 18 was an obstacle that we ran into but we will continue to be looking at if we can navigate that.

Next was to adopt a revised set of bylaws. Again, that's something that we're coordinating with the district chiefs. The current district chief president Clark Thomas and myself were working and developing an action plan to address those and to update those.

And then lastly is to update Santa Fe County Ordinance 1997-11. This is something that we've done. The district chiefs have done a significant amount of work on. They started forming a working group early this year and they solicited feedback from all of the district chiefs. They've put together a draft. That draft has gone to our commend staff and currently we are working with County Legal to refine that draft before we bring it to your attention and potential approval.

In addition to these items a significant amount of work has been done to prioritize and integrate our district members. First, I want to highlight the work of two our members from La Cienega who did an incredible amount of work developing a district orientation program. This program became – has become a quarterly program, training, that they deliver to new district members who are either actively volunteering, just getting started volunteering, or people who are even interested in volunteering. So that gives them an overview of the history of Santa Fe County Fire Department, how important, and why it's important to volunteer. It talks about different mechanisms to volunteer and then all of the various ways that people can volunteer. It also helps get them plugged in with their district chiefs as well.

That has been a successful delivery with the two members from the La Cienega district in coordination with the battalion chief of operations and district liaison. So that's become a regular standard for us. Additionally, the battalion chief of operations and district liaison developed a 40-hour course. That 40-hour course is called Exterior Ops and it's really an entry level training to train new volunteers on how to drive larger apparatus, how to conduct water shuttles or water tenders, so hauling water to fires, how to operate air trucks and delivering breathing air to scenes of where we're engaging in fire suppression. And then also incident rehab.

So it's a very unique 40-hour course that provides a strong foundation for volunteers to be able to go back to their districts and really take off and start being able to serve within those districts.

Additionally, we saw success with this as the County Manager supported us engaging in a pilot program this summer that allowed for County employees to participate in that Exterior Ops in order to help encourage County employees to volunteer in their local communities. We saw a tremendous amount of success with that with seven people finishing that course this summer and we're looking forward to doing that yet again for our County employees.

Now, all of this has been great. We've been able to onboard 84 new volunteers. We've been able to engage them in different mechanisms and training and the results have been that we've seen – we have seen an increase in volunteerism. As highlighted in the district staffing plan that we presented to you in April of 2023, at that time we had 112 district members. The first quarter of 2023, 87 of those 112 district members

responded to one or more emergency. Now, looking at 2024, in the eight months of 2024, we have had 117 district members respond to one or more emergency. So we've seen a substantial increase in the number of volunteers who are coming to one or more emergency.

We're working through with our district staff and our command staff of how do our volunteers engage and what does that look like on a day-to-day basis? If we look at Santa Fe County and how disperse we are there are some districts that an EMT in a district can arrive on scene far sooner than one of our paid staff. However, there's other districts that if you're an EMT in La Cienega or Agua Fria, our paid staff will arrive on scene to a medical call much faster than a volunteer can.

So we're working on trying to develop mechanisms to really ensure that we're delivering the best quality care and service to our citizens. Additionally, as we look at engaging our volunteers, we're looking at how can we engage them and have them to respond to the second, third call when calls come in and multiple calls come in at one time. Additionally, when the larger calls, whether it's a structure fire, brush fire, rescue call, or complex fire call, those are the types of calls where we're really trying to engage and get our volunteer responses and where we need not only our regional staff but also a healthy, robust response from our district members as well.

And that's where we come full circle and we try to, as we're going to be evaluating things like our recruitment and retention stipend program for the volunteers, and bring that into address those components as well.

So with that, we've seen a tremendous amount of success over the last year and a half of getting new volunteers in, engaging them. We still have a lot of work to do. There's still a number of districts that need volunteers and our work is yet to be completed. So we will continue to work diligently to make sure that we have a robust and healthy combination paid and volunteer Fire Department. So with that, that wraps up everything that I have and I stand for any questions you may have.

CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Chief Black. Appreciate learning about what you're doing pro-actively to sort of keep ahead of the trends and to understand how we can make sure that we're fully staffed and responding to so much. It's not just fire. It's fire and EMT and as I've learned so much more about the Fire Department. You've touched so much of our lives even though most of us just think it's a big fire truck and people running into burning buildings. It is health and welfare, it's the insurance industry. It's lots of different dimensions and we really appreciate that.

I guess I have a question about that volunteer/EMT that runs – do they go to a station to pick up stuff? Or are they able to respond to their neighbor with life-saving stuff faster because they're equipped with a minimal amount of equipment that allows them to save a life in a three-minute response instead of going to a station, and then sometimes going to literally their neighbor right there.

CHIEF BLACK: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, thank you for that question. That is something that we have weighed heavily over the years. Traditionally, when I started volunteering, we would do just that. Everybody would have a jump kit in their car, and if it was your neighbor you would just go. In general, we've moved away from that for the safety of our responders because if it's your neighbor and you know,

then that's one thing. However, if there's a call that might be a domestic violence or substances and it's just down the road from you but you don't know who they are, we have shifted to responding to a station, picking up an apparatus and responding in a marked vehicle for the safety of our responders. And that is our practice to ensure that our responders are safe.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Is there a hybrid version of that, like a little beanie you can put on your truck or whatever your car is that says Santa Fe County Fire Volunteer, showing up so people are at least clearly identified and rip off their shirt and instead of Superman it's Fireman? At least be clearly identified so that our response time for those critical things can be reduced without having to go sometimes five or ten minutes down the road to get five or ten minutes back when you're two minutes away?

CHIEF BLACK: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Greene, there are some ways that we can evaluate that and look at that and that's something that we will continue to evaluate as well build out and continue to build our volunteer combination department.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much. Good luck with this.

CHIEF BLACK: Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you, Chief Black. I appreciate your update. I appreciate you increasing the volunteers and exceeding your expectation. Good job. I appreciate the update. I appreciate the things that you're thinking about and I just wanted to say thank you and I wanted to also say thank you for working so hard at making Santa Fe County a more integrated Fire Department. So good job and thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you. Yes, good job. It's wonderful to be able to exceed those kinds of goals. So for the several years where volunteerism was really down. COVID was part of it but there were a lot of other things. We talked about it and there were presentations. There were often comments that this is what's being seen nationally, etc., etc. So you clearly have put out the effort to turn the tide on this. Is there anything in the national firefighters literature that indicates that that's happening nationally, or are you swimming upstream faster than everybody else?

CHIEF BLACK: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Hamilton, I think that locally I can say that some of the other departments around us have seen a slight increase in volunteerism. I don't know if it's to the same degree as we are, especially as I think a lot of our volunteerism is coming – we're drawing on residents on the border of Santa Fe City, so we have a denser population that that we're able to pull from. Because I do know, in talking with some of our neighboring counties, they saw a peak in volunteerism briefly, but then they're still struggling to keep volunteers, and I think that that's something that we are seeing across the state. That struggle is still there, specifically with the steps that DFA took to implement the firefighter/EMS recruitment grant, which is to specifically hire firefighters and/or EMTs to serve communities. If I could speculate, it's in response to a decrease in volunteerism. So I think that it might be a little bit of both, to answer your question.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yes. And then nationally also that's harder to know because it has to hit the news lines before you can know that. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Any other comments? Commissioner

Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Just very quickly, I want to thank you for your leadership here and I am on an association to support the volunteers and grateful for just the energy that you've put into it with your team and having that enthusiasm in our area. So thank you.

CHIEF BLACK: Thank you, Commissioners.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you, Chief Black. Very good job. Thank you for updating us. We appreciate you.

CHIEF BLACK: Thank you.

[The Commission recessed from 3:30 to 3:43.]

7. B. Presentation Concerning the 2024 General Election and Clerk's Office Awards

CHAIR HUGHES: Back in session. Slight change in agenda from what I had suggested before. We will now go to the Presentations, 7. B from the County Clerk, due to her time and also the great job she has to do running this election. Thank you, Clerk Clark.

KATHARINE CLARK (County Clerk): Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I wanted to chat a little bit about our 2024 general election and the fact that we've had a very busy award season. We are definitely cleaning up across the country and I wanted to talk a little bit about what we've been up to.

So our election deadlines are of course September 21st we sent the first ballots to military and overseas. Just to give you a little idea of what voting is like this election, normally we have about 350 overseas FQE voters during a general election. This election we have over 1,100 people who are voting overseas. There is a lot of interest and we already have about 600 of those ballots back in the Clerk's Office or e-voted ready to hand tally.

October 8th is the last day to register to vote online, so that's today. So we're seeing quite a bit of uptick of people trying to register to vote, making sure their addresses are updated, if you aren't sure of what your voting address is it is a good day to check, because it is the last day to make sure you updated online or by paper. After that we only have same day registration throughout all of our polling sites throughout Santa Fe County whenever a polling site is open.

Absentee ballots also go out today, so we have about 12,000 requests, which is a little lower than the high of the pandemic but we still remain very actively interested in absentee. About 5,000 of those are permanent absentee, so we're starting to see people showing interest in permanent absentee and signing up to automatically receive their ballot, and of course same day registration has begun as of today in the Clerk's Office.

October 19th is where we have expanded early voting. Those are the sites that people have been calling about today, asking if those are open. That's Abedon Lopez, that's Christian Life, that's fairgrounds, that's Nancy Rodriguez, that's Santa Fe Community College, that's Edgewood. We have a lot of expanded early voting throughout the county.

And then the last day to request an absentee ballot is October 22nd. We have been at several conferences throughout the summer and we have talked directly to the postal service, and there is concern among election officials that we saw delayed ballots throughout the country because of the consolidation of sorting centers. There are some plans from the postal service to go down to as few as 20 consolidated sorting centers throughout the country, which means all of our mail would have to leave our state, go somewhere else, be sorted and then come back, and there has already been consolidation and we are advising that voters should not wait. If there's ten days to go for the election, drop you ballot; don't mail it.

And then the last day of early voting is Saturday, November 2nd, and of course election day is November 5th. And of course, everyone will have already voted early so there won't be so many lines on election day is what we're hoping but if today's line is any indication, there's a lot of interest. So far we've had 760 voters vote downtown in the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office. So it was very, very busy today. I think there was 400 people on line at one point mid-morning.

So here's our FQE voters from all over the world. A lot from Canada and Mexico and more are requesting all the time. So we're expecting to see up to 1,500 people voting from overseas in Santa Fe County, which is a huge amount of people.

So some of the things we've been working on are some of our innovations. So our Blue Crest ballot sorter has arrived and it's up and running, and we're going to arrange a day for you guys to come and watch it and see what the legislature and you have made possible for absentee voting in Santa Fe County. We also have joggers and counters and that's the idea that instead of us having to hand count – which is not hand tally, but hand count the number of ballots we have in a stack we have a machine that will quickly count, thumb through all of the ballots and tell us how many ballots are in a stack, which will help speed up our processes post-voting, sort of in our reconciliation processes. Joggers are essentially machines that jog the ballots so that a stack is neatly formed.

We're going to be doing a pause at the polls, so that's the idea that we're going to have for some of our sites that are the most popular, like Nancy Rodriguez of the Santa Fe Community College, we've invited Espanola Humane, Santa Fe Humane, and Felines and Friends to host an adoption event at our not popular days in hopes of drawing a crowd and also cross-promoting voting.

We are planning on having translation devices, so not everyone speaks Spanish and not all of our Spanish speakers are necessarily available at all the sites and this is just to make sure we have backup if someone were to go on break who's a Spanish speaker it actually is kind of like a Star Trek device where you say something and then it can actually give you the translation directly back.

We are planning on having parking for voting purposes only at Catron, so we've reserved ten spots. We've moved our staff over to the City parking lot and that way we can have reserved ten parking spaces for voters to try to make that Clerk's Office parking press easier, although when you have 760 voters show up in one day there is still going to be lines and challenges for parking.

We are also doing a personal security badge. There is some concern this election cycle of security for our presiding judges and so for our messengers who travel throughout the polling sites and some of our presiding judges they will be wearing a

badge that actually dial emergency services right away with the press of a button should they feel that there is someone who is behaving in a way that is threatening or who is doing something that is dangerous.

We are also doing a kids voting initiative. That is where we're going to have an ice cream ballot, ice cream tabulator and ballots at the Clerk's Office during business hours and at Nancy Rodriguez, so families can take their kid to vote and that kid can practice filling out the ballot. That's an ice cream ballot. Learning what a permit is, learning about zero tapes, and then putting that ballot into the tabulator and seeing the tabulator take and tally that ballot.

And then we also got an award this year for Project Bruno. That is our tabulating security program. We launched it in the MOE, which is the municipal officer election, and we also used it in the primary. Essentially, it's a hidden GPS tracker inside of the tabulator, so if anyone got the funny idea during early voting of stealing a tabulator we'd be able to hunt them down. It also has an accelerometer in all of those GPS trackers so we can prove that the tabulator is not jostled or tampered with overnight. We also use universal power supplies to extend the battery life of a tabulator if the power were to go out, and we also have a circuit detector between the tabulator and the universal power supply in the wall so that we know if the power circuit is broken we know that the tabulator is not receiving power and it sends us a text telling us that the tabulator is on battery power and we only have a limited to time to either replace the battery or figure out how to get power back up at that site, and that's one of the projects that won an award during this award season.

We've also been working hard on our GOTV campaign so you should start seeing social media and TV ads rolling out in Santa Fe markets. We're also during a secure challenger and watcher program. So essentially statute has a lot of vestigial language and one of that is that the challengers and watchers should be able to see absentee ballot rosters, but rosters are no longer a list where voters sign; it's actually virtual. And so we've used a data solution, a laptop solution to try to fill that void of having a secure solution where people are not bringing devices to the polling site but we can still offer an absentee roster for those challengers to view which voters are checking in.

So here are some of the programs we won awards for. We won a NACo achievement award for our civic engagement and public information. That's where we were working on our sticker contest and a lot of our Democracy 101 program, going out to all the high schools, bringing a tabulator and conducting a mock election. We won an achievement award for our resiliency. That was our Project Bruno, and we also won the information technology award for that.

And then of course Rosangela's niece has learned how to spell guardian. For our election center we won the Guardian award, which we think is a really big deal because it's awarded by fellow election officials, so the National Association of Election Administrators, also known as Election Center, has seven awards that they gave out all over the country, to one office from all of the election administrators across the country, and typically it's given to large counties like LA County which is 11 million voters, very, very large counties across the country because they have the money and resources and the innovation program that's happening. And New Mexico is the first, and Santa Fe County is the first county in New Mexico to win an Election Center award. So we thought that

was a pretty big deal.

So how should you prepare for voting? So we wanted everyone to sort of go back to the basics, which is you have to make a vote plan. We know from studies that when people plan on voting then they're much more likely to vote, so we want you to sort of pick whether you're going to vote absentee, early, or election day. Just planning that simple step actually is much more likely to get you out to vote. You can review your polling locations at santafecountynm.gov/clerk, or our favorite website, which is santafe.vote. and you can also review our secure locations for new drop boxes. One of the things that we do in Santa Fe County really well is that we have the most per capita drop boxes per voter, more than half of which are drive-up. So if you are an absentee voter in Santa Fe County you do not need to get out of your pajamas. You can literally drive up to the box on Federal, across from the federal postal service. You can drop off your mail first and then drive about ten feet and drop off your ballot. So we're trying to make voting as easy as possible in Santa Fe County, so if you're an absentee voter please check your secure container locations because it's very easy to drop your ballot.

Remember you can review your sample ballots before you vote. You can do that at nmvote.org, and you can also do that at our website. Our website lists every single sample ballot. I know there was some concern about nmvote having some challenges today because of the sort of last minute crush of people updating their online voter registration, but you can always go to our website and look at what's on the ballot and also the sample ballot.

And we also, as a candidate have hosted several candidate and campaign best practices training. This is where we're trying to give our candidates and our campaigns sort of basic level knowledge of how to use data, particularly the absentee roster. Every day the Clerk's Office, three times a day produces a roster of who has voted and how they have voted. And we want people to use that data so that way they stop bothering voters who have already voted and focus their efforts on talking to voters who have not voted to help us all together on Team Turnout increase turnout in our county.

Okay, so here's a sample ballot. It's very long this year. There are lots and lots of questions on the back. So one of the things that I've been working on in the Clerk's Office and with our fellow clerks across the country is working with the National Association of Counties. I'm on the Election Subcommittee and so I successfully got a platform change through to change our official National Association of Counties platform that actually puts the words "election funding" at the federal level in the official platform. That has been controversial since HAVA was introduced after the 2000 election. The Help America Vote Act was in 2002 and while they do give money directly to Secretary of State's offices, they do not give money directly to local election officials, and local offices.

So this year we introduced a platform change that is permanent that introduces the idea that we feel officially, as a National Association of Counties, that the federal government should give money to local election officials in order to conduct elections. And some of our changes were also – our resolutions were local control over election resource allocation. We want to see less top-down and more that we as the election official can make sure that we understand how voting works in our county and that we have some buy-in from top-down sort of directives to make sure they're still asking local

election officials what is best for your county? We want to officially recognize the election workforce as critical infrastructure. One of the problems with the idea of critical infrastructure is a lot of machines, it's a lot of hardware. It does not talk about the people who actually have to run the election.

One of our ideas that we put forward is the idea that federal workforce training and funding should be available for election worker recruitment. While Santa Fe County had over 700 application to be a poll worker this election, which is very high and I think we had an 85 percent retention rate, other election offices are saying they are not seeing people sign up to be poll workers. People are generally afraid and they felt that they've been harassed on the past and so they're not signing up to be poll workers. And so we would like to see some federal money come down to help us recruit and train poll workers on a national level.

We also introduced the idea of expansion of election funding beyond HAVA, right? HAVA is for our operations, for infrastructure, but there's a lot of ways in which we can do GOTV, voter education, a lot of different things that could be used – that money could be used in elections to improve elections.

We also want to talk about improving voter database accuracy. There's a lot of controversy around ERIC, but certainly, our voter databases, we want to have the most accurate voter database possible and we would like to work with our federal partners to make sure that the tools that we have in place for our local election officials are better.

And of course there was a lot of consternation about the postal service this election season. We are seeing a lot of consolidation and service changes, not for the better, and election officials are noticing and they're noticing that their ballots are getting lost or their ballots are being delayed longer than they should be. And certain close races in other states actually were decided by those – might have been decided by those lost ballots. So we are very concerned about what we're seeing across the country in terms of our postal service and that was made into a resolution to make sure that we're having that discussion with DeJoy and the National Postal Board on what we're seeing in terms of our elections and our mail.

Okay. So we also – I wanted to introduce our clerk affiliate priorities. These were voted on this summer and we wanted to make you aware of them. So one of the things that all clerks have agreed on is increasing the marriage license fees. I think it's been about 40 years, before I was born, possibly, since the last time this was updated, and so we would like to see the marriage license fee increased. It's only \$25 where surrounding states are up to \$100.

We want to see a proposed update to the statistical formula for post-election audits. You might have known that during the regular local election we counted more than ten percent of our ballots cast, which is just kind of bad stats.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Clerk, you can show down a little bit.

CLERK CLARK: I said I would do it in a hurry. And that's basically we were wanting to reconfigure the statute for some of our auditing formulas to make sure that we're doing good sampling, not necessarily sampling that is a large amount of data, rather than smart amounts of data.

And the other thing is we want to see equitable county elected officials. This was voted down by the NMC board because they want to see how the constitutional

amendments going to do. So there's a constitutional amendment on the ballot that's going to actually take the limit away from the legislature and give it to the counties to decide what their local officials will be making. The countywide and the Commissioners, rather than setting that at the legislature. And once that has rolled through then there is a movement to sort of create sort of the Ethics Board or someone else would create standards on cost of living and kind of come up with some kind of formula.

So here's some of our award-winning voter stickers. We won again another Clearie Award, which is the Election Assistance Commission gave us a Clearie Award for our voter stickers. And you may have seen these. We had our future voter and first time voters, and these went like hotcakes in the primary. We actually had to tell people you're not allowed to have two and you definitely don't look like a first time voters so can you not take our extras of our voter stickers, because these were very popular among our voters. If you're participating in our kids vote program we will have these future voter stickers available for kids who come and practice on our tabulators, and we also this year introduced a bilingual sticker which is designed by our staff, which is our *Yo voté*, I voted sticker, which has a little Santa Fe County-esque building on it.

Just some press from our different various events out in the county. There was a voter registration, candidate filing day. We go out to all the senior centers to sign them up if they need to for a permanent absentee, so we've been very, very active, trying to let people know this election is coming up and also how they can vote and how voting is easy in Santa Fe County.

Some more pictures, some awards, some of our training, some of our outreach events, and our message to voters this election cycle is we feel that election day is going to be very busy. If any of the amount of people who've requested ballots for FQE and of interest in voting is any indication, so we would encourage you if you don't want to wait in line or you want to save your place in line for someone who can only vote election day is to vote early. It is very easy in Santa Fe County. We're also reminding voters that if you have a ballot in hand we're encouraging you not to mail it back but to drop it. There are lots of places to drop it. Any polling site, back at the Clerk's Office, or in our secure container, because we know the mail will be delayed as more and more election mail comes out and also that we are seeing more and more mail delays, and so we don't want your ballot to not get back to us. And the reason why is we are not a postmark state. We are a have to have it back in hand state, which means that if at 7:00 pm, we don't have your ballot in hand, that ballot will not count. We would hate for that to happen, so we want you to plan ahead and then add an extra three to four days – things might happen. So if you have that ballot ten days out from the election, drop it, don't mail it.

And then we're going to be handing out some of these little stickers. Some of the restaurants around town and some of the various businesses have asked where can you direct people and we've been giving these stickers to post places that they can – this QR code will take them directly to santafe.vote where they can find information about voting.

And that's the end of my presentation and update from the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office. Does anyone have any questions?

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. You have just couple minutes for questions, I guess. All right, Commissioner Hansen first.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: So congratulations on your awards, but

also, as somebody who has participated in NACo for years, thank you for joining NACo and going there and participating, because I do believe that the National Association of Counties is an incredibly important organization and they need more, different voices than the regular voices. NACo has always been viewed as a very conservative organization and I think that by opening up the dialogue we're allowed to get – we're able to get more voices in. I feel especially grateful for all the resolutions that I was able to bring forward for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and the fact that they were unanimously supported.

And so I think there are ways to use NACo to benefit our community and I'm glad to see you taking advantage of it and congratulations on your awards from there.

CLERK CLARK: Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. I want to start out with I watched the tabulators. I was down at the Clerk's Office at 240 Grant today and at 7:15, about 45 minutes before the polls open, and I watched them setting up and having their first team meeting, getting all psyched up to host this and everybody had smiles and looked stress-free. That didn't last. The stress came pretty quickly, but I think you handled it pretty well and I hope that everybody left pretty happy by the end of it.

CLERK CLARK: We actually went out and got umbrellas for our voters because they were waiting in line. There's official Santa Fe County election umbrellas out at the Clerk's Office at Grant Street where folks can borrow an umbrella while they're standing in line then deposit in our leave umbrella garbage pail.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great. Thanks for accommodating the voters that had to wait a few extra minutes out there. So I also voted today. I was lucky enough to be the first person to put a ballot into one of the tabulators. I wasn't the first person to vote but I was the second person to vote. So I was honored to be that person. It went smoothly, and thanks. Good job.

Then two questions. One, Abedon Lopez doesn't exist now, so where is the voting?

CLERK CLARK: It's just right next door.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So it is the Boys & Girls Club, that space over there?

CLERK CLARK: Yes. Right. So people know where Abedon is and then there will be signage to direct them to go to the next building.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. And that is viable for no confusion and things like that?

CLERK CLARK: Yes. It's actually not a very popular site, in terms of total voters, even if we were to take today's amount of four times the normal amount, it still is not going to be a crush or – it's much quieter. A lot of people don't wait for Abedon to open. They come down to the Clerk's Office, or a lot of folks are now voting absentee.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. That's great. But every vote counts and people that live in that neighborhood –

CLERK CLARK: Lot of signage is going to be –

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Lots of signage. Wonderful. And it is just

right next door.

CLERK CLARK: Right next door.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: But for the people that might get confused we should make sure that we allow for confusion. And then I want to thank you and your office for attending the EV show this week. Sorry we couldn't get in front of you and get you enough information about it but it was nice to see the Clerk's first EV, an F-150 Lightning on display there. And I think Mitchell did a great job representing your office. So thank you very much.

CLERK CLARK: Thank you for inviting us.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: You're welcome.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Hamilton.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you. So first of all, congratulations on all the work and all the awards. It's very impressive and I hope it helps carry you guys all the stress of the election. That fabulous feeling.

CLERK CLARK: Our office runs off sugar, I can tell you.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I'm in full support – chocolate, sugar, ice cream. Chocolate keeps the dementors away. This is a question because I have a professional interest in the audit statistics. I've done that kind of sampling, but obviously in an environmental lab. Are you guys concerned that it's too much sampling, or not enough? Or that the statistics are poor.

CLERK CLARK: It's too much sampling. So what's happening is the large counties are getting a disproportionate amount of the total sample. Once we've reached sort of like a sample size, proportionate to the amount of voters that we have in our county, they're not cutting off a number of precincts that are being chosen. It's totally random. So Bernalillo County and Santa Fe County had a giant amount of precincts that we had to hand tally, because the auditing process is where we're actually hand tallying ballots. So we had to hand tally over 3,500 ballots, and we barely made our deadline. It took a lot of people to try to hand tally.

Whereas, a sort of good sampling would be taking samples throughout the county, the different polling sites, so we want to reconfigure that. The way that it works in Santa Fe County is normally we wouldn't have had such large samples because during the general and the primary are very wide margins, and the width of the margin is what determines how much sampling to do to raise like a T-test.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Yes.

CLERK CLARK: But because in the regular local election and all these sort of like little races that are overlapping, the way the formula was written means that there's no cutoff. Like we don't reach a certain proportion of our ballots. We just kept polling and polling and polling precincts. So we actually over sampled and did a lot of extra work unnecessarily to prove that our tabulators did what they were supposed to be doing.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: You clearly – and I knew this before – have a great handle on this sort of thing. If nothing else, maybe the Association of Counties may get some – or NACo, I guess, could – I would think you might need to do it locally, like in New Mexico. Or hire a consultant to revise that, because those statistics and the processes are really well worked out as you clearly know.

CLERK CLARK: I have some ideas, yes.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Commissioner Bustamante, anything?

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: I just want to congratulate you and your team for the good work that you all have done.

CLERK CLARK: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Sincerely. I think everyone has said everything else, so thank you for your good work.

CLERK CLARK: Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Yes. Congratulations and good speed.

CLERK CLARK: Thank you. Vote early, everybody. Thank you. Thank you very much, Commission.

8. Matters of Public Concern

CHAIR HUGHES: Now we can go to public hearing and I guess we'll set a three-minute limit, and who is in the audience that wishes to speak to us. You can come up to the microphone right here and make three minutes of comments.

GREG MELLO: Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you for your work every day and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Greg Mello. I'm the director of the Los Alamos Study Group. I want to talk to you briefly about the transformative mission at Los Alamos, new mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The magnitude of this may not be apparent. This is a \$25 billion acquisition project at Los Alamos National Laboratory that will run from since prior to 2019 up to 2032. That's the period of time where the \$25 billion will be spent. About \$11.5 billion have been spent so far. It has succeeded in transforming Los Alamos to the point where there's about one-third of Los Alamos staff is now working to support the plutonium warhead core production mission, which is the mission that we're talking about.

It's a – I can give you at any time you want, with notice, a hearing if desired about the impacts, the nature of this. We have been working on this for a very long time. Myself full time since 1992 and we work here. We work in Washington. We are giving a public briefing on the 12th at St. Bede's Church at 1:00 for four hours covering a couple of different topics. It's not as targeted to what the County would be interested in. Perhaps of greater interest would be the briefing on the 24th of this month at the Sala Events Center at 6:00 pm at Los Alamos, in Los Alamos Town.

We would like the County's help with transparency relative to transportation data, and I wanted to congratulate the County on its vote today on the EPCU project which is not actually needed for Los Alamos' mission and I am sure that you already know that the analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act that is being relied upon, relied upon by the laboratory, has been declared inadequate by a court in South Carolina which will lead to some further scrutiny of what's going on. There would be a site-wide environmental impact statement coming down the pike but you should not rely on this as providing any sort of viable input into decision-making. It's designed to take away your voice, give you a voice, unless you are very firm and bold.

I wanted to point out that this new mission will more – I just did this calculation

yesterday – more than double the transuranic waste production at Los Alamos National Laboratory. This may appear in the *New York Times* on Thursday. You probably already know that Los Alamos will never be cleaned up and you probably already know that because of its location and its costs and that Los Alamos will really never be anything but a bomb lab. And so when you hear that you should support this or that initiative in order to diversify the laboratory, the people who are saying that really don't know what they're talking about. Los Alamos is nearly all the nuclear weapons laboratory and that's the only thing it can be because of its location and its internal costs. I appreciate your attention and please contact us. Anna has contact information and we can help you in any way you like. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you very much. Anyone else in the audience?
And then who do we have online?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, we have Chris Mechels online.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Go ahead. Get Chris Mechels up.

CHRIS MECHELS (Webex): Okay, Mr. Chair and members of the Commission, here I am to rescue you again. You left with a serious problem as relocated at the end. As I mentioned, I brought that attention to the Board and what's happened is that they didn't understand, apparently. You could not do what you did, which was just eliminate a reference to a resolution because that didn't even address the problem or begin to. What I had suggested was, what needed to happen was you needed to eliminate that agenda item and that you chose not to do. I have no idea, and I bet you don't either, what the language is of the resolution you voted to pass because they didn't tell you.

What they did is they mumbled a bit and said, oh, a mistake, bad reference, knowing you should have saved the language. If they pulled that line out, what they're left with is an unsupported, sole source – you can't do that. You've violated Santa Fe County Procurement Code, for god's sakes. The only reason that reference was in there was so they could do a sole source. Well, what I called to their attention was you can't use that language because that language is used only for doing open land acquisitions. It's not intended to be used for acquiring buildings.

So what you're left with, as far as I can tell, is a muddled resolution. I have no idea what the language is in there because they can't make that language legal. So what I suggested was that you terminate it and if you really do have a need to move the DA's office, which I don't believe you do, then you need to do a competitive procurement to get other people to bid. What you've got right now is a sole source and a lot of the language that you went for was just false. They don't have a parking problem at the current DA office. They have a wonderful taxpayer supported underground parking facility, which is just for their use and the use of the courthouse. So what you'll have is a parking problem after you move them, if you move them.

The other thing that's not mentioned is the reason – the reason the DA's office is where it's at is it's right next to the courthouse which means the DA's staff is right next to the courthouse, which is right where you need them for any efficiency. Moving them five miles down the road is just absurd is what it is. What this looks like on the face of it is somebody wants to get their hands on six million bucks and you just helped them. What they're going to do is spend \$6 million and all you get out of that is problems. You've been had and you've been had big time, and you need to do your homework.

So anyway, consolations, you guys need to wake up and get a staff, get your own attorney and start paying attention. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, there are no more speakers online.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. We will end the Matters of Public Concern.

9. Matters from the County Manager

A. Miscellaneous Updates

MANAGER SHAFFER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners. I don't have much in the way of updates. I do want to continue to encourage county residents in line with the County Clerk's presentation to make sure they have a plan to vote, and also to make sure that they take the time to educate themselves relative to the various bond questions that are on the ballot this general election, including the County's three general obligation bond questions. We are sending out today a reminder, a press release to all of our email contacts relative to those bond questions. Daniel Fresquez has worked to create a general obligation bond specific webpage and will be continuing to add new content to that between now and the start of full-blown expanded early voting. So again, I encourage everyone to vote and encourage everyone to take the time to educate themselves relative to the general obligation bond questions and other questions that appear on the ballot. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Thank you, Manager Shaffer.

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: Who's first next? Commissioner Hamilton, you look like you're ready to go.

COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I'm ready to go because I don't have very much to say other than like everybody else here I want to encourage everybody in District 4 to follow what the Clerk and the County Manager have all been encouraging, which is make a plan to vote and vote early.

CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Bustamante.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Thank you. I just want to commend staff, particularly Cindy and others, all of the staff who participate in the strategic planning process, which was our last time together. It's a very important process. It ensures that all of the needs and requests and concerns from the community are factored into the operations of County government, and it went well. And I'm grateful for all of the time that people spent to assure that those issues, concerns, are all folded into proper priority areas for Santa Fe County. So I really commend everyone for their good effort on that and for helping us move forward in getting the issues and concerns of our constituents addressed in a formidable manner. Thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it is with a heavy heart and sadness that I have to announce that it is on Saturday my last Coffee and Tea under the Trees. I'm having a kind of farewell party and will continue to talk about the historical cultural center that I'm so grateful that we got on the strategic plan. I know that will be a long, involved process but my constituents are – I believe that it is something that is necessary. So I'm inviting everyone to come to the Coffee and Tea. It will be October 12th from 10:00 to noon, and it's always great to come to Reunity Farm. It was really an honor to be able to have the groundbreaking for the Santa Fe River Trail, Section B, groundbreaking at Reunity Resources and I want to thank staff and everyone for the turnout and for the event. It was really a lot of fun and everyone was really happy that we had the groundbreaking. It was an exciting event.

Over the last couple of weeks one of issues that has been going on in my district for quite some time is the Baca Street PNM site plume. It's a petroleum plume that was create in the 1950s and is affecting the wells in the city. One of them is the Santa Fe Well that they have shut down and haven't been using but the meeting was held at the Harold Runnels Building and it was pretty well attended. We talked about the site location and the reason for the meeting was that they're installing more monitoring wells on the edge of the plume to see how it's been spreading, but I think it's really important to keep an eye on this site even though it is in the city it affects the City wells.

It hasn't migrated past or out of the Baca Street area. It's kind of between Baca Street and the School for the Deaf. They'll be drilling these monitoring wells around the edges of the plume off of Baca Street and Fayette Street. I think it's important to follow this to make sure that this plume does not spread. It is a little confusing and I expressed this to them that they refer to the Agua Fria well, and when they're referring to the Agua Fria well it's actually the well that is on Cristóbal Colón and Agua Fria Street and the Barrio La Cañada.

And so not to be confused with the mutual domestic well that was quite a ways further down, but it is still a serious issue and to date, the total amount that has been paid to work on the cleanup of this is over \$3.5 million. And so this has been going on for years and years and years, and we hope to see some resolution and cleanup of this site so that the plume does not continue to spread. And there will be some activities going on with drilling to put these monitoring wells. These monitoring wells are to monitor and see if the plume has spread and they are not collection wells.

So I wanted to share that with everybody because I think it is important to keep an eye on the contaminants that exist throughout the city and the county.

I also had the – I met with DOE-Environmental Management, Jessica Kunkle is the new environmental manager for Los Alamos site. She came here to meet with me and I requested that she also give a presentation to the Board because I think it's important to know what is happening with the chromium plume and other cleanup efforts that are happening. Since we don't have myself and Commissioner Hamilton much time left at Buckman Direct Diversion I felt that our Board meeting would be a good avenue for them to share their information.

And I was very happy to go to the EV show on the plaza, and thank you, Commissioner Greene, for being an active participant and having your cars there, and thank you, the County for having our EV car there and hopefully next year we can have

more cars there. And I think that is all I can remember at the moment. So thank you.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. You have two more meetings or three to keep updating us.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I think we have four more meetings.

CHAIR HUGHES: Four more meetings. Okay. Good. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Excellent. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will lead off with the EV show. I want to thank the folks from Sustainability and the Clerk's Office and the supporting cast around there for taking part in the EV show. We had two County vehicles there. We had the new F-150 Lightning that the Clerk's Office had and they got to show that off as well as our original EV which was a Nissan Leaf out there. It was really well attended. There were about 50 vehicles out there. I've been taking part in this EV show for five years now and that was when you had to beg people and there was maybe a few Teslas. Now there was – there was a lot of Teslas still

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: But Volvos.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: There was Volvos. There was Teslas. There were Fords of two different types. There was a Polestar there, or two Polestars. There were – yes, it was a great variety, and it was really well attended. And so one of the great things was the irony of it was that right next door to this huge group of people from around the country that were here sort of after Balloon Fiesta and decided to come up to Santa Fe and walk the plaza. They got to see electric vehicles. But also right next door to the EV show on the plaza was the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association that was holding their annual meeting over in La Fonda. So they got to see the EVs as well and see how popular they were. So it was nice to show that off.

So once again, thank you to Will, Paul and Mitchell. Will from Sustainability, Paul Olafson is Community Development Director and Mitchell from the Clerk's Office, and Ambra Baca, my liaison who came out for two hours and brought her kids and got to show off our cars for a couple hours, so that was wonderful.

I also went to the Mayor's Arts Awards program and I have to give a shout-out for a really well produced and well attended arts awards ceremony. While it was a City-led event it did give an award to some folks from the county and so it was really nice that it extended to a regional sort of event and it was great to attend that, and I encourage us to go to that next year because not only is it really well produced and a good presentation of people of all ages and all cultures, it was free and it was great. It was a beautiful event. So next year you should look for that.

We had – I mentioned earlier for a moment, Chimayo community planning, the sort of kickoff with some of the community leadership as well as our organizational groups and North Central New Mexico Economic Development District came to discuss different planning pathways and grants that might come forward that we might be able to put forward to start some planning. Probably, most likely in collaboration with Rio Arriba County because as you probably know Chimayo is a community that is divided arbitrarily with a county line that is cutting it in half.

Coming up later this week, tomorrow afternoon I'm meeting up in Espanola with the mayor and a city councilor to discuss improving relations and working on collaborations that we can work on together at all different levels. And so we're going to

have a little agenda and it's just the first meeting of this conversation although we've had other meetings. We're going to just further this collaborative effort up there.

Chair Hughes and I have been invited to discuss homelessness with the Mayor on Thursday and so we've got an hour to sit with the Mayor to discuss what he is talking, thinking about and if there are any ideas that anybody wants to bring forward in this meeting I'm happy to discuss those and to see what we can do to start to address this much more pro-actively and on a more effective level than what's currently going on out there.

Also coming up in about ten days before our next meeting is going to be the Santa Fe International Film Festival from October 16th to the 20th. This is an amazing film festival and so while we all lick our wounds for not getting Sundance, we should celebrate the film festivals that we do have that are pretty amazing in their own right. And so that is going to be around Santa Fe. Santa Fe County is a sponsor of this. It brings people in. It is amazing. I've attended and sponsored it for many, many years and the people that operate it are some of the best in the business. And so it ain't Sundance but that's probably a good thing. So I want to give them a shout-out and encourage everybody to attend that. Go see a really good movie. Go to a workshop on how to write a movie or how to become a producer. It is both entertainment and education and it's a great thing.

I want to wish everybody a happy Jewish New Year. Shona Tovah to everybody. That was last week and to a Yom Kippur coming up this Friday to Saturday. The book is open and it closes on Friday and I want to encourage everybody to learn a little bit about Jewish faith and how it interfaces with a lot of our culture and pervades across different communities here.

And lastly, before our next meeting, Indigenous People's Day and I'd like to encourage people to take a moment to celebrate that when it's time and to recognize that we do live in a very – an area where the indigenous communities have had a great impact on our culture and still do to this day. We should celebrate that every day but most definitely on Indigenous People's Day. So thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I look forward to seeing you in a couple weeks.

CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I just want to say something about Indigenous People's Day. I want to honor Commissioner Ed Moreno who in 2017 with myself brought forward the first resolution to recognize Indigenous People's Day and it was great to be able to serve with him and I always will think about him when I think of Indigenous People's Day because he was so committed to that cause and was incredibly honored to work on the Aamodt lawsuit and the Pojoaque Regional Water System. So I just wanted to include that.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Well, I would like to mention that today, October 8th, is my son Nicky's 31st birthday and we're very proud of him.

The other thing is I attended the assisted outpatient treatment planning session last Friday, which is an initiative out of the Governor's Office. They're using Santa Fe County as an example and so I think we're moving forward with it. Assisted outpatient treatment means the person can be called to the judge and the judge an order him to take treatment but it's not really mandatory; it's sort of voluntary. So it's sort of a weird

program but apparently it's successful. I did notice that when I asked the question whether housing was included a lot of the communities around the country that do it do include a housing program, but of course the lack of affordable housing is getting to be a problem.

I think we should really push for that. Homeless people – it really should be called disabled housing because people may be homeless for a week or two because they lose a job or something, but people who are disabled are the ones who end up homeless for ever and ever. And if we can give them housing they can get better so much faster from mental illness. And I think there's a lot of pieces floating around out there. Of course it's the time of year when everybody talks about the homeless and then around February they forget about them again till the next year.

But we should really push, if we can, if we can try and coordinate whatever the Mayor wants to do, the affordable housing that we're building, vouchers from the state would be great. The assisted outpatient treatment providing the treatment that people need. So all of that coming together, I think we have an opportunity to maybe perhaps move forward and help some people and really – we're talking about the most desperately ill, poor people in our whole society. And so I always feel a concern for them and I think a lot of other people do.

So I hope that we can make some progress in some way with this. And with that I am done.

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 online?

MR. FRESQUEZ: Mr. Chair, I think I see the Treasurer online but she is not indicating that she's like to speak.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay. Madam Treasurer, we're not expecting you?

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. Acquisition of Real Property Interests for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System.

JEFF YOUNG (County Attorney via Webex): Thank you, Mr. Chair, Commissioners, as the Board's attorney I would ask that we go into executive session to discuss the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights, as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, including acquisition of real property interests for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, and I don't expect it will take very long, but if it's the Board desire to go ahead and adjourn and not come back I don't think we will have any action on this item.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, so is there a motion to go into an executive session and then adjourn?

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Mr. Chair, I move that we go into executive session on what Attorney Young suggested and that we adjourn from this meeting at this time.

COMMISSIONER BUSTAMANTE: Second.

CHAIR HUGHES: Okay, we have a motion from Commissioner Hansen, and a second by Commissioner Bustamante. Can I have a roll call.

The motion to go into executive session and adjourn the meeting 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 4:40 pm.]


12. Concluding Business

A. Announcements

B. Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Approved by:



Hank Hughes, Chair
Board of County Commissioners


ATTEST TO:

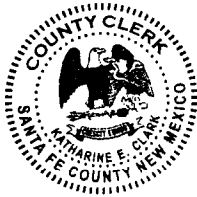


KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK



Respectfully submitted:

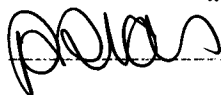

Karen Farrell, Wordswork
453 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 42

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/13/2024