

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

BCC MINUTES  
PAGES: 16

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**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**June 16, 2008**

Jack Sullivan, Chair  
Paul Campos, Vice Chair  
Virginia Vigil

Michael Anaya [Excused]  
Harry Montoya [Excused]

**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET STUDY SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 16, 2008**

This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Jack Sullivan in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll was called and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Jack Sullivan, Chairman  
Commissioner Paul Campos, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Virginia Vigil

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Harry Montoya  
Commissioner Mike Anaya

**Approval of the Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Campos and second by Chairman Sullivan, the agenda was unanimously approved by 3-0 voice vote.

**IV. FY 2009 Final Budget**

TERESA MARTINEZ (Finance Director): The first slide if you will, page 1, is just a summary of the events that need to occur in order to get the final budget approved. The interim budget was previously approved on May 27<sup>th</sup> and we made the timeline to submit it to DFA by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Now, BCC directives for budget changes to this interim budget must be completed by June 27<sup>th</sup> and whatever changes are made basically here today that will become the final budget and what we roll into the system so that all offices and staff can begin business on July 2<sup>nd</sup> or whatever date that may fall.

The BCC will formally adopt the final budget on July 29<sup>th</sup> and we are required to submit it to DFA by July 31<sup>st</sup>. And any further changes that the Board may request or suggest can be made by means of a resolution after the final budget has been submitted to DFA, and that again would be in the admin meeting in August.

**IV. A. Adjustments to be made to the interim budget**

MS. MARTINEZ: Slide number 2, page 2, is a summary of the adjustments that we made to the interim budget. We increased the general fund property tax revenue account to the tune of \$600,000. And we were real concerned with some of the commodities that might see a prize increase during this recessionary year and gasoline being the number one on our list. So we want to earmark \$300,000 of that \$600,000 increase to assist us in meeting our gasoline requirements for all departments Countywide. And then the other \$300,000, if you will, will be a contingency for the other commodities that we haven't been able to consider – construction costs, materials, everything that's rising.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Question, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Do you want to take question per item or wait until the end?

MS. MARTINEZ: Whatever you prefer.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I know that along with an increase in gasoline price that based on some of the emails I've received that we're trying to also do some gasoline conservation measures. I'd also like an update on that. I know carpooling has been one of them and I know we've purchased some hybrids and I'm not sure what all the conservation measures are, but I think ancillary to increasing our costs we should also be pushing for the conservation component of it too. So you may not have been prepared to answer that but maybe when we take final action on this we could get an update on that.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Sure. No problem. The next item basically we'll summarize, and it's later in the presentation that we have BCC directed budget increases. And these are basically going to be the rolling list and any building blocks or items that were not funded this year due to lack of funding for everything.

We have a potential general fund cash adjustment, basically an \$8 million set-aside on loan for the purchase of water rights, if that materializes, and we want to call it a loan, where the Water Fund would then reimburse that back and maybe make an annual payment to make that \$8 million whole.

And then a summary of the adjustments of other fund budgets. The fire operations fund will have an increase of \$300,000 that will assist in increasing salaries for the RECC staff. They just unionized, just had a positive vote, so we'll be entering negotiations with that union. And initial estimations are conservatively at \$300,000. But we have not begun negotiations yet. The fire impact fee fund budget was established and then there's also some addition of inclusion of roads and facility and fire projects. So I believe as the information became available we may have added it.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner Campos.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Before we shift pages, I just want to go back to the questions raised by Commissioner Vigil. It would be interesting for me to know the baseline on fuel consumption.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: And how much we're using gas, how much gas and how much bio-diesel. And I think what steps we're taking to conserve gasoline. I know we have some hybrids that we're buying and I think we're committed to buying vehicles that have higher mileage that we have in the past. So I would like to have that baseline information and see what else we're doing. Other entities are talking to the state, I think. They're talking about a four-day work week. I'm not sure if we're considering that, just to have employees save gas of driving five days. I'm not sure that's something that would work for us but I'd like to look at all the options for fuel savings.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

#### **IV. B. Increased property tax**

MS. MARTINEZ: The next slide will basically explain how we've had a comfort level in increasing property tax an additional \$600,000, and it shows the fiscal year 2006 activity through the current year and budgeted year of FY 09. We are adding \$600,000, so if you'll notice the blue shaded line if you will, it's just below what the yield calculation is at. So we're still under there, and that's representing our final budget number and just below that the blue would have represented the interim budget number. And we feel comfortable enough to increase the property tax to that level. And we also would like to come back to you at midyear and give you more firm numbers with regard to how the revenues are materializing, both property tax as well as gross receipts tax.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Remind me, what is the yield control.

MS. MARTINEZ: It's a formula driven by the Department of Finance and Administration and regulates basically the budgeted property tax calculation each fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And it can only increase by some percentage each year?

PETE GARCIA (Administrative Services Director): Mr. Chair, yield control is basically a formula DFA applies that ensures from one year to the next that property tax revenues generated don't exceed five percent. There's a three percent increase on the increase on the individual home value, net taxable value, with the five percent yield controlled. Total property tax revenues cannot increase by more than five percent. That's why they apply the yield control formula.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That's unless we change our budget, is that correct? We can move this whole yield control line up, correct?

MR. GARCIA: Right. Right.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: In other words --

MR. GARCIA: The maximum would be the yield control application but I think in that example, the green line is the yield control formula applied, and the blue line is what we want to budget, which is a little less. But the green is the five percent. It can't increase from one year to the other by more than five percent.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: What we're projecting, our adjusted budget for 2009, the purple, is below what we could collect.

MR. GARCIA: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Through yield control.

MS. MARTINEZ: That's correct.

MR. GARCIA: That's correct. And that's why we want to come back to you at mid-year to let you know what the financial status is.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Commissioner Vigil, you had a question?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Actually, I think it's been answered. Thank you.

#### **IV. C. Increased Gasoline Costs**

MS. MARTINEZ: We did a small slide, if you will, on gasoline costs, just to show how they've grown over the years and to also show how the price per gallon has increased. And to further substantiate or support the \$300,000 recommended contingency for gasoline cost. And you'll see that in FY 2006 we were paying \$2 to \$2.95, and in FY 09, what we know thus far is at least \$3.80 a gallon, and we don't know how much more that will increase.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: To \$5.

MS. MARTINEZ: Probably. So this is broken down by the significant departments and then the "all others" would be the smaller. The lion's share obviously goes to sheriffs, fire, roads, solid waste is in there.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Have we asked, for example the sheriff, fire or divisions that have a high fuel usage to start looking at their fuel usage to make reductions?

MS. MARTINEZ: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Campos, when we did the budget hearing we expressed that we had huge concerns over the rising price of fuel and we gave each of them an analysis of what they were materializing at, and we spoke to them about, you're aware of the alternative fuel policy, vehicle policy. That pilot's already begun. Can you attempt to do that? And then in addition, some of my staff are doing an analysis for Roman, kind of highlighting, who takes a vehicle home? Who's considering themselves on-call? Are they truly on-call? And trying to look at ways that we could potentially cut down the number of vehicles that go home with people every day, which is usually not in the Santa Fe area.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: When do you think you'll have the analysis done?

MS. MARTINEZ: Probably at least in another week or two.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: And we'll be seeing that?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: In 2009, it looks like a big increase in the fire department's use of fuel. Is that because we're going out to more of a full-time staff.

MS. MARTINEZ: I think it's the increased staff. Yes. I can research that and for sure confirm that for you.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Same way with road maintenance. It's quite a bit more than in past years. The others seem to be about the same.

MS. MARTINEZ: About the same. We can highlight fire and road maintenance when we provide the other analysis, highlighting all the take-home vehicles and potential ways to maybe save costs there.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: If road maintenance means that we're maintaining more roads, that's good. But if we're doing the same mileage of grader work as we are in past years maybe we need more efficient graders.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Better equipment.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Anyway, it's just of an observation.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. We'll research that and give you a little more solid information.

#### **IV. D. General fund requested positions**

MS. MARTINEZ: Now, the next three slides are informational, basically, planting a seed. These three slides represent major initiatives or items, positions that were not funded in the budget, so this is on page 5. This is what we call the rolling list. This is what you're typically used to seeing and being able to decipher what will be approved in July and maybe what would be approved in January. At this time, we are coming before you and recommending no new growth with regard to FTEs. And again, we've labeled it to be reviewed at mid-year. We'd like to look at it at mid-year and determine if there is sufficient funding to bear the cost of such a recurring expense. So this was informational, maybe a little bit to digest and at mid-year, if money materializes to support these requests, then it would become the job of the Board to determine which positions and what priorities.

So right now, we're identifying no funding sources for the requested positions.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Question.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Question, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: With regard to, under numbers, those are the numbers of FTEs requested through the budgeting request process? If you look at the final Assessor, the appraiser under the Assessor's request, he's requesting five additional appraisers. Is that correct?

MS. MARTINEZ: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: That is a lot of one position. Do you recall why the request was made?

MS. MARTINEZ: I do, Mr. Chair, Commissioner Vigil, he identified that with the implementation with CAMA they are very behind. The office was very behind in a lot of the record keeping. We were still keeping the manual property records. And if you'll recall, that was an audit finding because some of the property records had an identified amount but the system was not updated to reflect the adjusted amount. So they're behind.

Part of the process in implementing CAMA, they had to take all of those records and put them into an access database so that the contractor could then work with that and implement the CAMA project. So he's saying they're behind already and his logic too is that all the forces are focusing on CAMA and then they need to be out in the field as well, so it's just hard to meet all the demands and job requirements. So yes, he did ask for five appraisers.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay.

MS. MARTINEZ: And we've spoken with him, we explained that we did not have the funding right now; we'd look at it at mid-year. We talked a little bit about the personal property auditor because that is something that would generate additional revenue dollars so we're going to meet with him and see if we can look at maybe implementing that sooner than mid-year.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Thank you, Teresa. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **IV. E. Non-funded recurring and non-recurring building blocks**

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay, the next slide will show you what we would typically come to you with recurring building blocks and a pot of money. Again, no pot of money, and just FYI that we will bring this back to you at mid-year if there is additional funding. No, no, no. So we summarized what would fall in the recurring category. This would be something that would occur every year. So the Vista Grande Library was in there for an additional \$50,000. Community Services Department had a project development, they were trying to expand their project consulting. The illegal dumping task force, Española animal shelter/recreation, and Chupadero, Tesuque summer recreation. So these are all programs that were requested and are not yet funded, and will be presented to you again at mid-year with all the other competing priorities with whatever available funds are with us at that time.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: What is CSD?

MS. MARTINEZ: Community Services Department. That would be Joseph Gutierrez' shop.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. Expanded projects consulting. So does he need more project managers or programs?

MS. MARTINEZ: I think so. I think to assist with that. And a lot of times and I'll confirm it with him, but we have to pay for appraisals or we'll have to pay for legal fees and that never comes as part of the total special appropriation packet, so that's on our dollar, and eats out of his operating budget. So I think this is consulting. But these are added costs that usually the special appropriations do not cover.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Under Chupadero, Tesuque summer recreation, is that different than the Pojoaque? The one with discretionary – excuse me, community funds has been available for?

MS. MARTINEZ: I think it is. I think this is along the lines of expanded recreation to the northern part of the county, and I can look at the building blocks. Yes, Tesuque is not covered. So I think it's the youth recreation, trying to expand into that northern county portion.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: It's the one that we actually have summer programs? And the animal shelter recreation?

MS. MARTINEZ: I think Paul just lumped it together, animal shelter/recreation. So there would be two separate projects if you will, but I think he lumped them together. We were questioning that as we came in, wondering why the shelter had a /recreation. So I think that just may have been a typo on our part.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I'm going to – I just don't recall the Española animal shelter request.

MS. MARTINEZ: I recall discussion about it, and I think it's in the building blocks, so I could look that up and then show you that after, if you prefer. Or we can pull that.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I'm just not recalling that. Sorry about that.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. And it was requested by Commissioner Montoya.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I think just – when we look at these, you say mid-year. That will be in January?

MS. MARTINEZ: That would be in January, after we've had a chance to see the December collections come in.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I think one of the things that we're not getting in looking at these building blocks is the number of residents they serve.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Certainly summer recreation programs are good and they serve, let's say, x-number of people for one month. Another expenditure serves so many people for all year. So I think we need to think about that. Now, that can't be the only determinant, obviously, but I think bang for your buck is a good first cut at some of these.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. We can work on that and get that information. Page 7 or slide number 7, same concept. We'll review this at mid-year, but just to give you an idea to digest all the non-recurring building blocks that were brought before us for the FY 09 budget preparation and are currently not funded. Again, hopefully, we can review these at mid-year. Now, this would encompass BCC or if you will Board initiatives as well as elected officials and all of the different department's requests.

There are some notes with regard to the Assessor and the Treasurer, the CAMA enhancements and then the Manitrax tax software, I know that the Treasurer, Mr. Montoya is very adamant about trying to implement a new software package. We're not saying no, but we're just saying maybe we could wait, complete the implementation of CAMA, work out the kinks there, and then move our eyes in the direction of the



Treasurer's software. So that will be brought before you again at mid-year. And then the rest of the summary.

We make the point that the Stanley agricultural facility and I believe the acequias rehabilitation, those aren't something we typically fund through our budgeting process. They're usually more funded if you will, through a special appropriation. But those are requested, so we went ahead and we listed everything that came before us in the budget preparation.

Then you'll also notice that some of the things –

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Are we still on a wish list with these?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, these are very much a wish list that we bring back before you at mid-year with an available pot of money.

MR. ABEYTA: And Mr. Chair, Commissioner Vigil, one thing we're trying to do through our strategic plan and with our strategic planner is that if we do identify a pot of money at mid-year there will be criteria that comes with it, that staff will have used to prioritize. So if things are indeed really just a wish list item we may not fund them if that's all they are, or if there's another way to fund them.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. It just occurs to me that some of these projects are projects that we've supported in the past, either through ICIP projects, some of them are new initiatives. Some of them haven't gone to the full Commission in terms of support. So that criteria to me, at the very minimum would be really critical. So knowing this is still a wish list, I'd like to be a part of it.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner Campos.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Pickup trucks for new appraisers, \$98,000.

MS. MARTINEZ: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Campos, the point I was going to make – the pickup trucks and then the pickup truck for the personal property appraiser, obviously that would go in line with us funding those positions, and since we're not recommending the funding of those positions we put the qualifier that that's something that would come with the approval of the staff.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: The pickups, are they necessary for appraisers to have pickups?

MS. MARTINEZ: I've been told that they are, because of the terrain that they cover. But we have met with Victor and Domingo and they're very much aware of our policy and the direction the County's trying to go towards, but we have been told that they are in rough terrain, and that's why they have the trucks.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Maybe we're going to tell them something different.

MS. MARTINEZ: Maybe so. That's fine.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I think that's baloney. Just about any vehicle any place in Santa Fe County that you're going to appraise something, unless you're going to go on top of Tesuque peak, you can get there in a car. And for that three percent that you can't then you can assign the 20 trucks that they have down there parked along the street to do that. That doesn't mean every single appraiser has to have a truck that gets 10 miles to a gallon.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. I can meet with them if you'd like and have a discussion.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We certainly want to maintain their discretion as an elected official but we've got the budget strings, and we have too many pickup trucks that we don't need and they're eating gas just as they sit there doing nothing. So all they carry in the pickup truck is a tape measure and a clipboard and you can put that in the car. They make four-wheel drive cars if you need to get through a bumpy road or something. There may be some special requirements, but 98 percent of our appraising is in cities where they have paved streets. I just can't see that every time we see an appraiser we need a pickup truck. The same way with some of the other departments. They just don't have that flexibility that we had back in the days of dollar gasoline.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner Campos.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Are you also talking about the motor pool idea? We've talked about that. I don't know if we're getting closer to that, to the motor pooling.

MS. MARTINEZ: We actually are going to give them enough funding to attempt to buy five vehicles to support the motor pool. All of them will be within the requirements of the hybrid, alternative fuel, and very much in that direction. So for the next cycle, Paul was very adamant in the budget sessions that he was not going to give vehicles to anyone and if he did give vehicles to anybody it was going to be the motor pool. So the direction is towards the motor pool and very specifically with the acquisition of hybrid vehicles.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: I'm concerned about buying vehicles that use ethanol, corn-based ethanol. I don't think that's a good fuel choice.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: I think a lot of people are moving away from that fuel source.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Do you mean E-80?

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Any corn-based ethanol.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You can't prevent it.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: I know in Albuquerque you get it automatically. Like the E-85, the flex fuel, that's probably not a good policy choice, and if you want to talk about it we can.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: You get lower mileage.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Lower mileage, less power, you're using corn which has all kinds of implications for the cost of food. Implications for the environment. It's a very inefficient fuel.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. We can look at that.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Commissioner Campos is designing a nuclear fusion vehicle.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Then we will look at that definitely.

**IV. F. Disposition of additional general fund recurring resources**

MS. MARTINEZ: The next slide, if I'm not mistaken you've already seen this, so it's a reminder of just where did all the money go. Very specific to the general fund recurring resources. Basically, on the chart, the revenue column towards your left, expense column on the right-hand side. Again, I said this at the interim budget but the implementation of the state-supported Medicaid tax basically allowed us to balance the budget. That tax is going to go directly to the state, so we won't be budgeting that at all. We're working it out with our DFA representative as to whether we should budget it as an in and out, but the money will go directly to the State of New Mexico and the payments will be made to the County's portion of state-supported Medicaid.

The \$2 million that was added by that tax to the recurring budget has an impact on the FY 2010 budget, and we want to make the point that the revenues are sustaining or will sustain a \$4.5 million impact, which basically has allowed us to budget all the additional stuff that we have already done in FY 09. So it's just a small breakdown of where did the money go, basically. And you'll see that the jail fund took a \$2.2 million increase. The Sheriff, with the labor negotiations, overall saw a \$1.2 million increase. Insurance increased to the tune of about \$600,000. RECC operations, additional increase of \$500,000. We made some changes in Information Technology. It cost us about \$400,000. Human Resources, we had an additional staff member, \$300,000. That was also tied to the class and comp study. The additional rent of Bokum, \$300,000. And then all the minor stuff, which is made up of a bunch totals about \$1.1 million. That's basically where any new growth money, if you will, went to accommodate in the FY 09 budget.

So there were increases and changes that were made this year, and very much needed this year, but they will have an impact on future year budgets.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: On the jail fund, some of the conferences I attend in the Corrections Division there is a lot of innovative opportunities to bring in some additional dollars. Some of them involve new programs but some of them involve a lot of what we're trying to do, incorporate the strong mental health component, and then now - I actually was at the corrections officers graduation last Friday and with this new class and with those on the waiting list and those who were expeditiously certified we are at full capacity, as you announced at one of our last BCC meetings. So it seems to me that if all the management and administration and the operations is in place now, one of the assignments that can be done that I think we need to initiate or have some active role in, and that's working with our state and federal alternative programs to bring in some of those state and federal dollars. Because we're not going to be able to fulfill our mission with that jail strictly with our own general fund or constantly borrowing from it. We're going to have to really advance our profile. Or not advance it but make it more versatile.

And I know that because there's so much corrections experience in there right now. One of the things that might be able to be worked out is keeping or assigning a staff to be a liaison for looking at additional dollars. I don't know that we've done that and I know the Manager's office has tried to but we really don't have anyone specifically

assigned to doing that and I don't think we should go on without doing that. We need to look at outside resources for facilitating the management of that.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Mr. Chair, Commissioner Vigil, the amount escapes me, but I know that Eli Fresquez, who is the mental health director and his staff recently submitted a grant request. I don't know that we've heard whether or not we've received anything but I think they're moving in that direction. So I do know of one grant attempt. And it was hundreds of thousands of dollars with regard to mental health. So I think we're moving in that direction but we can meet with Annabelle and try to –

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: And it's not as if we've been remiss in that because Linda Dutcher actually submitted a grant about seven years ago for some in-house and transitional programs at the jail. That's a great focus. But I'm wondering if we could create more of a portfolio in that area.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.

#### IV. G. Red flag issues

MS. MARTINEZ: The ever important red flag issues. We did something similar in the interim budget and what we're doing right now is just for review, and again, another mid-year discussion. We're speaking to the possible reimposition of the fire excise tax. So we'll probably bring that to you at mid-year when we have a better idea as to how the GRT collections are materializing and the final budget, what Stan and his staff have been able to complete. But items for consideration, or what we have called red flag issues of course include the ability for continued increases to the size of the Fire Department. If you increase staff, you need to increase the infrastructure that goes along with that staff.

We want to hopefully provide or keep competitive increases to both the staff of the fire and RECC. We're currently in negotiations with both and we know those are key issues that we have to deal with and we'll be presented with in the FY 09 fiscal year. If we hire new staff obviously we need to continue to build new fire stations, equip them and rebuild our communications system, or enhance our communications system.

And lastly, increasing the support to the RECC from the new tax, I want to point out again Santa Fe County is responsible for 100 percent of operational expenditures, and that again includes the ability to provide competitive salaries and benefits and keep our RECC staff. So we'll bring this to you at mid-year for discussion and we'll hash out whether or not we actually do need this new tax and six months of the next upcoming fiscal year will enable us to see how the new tax collections are coming in and our ability to do what we need to do.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner Campos.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: How much does that tax bring in, presently?

MS. MARTINEZ: In a good year we were forecasting \$10 million. I think we brought that down for our next year to about \$9.8 million.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Annually?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: And that's all county including municipalities?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes. That's everywhere.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: And what is the rate?

MS. MARTINEZ: That is a quarter cent tax.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: A quarter cent tax. So we're going to allow that to lapse?

MS. MARTINEZ: Well, actually, the quarter cent for the fire excise tax is also a quarter cent, and that's only in the county. I'm sorry. I was speaking to the new tax. The quarter cent tax for fire excise tax is only in the county, if you will. The unincorporated areas. And that brings in \$1.5 to about \$1.6 million per year.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Per year; we'll allow that to lapse and review the decision at mid-year.

MS. MARTINEZ: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER CAMPOS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I know that had we not told people when we put that operational tax out that the tax burden would be level, because it would be the expiration of this tax. Now, that tax just got passed here. That was a quarter percent, wasn't it?

MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That money is fairly unique. It was going to be used for operational money.

MS. MARTINEZ: Right.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And what we're talking about here is a tax for capital, which is a more traditional tax.

MS. MARTINEZ: That's exactly right.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: But that's \$9 million a year. That's a heavy tax. I really think that we need to do a little more oversight of where these fire funds are being spent. We had about – a year ago a review of the fire tax coming in and hiring 20 additional firefighters and EMTs and so forth. But in terms of actual expenditures versus budgeted expenditures, I was up in Pojoaque Saturday for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the fire station there, and they're looking forward to this quarter percent tax and more or less assuming it's a slam-dunk. But I cautioned them that we made some promises to the public that economic times are less sanguine than they were a year ago, for a number of reasons, and that they really need to justify where that money was going to go. I told them I was up there to count the fire engines. The number of fire trucks that were in there that afternoon – there was a lot of equipment there. I think we're doing pretty well in terms of equipment. It's fairly new equipment. I haven't the foggiest idea whether it's up to national standards or all of those comparative type of things. It's very hard to turn down a new fire truck. We'd like to have a new fire truck and we'd like to have new EMT equipment and breathing apparatus and communications, radios, computers – you name it. The list can go on and on and at some point we have to have an evaluation process and I'm almost to the point where I think we would be well served to retain someone from the outside to come in and say, what do you really need and where do you need it.

Because we're further constrained by the fact that those impact fees, which fund most of that equipment, go disproportionately to areas where that development occurs.

Well, you say, the development occurs in that area so they have lots of fire needs and lots of EMTs. Well, it's always worked that way. It depends on the age of the population. New areas are a younger population. They're calling the ambulances less often. So the call rates aren't necessarily proportional. And I'm talking against putting lots of new services in District 5 because that's my district which is growing fast and getting a younger and younger population. But I'm just getting a feeling that we don't have a good handle on that big amount of money.

When you talk to the firefighters, what are they going to tell you? They're going to tell you we need it for homeland security. We need it for public service. On a small scale, we heard the same thing in Española about the ambulance service and how they needed \$20,000 and wrassled and argued whether they needed \$10,000 or \$20,000 and the actual billings to us are like \$3,000. So that's all the people they picked up that they could justify. So at some point in time – maybe it was \$4,000 or \$5,000, but it was half to a quarter what they estimated. I'm really getting an uncomfortable feeling here that we don't know where our money's going when it comes to all of these other things. Let me rephrase that. We know where it's going but we don't have as good a handle as I'd like to see on what it's being used for, and what the result of that use is. We need to be more quantitative. We're talking about big bucks, and we have a reason for saying, well – on the other hand, that gives a good reason to support the tax is it's [inaudible] We're really behind the eight ball here and people will understand that.

I get nervous when I see quarter percent floating around. I just know that every single one of those vehicles that the Fire Department drives, great, big SUVs with [inaudible] I wonder if we're paying for prestige or whether we're paying for operational efficiency. I just don't know.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. What we'll do for you, Mr. Chair, is we'll go ahead and I'll get together with Stan and his staff and we'll do an evaluation of existing equipment and where we're at, and then we'll try it to the proposed plan on replacing or maintaining the equipment, and we'll try and take the same attitude with everything else with regard to that and come to you with some data that you can justify and say, okay, we need the tax, or maybe we can hold off a little bit longer.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions here on this red flag issues.

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay, and the last is just a little slide from Paul Griffin for you guys for enjoyment.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: As you can clearly see in slide 397 – power point poisoning.

MS. MARTINEZ: This is his sense of humor trying to come out. And then the last thing we gave you was just a summary, kind of an FYI if you will. These are all – the first spreadsheet is a listing of all the taxes the County has imposed to date. And just some basic information about each one. Hopefully, that will be a helpful tool. And we break it down by dollar numbers over the course of the fiscal year so you can see what it's come to.

If you look under type of tax we show you the Santa Fe County portion, and if you look under the total GRT, that tells you what the grant total GRT rate, the five percent that goes to the state in addition to whatever we've imposed. Just hopefully a historical that will help for future reference.

And the last one shows possible GRTs that the County has not yet enacted. Some of them we don't qualify to enact, based on population or class of county, or a very specific need. So it's more of a tool, an FYI, and hopefully it can be used as a cheat sheet for you. That's what it's intent was. So I'll stand for any additional questions.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Commissioner Vigil.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Which one of these is that lifestyle or quality of life?

MS. MARTINEZ: That has not been imposed by Santa Fe County, and actually, there's only been one attempt and that was Bernalillo County, to implement the quality of life, and it didn't pass. So it would be on the very last set of spreadsheets.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: That's what I'm looking for. Where is it?

MS. MARTINEZ: Okay, that one's on the second page and it's the first item. You have to be a Class A county with a population of more than 250,000. So we're not there on the population just yet. I think we looked at the 2007 census and we were going from I think from 129,000 to about 140,000. So we're not quite meeting the population requirements.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Oh, I see. I was looking at the wrong matrix here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: What else, Teresa?

MS. MARTINEZ: That's it. Just again, I'll remind you that we're going to bring the final budget for approval to you in July, so that we can make the DFA deadline of July 31<sup>st</sup>, and even after we make that submission if you have any additional questions, suggestions, recommended changes, we can take it to the August BCC meeting. So we'll be bringing that before you in July for final approval.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So you're not looking for any action today.

MS. MARTINEZ: No actions today. No.

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Other questions from the Board.

**Adjournment**

Chair Sullivan declared this meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved by:



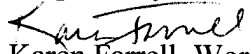
Board of County Commissioners  
Jack Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST TO:



VALERIE ESPINOZA  
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:



Karen Farrell, Wordswork  
227 E. Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

