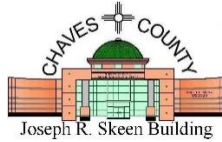


**CHAVES COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

William E. Cavin, Chairman
Jeff Bilberry, Vice Chairman



Dara Dana, Member
T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member
Richard C Taylor, Member

William B. Williams, County Manager

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022
CHAVES COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – JOSEPH R SKEEN BUILDING
#1 ST. MARY’S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dana led the pledge and Commissioner Ezzell led in prayer.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Those present in the chamber were Commissioners Cavin, Ezzell, Dana, and Taylor. Commissioner Bilberry was present by phone.

Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Public Services Director, Mac Rogers, County Attorney, Stan Riggs, Road Supervisor, Joe West, IT Director, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, Lieutenant Mike Ray, media, staff, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING HELD ON JULY 28, 2022
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

UPDATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mike Espiritu, Economic Development Corporation President

Mr. Espiritu stated last Friday he testified for Dean Baldwin Aircraft Painting. They were awarded the full amount for 25 new employees with an average wage of around \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour. They recently applied for and were awarded a \$20,000.00 matching grant with XCEL Energy. They plan to use the funds for phase I of the environmental-geo tech study for a mega site project at the Air Center. Update on Ascent Aviation, they have started to work on the grounds and things are moving along. They have weekly meetings with Ascent and the team. He presented a copy of their report from their annual meeting. A month ago, he applied for the EDC to become a certified economic development organization with the state. There are 14 applicants for the program and if they are successful, they will be eligible for a grant award of up to \$40,000.00. The announcement will be sometime in September. Yesterday they had a site visit which was half of the grading criteria. He thanked Commissioner Cavin and County Manager Bill Williams for being there. He has selected a website company to completely redesign their website. It will take about six months to roll out. He was at Dexter town hall last week helping them with their 2022 comprehensive plan. In two weeks, the state JTIP folks will be here to visit all the JTIP companies. Chaves County had eight JTIP awards. More than any other NM County except Bernalillo. They recently partnered with Job Corps and local aviation industries at the Air Center. This is about bringing students to the A&P Program at the University. They would like to have an advanced air tech maintenance technician program at the University here in Roswell that will bring in students from all the Job Corps sites around the Country. This is a program through the federal government which will pay for the students lodging and travel. There will be no out of pocket expense to the students. This will create a need for more instructors which is a good problem to have.

**AGENDA ITEMS
AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

1. REQUESTING RATIFICATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT A-22-006 – AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND CHAVES COUNTY FOR APPROPRIATION 22-G2770 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00

PRESENTER: GEORGIANNA HUNT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SPECIALIST

Ms. Hunt stated they are requesting ratification of approval for Agreement A-22-006 between the State of New Mexico Finance and Administration and Chaves County for appropriation 22-G2770 for \$250,000.00. This funding is going to be used for the ongoing project involving the window replacement at the Courthouse. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT A-22-006 FOR APPROPRIATION OF 22-G2770 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

2. REQUESTING RATIFICATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT A-22-007 BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND CHAVES COUNTY FOR APPROPRIATION 22-G2771 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00

PRESENTER: GEORGIANNA HUNT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SPECIALIST

Ms. Hunt stated they are requesting ratification of approval of Agreement A-22-007 for Appropriation 22-G2771 between the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and Chaves County for the Pecos Valley Regional Communications Center project in Chaves County in the amount of \$50,000.00. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE AGREEMENT A-22-007 FOR APPROPRIATION 22-G2771 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

3. AGREEMENT A-22-035 BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this is a lease agreement for office space located at the Pecos Valley Medical Complex, 1600 SE Main Street, Suite D-1, Roswell, NM. The Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District have leased this space for nine years. This is our standard lease for a term of one year with an option to extend for three additional years. Staff recommends approval of Agreement A-22-035.

MOTION MADE TO: ACCEPT AGREEMENT A-22-035
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

4. RESOLUTION R-22-047 AUTHORIZING SUSPENDING THE MINIMUM PENALTY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROPERTY TAX CODE

PRESENTER: CHARLOTTE ANDRADE, CHAVES COUNTY TREASURER

Ms. Andrade stated Resolution R-22-047 would suspend the minimum penalty requirements of the Property Tax Code; Section 7-38-050 NMSA 1978 which states “*If property taxes become*

delinquent, a penalty of one percent of the delinquent taxes for each month or any portion of a month they remain unpaid shall be imposed, but the total penalty shall not exceed five percent of the delinquent taxes except that, when the penalty determined under the foregoing provisions of this subsection is less than five dollars (\$5.00), the penalty to be imposed shall be five dollars (\$5.00).” Based on the exceptionally high rate of property tax collections, it is felt that a minimum \$5.00 penalty is unnecessary. The property tax collection average for the prior 10 years is 99.28 % as of June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-047
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

Ms. Andrade stated she would also like to report that the Chaves County Treasurer’s Office will be hosting a statewide Treasurer’s convention next week. 22 Counties will be attending in addition to state agencies. She extended an invitation to the Commissioners if they would like to attend and stated it starts Tuesday at 1:00 pm and concludes at 11:30 am on Friday. They have 15 presenters coming in to discuss various topics. They do have some evening events as well.

**5. RESOLUTION R-22-048 – APPROVING CHANGES TO PERSONNEL CHART
PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER**

Mr. Williams stated The Planning & Zoning Department is in need of an Electrical Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer. This was discussed with the Finance Committee on August 10, 2022. They agreed that continuing to provide electrical inspection services to our community was very important and that they would recommend funding this position if approved by the full Board of Commissioners. They have extended an offer to an individual to be a building inspector, not only do we have to accept them, but the state has to accept them and their credentials. Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-22-048

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-048
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

**6. RESOLUTION R-22-049 – CREATION OF ABSENT VOTER PRECINCT,
DESIGNATION OF ABSENT VOTER PRECINCT POLLING PLACE AND HOURS ON
ELECTION DAY AND SUBSEQUENT DAYS
PRESENTER: CINDY FULLER, CHAVES COUNTY CLERK**

Ms. Fuller stated the Commission has a statutory requirement to create an absent voter precinct and designate a polling place. Resolution R-22-049 designates the absent voter precinct and polling place as the Chaves County Clerk’s Office at #1 St. Mary’s Place in Roswell, NM. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-049
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

ITB’S/RFP’S

**7. ITB 22-2 – VECTOR CHEMICALS
PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER**

Mr. Williams stated the County has received bids from the following bidder under ITB-22-2 for Vector Chemicals. Staff has compared and evaluated bids on all items and recommends award be made to both vendors, Site One Landscape Supply and Target Specialty Products, as set forth on the attached bid tabulation spreadsheet. Target Specialty was able to provide pricing for all of the pesticides used for mosquito control, but they were unable to provide for the herbicide round up for weed control. Site One Landscape was able to provide the herbicide. Award of this bid will

constitute a price agreement against which orders will be placed as needed. The first term will be for a period of one year, with the option to renew for up to three additional one-year terms. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE ITB-22-2
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

8. WAIVER OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FEES FOR BERRENDO WATER COOPERATIVE *PRESENTER: MAC ROGERS, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR*

Mr. Rogers stated Berrendo Water Cooperative is requesting a waiver of permit fees for road excavations to repair water lines. Permit number 2476 in the amount of \$1,850 is located at the intersection of Meadow Brook and E McGaffey. Permit number 2482 in the amount of \$1,850 is located along East 17th St near Fowler Road. A provision of Ordinance 44 allows for the Board of Commissioners to waive the fees associated with right-of-way excavations. Chaves County Road Department has inspected the repairs for these waiver requests.

MOTION MADE TO: WAIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY FEES FOR BERRENDO WATER COOPERATIVE
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

9. APPOINTMENT TO THE ROSWELL-CHAVES COUNTY EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING COMMISSION

PRESENTER: LOUIS JARAMILLO, PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR

Mr. Jaramillo stated they are requesting to re-appoint the three County representatives serving on the Roswell-Chaves County (ETZ) Extraterritorial Zoning Commission for a term of one-year. They are Royce “Pancho” Maples, Rita Kane Doerhoefer, and Michael C Lackey. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE ROSWELL-CHAVEZ COUNTY ETZ COMMISSION - ROYCE “PANCHO” MAPLES, RITA KANE DOERHOEFER, AND MICHAEL C. LACKEY
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE CHECKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,905,961.78
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE REPORTS
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER VISITOR NOT TO EXCEED 15 MINUTES. NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

Bonnie Brainerd, 1012 N. Lea, Roswell, 88201

Ms. Brainerd stated she is here today to speak about voter integrity. She stated Chaves County was pulled for a risk limiting audit back in the general presidential election. Our County Clerk ran through 27 or 29 ballots, and it flipped a vote. This was reported to the FBI, and nothing was done. The second thing that happened was the race after the presidential 2020 election was the school board elections. At that point our Clerk ran through 24 ballots to test the machines. She would do 24, 24, 24 and then it hit one that was 25 ballots. What had happened was a ballot from the presidential election had been stuck in the machine. They pulled that out and inadvertently, not knowing it was in there, ran it through the next machine. That's human error, we have a stellar County Clerk with a stellar office, that happens. What is not acceptable is that machine did not send off warning bells and sounds to say there's something wrong here. It ran through. The presidential ballot was front and back, the school board was two items. What's worse is it counted a vote. How the hell did that happen? It boggles the mind. The machines are bad. The third thing she wanted to bring up, if you've been to our County Clerk's Office recently, there are boxes of those voter information registrations, boxes of them that have come back undeliverable. She is betting if they looked at those and ran the test, part of those people voted and voted absentee. This brings the question; how did they get the ballot if that is an invalid address. We have a problem with these machines. We do not have a problem in our County Clerk or with you guys. We have a problem with the machines. They need to be done away with like Otero County did and we need to stand with Otero County. The barbarians are at the gate. We need to close the gate and we need to be able to tell our children and our grandchildren that we tried. We did something and we stood up and said no. This is just the low hanging fruit that she pulled to talk about today.

Dr. Susan Neldon, 2102 E. Berrendo

Dr. Neldon stated she has the same problem with the voting machines and the Secretary of State has provided certification of the Dominion voting systems, suite version 5.4, with a date of August 24, 2017. The Secretary of State has certified the automated election systems, autovote ballot printing system, and that certification is December 1, 2011. The election code, Section 1-9-1 NMSA requires the Secretary of State to maintain a list of certified voting systems, field testings, and evaluation reports and give access to the public on her website. She stated she has been to her website and those are the only documents that are listed that are certified. Section 1-9-7.4A NMSA is the law that requires for each voting system certified for use in the state to be reviewed, it shall be reviewed, for recertification by the Secretary of State during the year following the Presidential election. Tests and inspections shall be no later than June 1st to follow the procedure in Section 1-9-14 NMSA. Currently, the Secretary of State has failed to comply with the law and with her failure to comply with the law, the voting systems certification committee has violated their law because they're not receiving any reports. For them to ask the County Commissioners to accept the results for the 2020 election and 2022 election in November of this year, you can't certify the election if the machines have not been certified. She proposed that they pass a resolution that states "because we have no certified machines in the county of Chaves that a hand count of any votes will be considered the method to certify the 2022 election".

Tracy De La Rosa, 3003 N Garden, Roswell, NM

Ms. De La Rosa stated she is also here about the machines. She was lucky enough to be an election official this year in the Primary and was able to see the amazing job our County Clerk has done but confidence in the vote, according to the latest Rasmussen poll, 58% don't trust the vote. We've seen evidence coming out of Otero County. There's a 500-page report that they have showing the canvassing and the results of that canvassing which she did help with. There are discrepancies in the Dominion machines and there is proof that they do have 4G capability, even in the tabulation systems. We can't let people not be confident in this vote, they don't trust it. She stated she campaigns every single day and people tell her constantly. She can register people to vote, and they tell her they aren't even going to bother because they don't trust it. That's not fair to our Clerk, we're not protecting her, we're not protecting every single person in that office, and they have the power legally to do that right now before a law is passed or before the machines are certified. State Representative Jim Townsend sent a letter to Maggie Toulouse Oliver on July 23 stating and questioning that these are not legally certified machines. Voter confidence is gone and unless we do something, like get a hand count going like France does, and be transparent fully, voters will not register to vote, and they won't continue to vote.

Cathy Crossley, 4700 Zuni Ave.

Ms. Crossley stated she would like to reiterate that this is not a partisan thing it is voter integrity. Our machines have the capability of filling out a ballot. Say a seeing impaired person comes in, the machine can fill out the ballot for them. You can not tell the difference between whether they hand filled it out or whether the machine did it. What bothers her is that she also worked the election and was a precinct judge, she had a lady if she had to fill out a vote if she didn't want to and she told her she did not. The machine has the capability to fill that in so say in the 2020 election you didn't like either one running and you left it blank, who's to say that the machine didn't fill it in. Is this a smoking gun does it say something is wrong. No but until we prove it, the people aren't going to trust it so we have to prove that these machines can be trusted and that hasn't been done. She urged them to do a complete hand count and compare it with the machine. Let's follow Otero and get rid of the machines.

Ryan Pirtle, 3006 E. McGaffey St., Roswell, NM

Mr. Pirtle stated he would like to piggyback on some of the points that were made earlier. He's 43 years old and has been voting in elections since he was 18. He hasn't missed a primary or general, but he did not vote in the last primary election because he's lost all confidence in the machines, and he is debating whether or not he will vote in the next election because what's the point. He asked the Commission if they were aware of what was going on with Otero County. A couple of Commissioners stated "yes" and "we have". Mr. Pirtle asked if it was possible that they would consider doing what Otero has done and is that even on their radar? What information do they need to put that on their radar? Commissioner Ezzell stated he thinks they are doing that right now. Mr. Pirtle stated they have come into some information, there's a gentleman, David Clements, lives in Las Cruces and he's been doing a lot of good work nationally and in Otero County. Would they like to be presented with some of his information? Do they know who David Clements is? Commissioner Cavin stated "I do". Mr. Pirtle asked if they had reviewed any of his information thus far. Commissioner Cavin stated "I have". Mr. Pirtle asked if it puts a level of question in their mind as to whether our voting system is broken or not. Commissioner Cavin stated "they rely a lot on the County Clerk to help them make these types of decisions and he appreciates them being there. He's asking them questions now and they aren't going to answer them." Mr. Pirtle asked what they could do to get a meeting or something where they would have a conversation about it and discuss what they know and have been exposed to and what they have been exposed to and what are the options. What power does the Commission hold to make changes. He can't make changes in the general election or the state election, but he can influence what happens in his county. Otero has exposed the rubber stamp that Commissioners have become because Otero decided to not certify, and the state said you have to certify. It's a yes or no question but the answer is yes. They have basically neutered the Commission and the counties, and he wants to give the counties back their power. The only way we can get it back is if people like themselves, lesser magistrates, stand in the gap for us.

Drew Garnett, Chaves County Extension Agent

Mr. Garnett stated he wanted to give an update on what they have done this month. Right now, is pecan weevil season so they recently hosted an event giving away the free pecan weevil traps that NMDA had for them. Unfortunately, if you weren't there in the first 27 minutes they were out of traps. They had over 105 traps that they gave away. He said it was great the Daily Record put it on the front page the morning of the event so that was a big help to them, and they are very appreciative of that. They got a lot of information out and had over 130 people come to the event that day looking for traps. They are hosting a couple of workshops coming up on how to make the traps so hopefully they can protect the county from the pecan weevil and the spread. It is spreading into Otero County and there are going to be some meetings with NMDA that they will be hosting on zoom and one in Artesia on Monday the 29th. It is important that we get ahead of this. NMDA has been saying for a long time that it's in homeowners back yards more often than producers or orchards. They were excited with the turnout they had for their event. If anyone is looking for CEU's, September 8th NMDA is hosting some in Hobbs and November 3rd here.

No comments were received online.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams stated anytime the public comes to the meetings he enjoys seeing them and hearing other points of view. The things that were brought up today were very important to our entire community. He thanked all the people who showed up for the meeting today. He also thanked Drew and told him he was sorry he didn't get a trap but he's looking forward to learning how to

make them. He thanked Diane Taylor for putting together a tour of Pecos Valley Productions. He was shocked at all the different things they had. There were hundreds of products. It was pretty eye opening. They've done a great job out there building this into an industry. The Otero County Detention Center, because of staffing, closed and sent all their inmates to other counties. They reached out to us and asked if we could house any inmates. They needed at least 155 beds. New Mexico Counties asked everyone for an update on how many staffing vacancies each of the counties have. His response when Otero called was that we are in the same boat they are, and the same thing could happen to us at any moment. There is another county that is on the cusp of maybe closing down. Counties are having a meeting tomorrow to discuss options for detention centers. The state has come up with ways to increase recruitment and retention. He congratulated Brian Houghtalin moving to flood control and stated they look forward to him helping Dick and transitioning for when Dick retires. All the past flood commissioners have done a good job. He thanked the commission for all they do and all the support they have given the county. He thanked Cindy for all the work they do in the Clerk's office and stated her people are top notch.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Taylor stated Bill mentioned the tour at Pecos Valley Productions and whether you agree with it or not this place is a big economic factor in our community, and it is here to stay. It was an eye opener, and something very well presented, and the tour was very beneficial. The comments on the voting he's sure they will all take a look and consider the comments. The weather is maybe taking a positive change, the temperature is down, and we have a chance for some good rain.

COMMISSIONER DANA

Commissioner Dana thanked Diane too and stated she hasn't been able to get out there, this is in her district, and she appreciates that. We are seeing agriculture across the nation changing. We must move forward and change with it. She did ask the Greathouse's if they would do a master gardening class for her because she couldn't even grow zucchini this year. She learned a lot this year about pollinators. She is a member of the daughters of the American Revolution and their new regent's project this year is pollinators. She spoke to Ryan Pirtle and stated it was nice to see him. Pirtle Farms is local, and we need to buy local. With Mike talking about the EDC and the partnerships that we have; we train so many people up and they go someplace else. Her neighbor works for Eastern, they are getting in traveling nurses who come in, do their stint and leave. We have wonderful programs at the college but just can't keep our kids here. She is glad Mike is working with the college and our businesses to keep our kids here. She thanked Cindy and her staff and stated she knows it's hard to find poll workers and people who will do the job and now we have people saying they won't do it because they are afraid they will be harassed. She stated she does not want to hear that. Please don't harass her or her staff or the poll workers. She knows a bunch of them worked a poll and learned a lot and she thanked them for doing that. She stated you have to educate us but we have to educate you too. It's a two-way street. She told Ryan Pirtle she was really disappointed in him. His brother Cliff goes to Santa Fe and works in the mess up there and he needs help. The only way he's going to get help is if we send the help. Candy needs help. Commissioner Dana stated she has been in Santa Fe when we've had 28 Representatives and they had Gary Johnson on the 4th floor with his veto pen and it saved this state a lot. Suzanna Martinez with her veto pen saved this state two billion dollars. Then we have this little girl come up here in this state and she spent every penny of those two billion dollars plus some. She told Mr. Pirtle he should know better and to go back and tell Cliff he is not voting because he doesn't think there is voter integrity. She stated there is right here and this is all we have right now. We don't have Santa Fe but we have her, (Cindy), and she's the one that is going to make sure that every vote counts. She won a race by five votes and lost by 13. She did a hand count. We have to make sure that we get out the vote otherwise this state is gone after November when people do not vote.

COMMISSIONER EZZELL

Commissioner Ezzell stated that as far as the voting integrity is concerned, unfortunately, it is up to the same Supreme Court that ordered Otero County to certify their election. Their job should've been to order the Secretary of State to follow the law but as you have seen with our Supreme Court, they do not always order elected or appointed officials to follow the law. We are slaves to the election code. The election code provides the process and you saw it play out in Otero County. Did they technically have the right to refuse to certify? He thinks they did. Did they have the right

to disobey the order of the Supreme Court? They did not. There's your catch 22. It's clear that the Secretary of State is required to certify the machines and she refuses to do so. It is up to the Supreme Court to order her to do so or the citizens of the state to vote her out or recall her. They share their concerns about election integrity, but Otero County proved what a county commission can do which is nothing. It is on their radar and certainly on his and they will continue to look at any alternative that is out there. He asked Drew if he thought he could get some of the 4H clubs to help make some weevil cages. Mr. Garnett gave a response that was inaudible on the recording. The Chaves County Commission paid \$500.00 to the sale and anybody that wants to contribute to that he will gladly accept their check. He thanked everyone for their input and stated it does not fall on deaf ears.

COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

Commissioner Cavin stated thanked all the group there and all the information they provided for the commission stating this is on his radar also. He's had conversations with a couple of them in the past months and he appreciates their passion and what they are doing, and he agrees with what they are talking about. It's about getting from point A to point B and he believes we're on the right track and all trying to work together and educate each other on voter integrity. He learned a few things today that he didn't know. He thanked the staff and all elected officials and all those that are working hard for Chaves County. It's the greatest county in the state and he believes Santa Fe knows it and we mean business.

COMMISSIONER CAVIN

Commissioner Bilberry stated he would like to echo all the comments that have been made by Bill and the Commissioners. They are paying attention and listening and how they go about it is going to be the issue they have to come to. As much as they appreciate Otero County and what they are doing how they handle this is the way they handle it. If they follow in their footsteps than that's what they'll do. Whether it's the machines or drop boxes or absentee ballots or any other of the voting mechanisms that have been put into place over the last ten years, in particular, in the 2020 election. They used COVID well. The fact that you can register to vote the same day of an election has become evident of the route that is being taken to take advantage of our County Clerks and our citizens. He wouldn't be as rough on Ryan as Commissioner Dana would be but not going and voting is not going to be the answer to this. Even though you are questioning the integrity of it. He believes we have one of the finest County Clerks in this state, let alone this country. He spends time at the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors meetings talking to our County Clerks on that board and they are all under this cloud and pressure and really where this lies is with the Secretary of State. He thinks Commissioner Ezzell is absolutely correct in that somehow the Supreme Court has to hold her accountable. If she is not getting these machines certified as she should than the Supreme Court should force her to do that just like they forced Otero County into certifying the election there. There are ways they have to go about this, and he appreciates all the comments that were made today. At some degree elections are depressing to him but he is still going to vote and do his part. With all the comments that were made the County Attorney and County Manager will answer their phones and have discussions. As County Commissioners they will listen to them and our County Clerk and others on how they should approach this. An all-important election is coming up. God bless all the work they have done on this deal; they are paying attention. He hopes we get a bunch of rain over the next couple of days. We have a lot of fights on our hands and we're being beat down by the legal and judicial system, environmentalists, department of interior. We have it coming from all different directions and they are working for you guys and working to protect their constituents and family. They won't give up or stick their heads in the sand. They will do what they can do and do what is right. He thanked everyone and stated God bless Chaves County, this Country, and let's have a good rest of the month of August.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William E. Cavin, Chairman

Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman

Dara Dana, Member

T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member

Richard C. Taylor, Member

ATTEST:

Cindy Fuller