



**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, OCTOBER 27, 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 Ezzell led the pledge and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Those present were Commissioners Cavin, Bilberry, Ezzell, Dana, and Taylor.

Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Public Services Director, Mac Rogers, County Attorney, Stan Riggs, Facility Maintenance Director, Scott Massey, Detention Center Director, Justin Porter, Road Supervisor, Joe West, IT Director, Andrew Rey, Assistant Finance Director, Lucia Serrano, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, County Treasurer, Charlotte Andrade, Sheriff Mike Herrington, media, staff, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA

SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR

OPPOSED: NONE

PROCLAMATIONS

Bill Williams read the proclamation honoring Makayla Kormendy as the 2022 Chaves County Fair Queen. Ms. Kormendy was present to receive the proclamation and took a photo with the Commissioners.

Chairman Cavin stated they will now jump to agenda item #4.

Commissioner Ezzell read the proclamation honoring Richard T. Smith and proclaiming October 31, 2022, as Richard T. Smith Day in Chaves County. Mr. Smith was present to receive the proclamation and took a photo with the Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM #4. RESOLUTION R-22-056 – NAMING OF THE FLOOD CONTROL BUILDING

Presenter: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager

Mr. Williams stated this resolution is requesting approval to name the Chaves County Flood Control Building the Richard T. Smith Building. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Ezzell read the resolution out loud.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-056

MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL

IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR

OPPOSED: NONE

Comments by the Chaves County Flood Commissioner, Tim Jennings

Mr. Jennings stated Mr. Smith has more than fifty years here helping every farmer, people in agriculture, and every citizen in protecting their property and farmland. His water and soil conservation are incredible. When we had floods in the mountains, he would get incredible cooperation with others just on his word because people know he's a man of his word, he does what he says, and he does good quality work. It's incredible we've had somebody who has dedicated his whole life to love this job.

UPDATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mike Espiritu, Economic Development Corporation President

Mr. Espiritu stated he wanted to share with them how much the EDC appreciates their work within the County and the City of Roswell to move this great region forward to the benefit of all the people who choose to live here. He appreciates their support and kindness. He introduced two new staff members at the EDC, Cisco Brink, new project manager, and Amanda Valdez, Business Expansion Retention. He became aware of concerns in the medical arena a few months ago and discovered the issue with the malpractice medical insurance. It's a problem. We already have challenges recruiting and retaining positions. The price cap has grown so high that we will see positions leaving and some have already left. It's currently at \$250,000 and in a year, it will go up to four million. The EDC has taken this up to the elected officials and hope to get some traction in the upcoming session. We don't want to lose medical staff in the state of New Mexico and especially in Chaves County. They have been working with TransAero Medical and they are expanding at the Air Center. They will have about twenty jobs, bring another aircraft in, and a new facility for recruits. The EDC will have another hiring event next month. They are working with Workforce Solutions. They did another JTIP application award for NM Solar Group. They lead the State in JTIP applications. They are working with another local company to help expand their business. One job is important, five jobs are important, it's not always the big companies. He thanked them for having the green light project on their docket. He is a veteran and appreciates them taking time to honor the veterans.

AGENDA ITEMS

AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT A-22-041 BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND THE NEW MEXICO TRANSPORTATION TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

PRESENTER: ELLY HOLLON, DWI COORDINATOR

Ms. Hollon stated the Chaves County LDWI Program would like the ratification approval for the FY23 Agreement between Chaves County and NMDOT. The amount awarded for FY23 is \$15,178.00. This amount will partially pay for one DWI Court Compliance Officer. The term of this agreement will be from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE AGREEMENT A-22-041 FOR RATIFICATION MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR OPPOSED: NONE

2. RESOLUTION R-22-054 – APPROVAL TO ACCEPT US TREASURY CARES ACT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7.86 MILLION

PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this resolution is requesting approval to accept \$7,860,890.40 in CARES Act Funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund as an eligible revenue sharing county. These funds are derived from the formula in Section 605 of the CARES Act. These funds are targeted towards counties that have incurred financial hardships due to federal government policies over the last 20 years. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-054 MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR OPPOSED: NONE

3.RESOLUTION R-22-055 SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this resolution is requesting support for Operation Green Light for Veterans, to honor their immeasurable sacrifices to preserve our freedom. Operation Green Light for Veterans salutes and honors veterans who have transitioned from active service. Upon passage of this resolution Chaves County will display green lights in both the Chaves County Courthouse and Administration Building for the month of November. On November 9th they will have a brief ceremony on the Courthouse lawn, and he presented a copy of a proclamation dedicated to all veterans in the different services. Staff recommends approval. Mr. Williams read the proclamation out loud.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-055
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

5.RESOLUTION R-22-057 OPPOSING OSE PROCESS FOR DIGITIZING WATER RIGHTS RECORDS FROM THE ROSWELL ARTESIAN BASIN

PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this resolution opposed the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer's proposed process for digitizing the water rights records from the Roswell Artesian Basin by taking them to Albuquerque to be digitized and permanently stored. Staff recommends approval.

Comments from Aron Balok, Superintendent of the Pecos Valley Artesian Water Conservancy District. Mr. Balok stated about two months ago he was told that the State Engineer was in the process of messing with the records that are in the D2 office. He asked the State Engineer and his Board to attend their last board meeting and they had a lengthy conversation about what they are doing and why they are doing it. As a result of that meeting, the State Engineer agreed to form a committee to address what was going on and how they would move forward and agreed to cease the operations they were beginning, and nothing would happen until they had a chance to visit with them. The goal for this is to not only digitize the records but abstract them. All the records they have were put together in chronological order. One person could have a well and water right associated to them. If the well failed, the landowner might have decided to drill an exploratory well to make sure they could hit water, now you could have a single water right that has two RA numbers associated with it. The State Engineer's Office is creating files in chronological order. For someone to understand what the status of a water right is you may have to go into their office and pull several folders from several different locations. Because they were done in a chronological order you may have files from 1900, 1950, 1970, 2022, etc. It can get complicated. The purpose of abstracting is to organize all those documents and put them in an order of action so when you need to look at a water right, you're able to see everything that happened from the time it was declared to the present day. He can't stress enough how important it is that this work get done. Digitizing as a result of abstracting is going to be really convenient. The trick is who does the abstracting. We have a thriving oil and gas industry and the people that are good at abstracting are unlikely to take a position at the State Engineer's Office for the salary that they are obligated to pay. This means you might not have the best person for the job trying to abstract these files. These are some of the most complicated files in the state because these files are always moving and changing.

The State Engineer's Office is going to take the files to Albuquerque in a box and lay them out on a table and go through them, rearrange them, digitize what they've done. They will put all those folders back in the box and they will go into the archive storage in Albuquerque. Those files are important to every water right owner in the Valley so the position of the PVACD is that they won't fight them to move the files but they want a copy left here before they go. Through their palimony conversations it sounds like this is a proposal they are going to be receptive to. There are still a lot of details to work out. He sees that's it's possible that PVACD staff make a copy before they are moved. After they move, they still have a question mark. He would like to renovate their building to turn it in to an archived study and bring the originals back and store them here. It's an idea that would be worth proposing.

Questions and Discussion from the Commissioners

Commissioner Ezzell asked why the A Team would not be the team that is at the D2 office now? Mr. Balok answered that they already have full-time jobs. It is a position that requires someone who has been trained to abstract records. This is a long and complicated project.

Commissioner Cavin asked if he is recommending that we make the copies, send them up there, and then they send them back? Mr. Balok stated this is one of the questions that needs to be answered about whether they come back. He wants a copy made before they leave and have the State Engineer recognize the validity of that copy. If in the future, there is a discrepancy he will recognize the validity. Commissioner Cavin recognized the complexity and importance of these documents and stated it's his opinion that these documents don't leave Chaves County. If we are going to make copies maybe, we could send the copies to the State Engineer's Office. He's not sure he's in favor of them leaving our control in Chaves County.

Mr. Balok stated the condition and location of the files now is not the best. He thinks we are one bad rainstorm away from files getting water damage. They don't have a great system where they are sitting. He doesn't know if there is a fire suppression system and if it is it's probably a water suppression system. If there were a fire, there would be a high risk of having water damage. He's not opposed to them being at the State archives where they have a proper system in place and proper protocols. There are pros and cons to each approach. Commissioner Cavin asked if they move who will have control of them? Mr. Balok stated it is his understanding that they will be the property of the State of New Mexico. It's not a great system they are relying on right now. Commissioner Ezzell asked for the timetable on the working group. Mr. Balok stated that he visited with some of the State Engineer's staff and attended a conference in Albuquerque where John Romero was in attendance. They had a brief conversation. He anticipates having a meeting next week to start working out some things they can agree to. Commissioner Ezzell also asked about sending the copies up there for them to abstract with the same recognition that they are as good as the original. Mr. Balok stated the only argument he can make on behalf of the State Engineer would be those instances where the copy is not 100% legible. They may need to reference the original if there are questions with the copies to make sure it's 100% accurate. The State record will serve as the official record so if there is a question that could be detrimental.

Commissioner Taylor asked how long it will take to make the copies of all the records? Mr. Balok stated the short answer is that he doesn't know. The longer answer is that the people that are abstracting the files will call for a number of folders giving them lead time to make the copies before they are taken. He is estimating this process to take seven to ten years. Commissioner Dana asked if they pass this resolution opposing the records being taken out of Roswell can the State Engineer still take the records? Stan Riggs, Chaves County Attorney, stated yes. Commissioner Dana stated we're really just voicing our opposition about taking our historical documents out of Chaves County. Commissioner Ezzell stated for 45 years he's been dealing with oil and gas records which are very similar to water rights records and when they go to BLM to be archived it's like sending them off to die.

Stan Riggs stated this is so important. This is the lifeblood of Chaves County. Why couldn't the State add additional funds, go out for RFP and get a real abstractor to work on the abstract, spend the extra money, but do it with somebody who knows what they are doing. He can't imagine the State isn't willing to put money in to do this right. Commissioner Ezzell asked if he anticipated anything happening on this within days? Mr. Balok stated he has the State Engineer's word that nothing is going to happen until they've had a chance to meet. He hopes they can get together some time next week. Even if they can come to an agreement in principle there are still some important details they have to agree to. He doesn't anticipate anything happening for at least a couple of weeks. It's going to be a long process. The files keep evolving and will never be done as long as the files are active. He appreciates the Commission being engaged in this and voicing their opinions and it resonates with the City of Santa Fe when we all come together and speak with one voice. He will keep them apprised of any progress they make. Commissioner Ezzell stated water rights owners should be notified before their file is targeted so they could hire an engineer to get a personal copy before it goes away.

MOTION MADE TO: TABLE RESOLUTION R-22-057
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

6.RESOLUTION R-22-058 – APPROVING CHANGES TO PERSONNEL CHARTS
PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this resolution incorporates the removal of one of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer positions and the addition of the Assistance Planner position. Charts A-1 and B have been updated to reflect the change. Staff recommends approval. A couple of months ago the Commission allowed them to add the Electrical Inspector position and now they no longer need this alternative building inspector position. It was designed about a year ago to be the person that would follow up when the building inspector was out, and they no longer need this.

MOTION MADE TO: ADOPT RESOLUTION R-22-058
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

7.RESOLUTION R-22-059 SUPPORTING THE FILING OF AN AMICUS BRIEF ON THE 2022 MEXICAN WOLF 10(j) RULE
PRESENTER: BILL WILLIAMS, CHAVES COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Williams stated this resolution supports the filing of an Amicus Brief with the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition of Counties to oppose the 2022 Mexican Wolf 10(j) Rule as proposed by the USFWS. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-059
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

ITB'S/RFP'S

8.ITB 22-2 ASPHALT/OIL DISTRIBUTOR TRUCK
PRESENTER: ANNA NIETO, PURCHASING DIRECTOR

Ms. Nieto stated Chaves County went out for RFP for the asphalt distributor truck and received two bids back. One from Sierra Machinery Inc for \$315,647.00 without GRT and one from Arnold Machinery Company for \$313,695.66 also without GRT. Staff has reviewed the specs and are requesting the award go to Sierra Machinery. Arnold Machinery did not meet bid specs. Award of this bid will constitute a price agreement against which staff will place the order.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE ITB 22-2 TO AWARD THE BID TO SIERRA MACHINERY INC.
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE CHECKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,450,944.86
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 DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
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.

Rita Kane Doerhoefer, very narrow, unstriped, Chicago Cubs mailbox, Mark Road
She sits on the ETZ and she was so upset when she heard about something. She called her County Commissioner. They have approved so many solar. They found out from the person that is representing Con Ed that they are going to be sold to a German Company in Germany. She thinks if we are going to sell solar and put-up plants here, they need to be within the United States. She is secretary of Keep Chaves County Beautiful. They had in their grant that they would give almost \$8,000.00 to plants for the fairgrounds. They were supposed to receive the money in July but didn't receive it until late September. They could not deliver on their promise to the fair board. She apologized. When they do get all the plants, they should have a party and go out to the fair board and see what they spent almost \$8,000.00 on.

Marvin Clements, 6102 Kincaid

Mr. Clements stated he's been here many times telling them what's going on with his neighborhood and it's getting worse. People are dying, getting arrested, dragging cars up and down the pavement. Now they have more camp trailers moving in. The problem keeps compounding, and he would like to know is anybody going to help them solve this problem or are they just going to have to live with it. Drug busts, people dying in cars, it doesn't make them feel protected out there because he doesn't know what they can do. If we have ordinances somebody needs to make these people abide by these ordinances. If we have ordinances and nobody is going to make them do anything it's a lawless community. Sheriff Herrington stated as a response to that, his deputies have been out there, have been making arrests, moving them along, and making them clean up the lots but it's a continuing problem. Until we put some people in jail out there for a long period of time it's going to be a problem. Mr. Clements stated there are five cars on a lot they don't even own the property and it's a mess. They throw their trash over the fence.

Jan Lambert Moss, owner of Kachina Canines, 6105 Kincaid

Ms. Moss stated she has worked drug dogs since the 1980's. She is elderly but she still trains dogs for law enforcement. She is deemed an expert in the realm of narcotics by the courts. In the two-block area there are so many drugs, syringes, drugs all over. She can walk two blocks in any direction and find drugs and drug people. She is being burglarized. She put up a security system and they got on a lawn chair and unhooked her camera. She has dogs in her yard and six-foot chain link around her whole yard. Her shop has been broken into and they took around \$6,000.00 of tools. Friday night her dog woke her up, she keeps her in the house at night, she hit the fence and she was being burglarized. She had a gun and told them they could either get shot or dog bit. They came over the fence and took the lights off her trailer. When they left, they went across the road and were breaking into the neighbors SUV. He's elderly as well and when he finally came out of his house the door on his SUV was half open. She has had people trying to come over her fence in the middle of the day. She went out there and there was a man who didn't speak English and was coming over her fence. She had to tell him he was going to get shot or dog bit. The area is pathetic. They are moving into the abandoned buildings, they are living in cars, the trash, the smell, and it's really bad. She is starting to carry a gun wherever she goes because she fears for her life. The dopers are trying to get money, they are stealing from people, breaking into cars. Something has to be done in that neighborhood. She will talk with anyone, show them her credentials, will help in any way but it's got to have something done. It's like living in Detroit. She has nothing that is safe there. She tried to get some pictures but when she stopped a guy came out with a knife. At night it's like the Indianapolis 500.

Charlotte Andrade, Chaves County Treasurer

Ms. Andrade stated the 2022 property tax bills will be mailed out today. They are in tune to collect \$37.7 million for this collection period. They will try to maintain their 99% collection rate. They will continue to improve processes for the taxpayers. They have gone to a different credit card company which is providing lower rates. She has been putting notices out and there will be notices in the newspaper as well. They accept prepayments beginning June 1st of every year and that is to help the veterans and also the senior citizens that make monthly payments that work towards the first half of the tax bill, so they aren't hit with a lump sum right before the holidays.

Drew Garnett, Chaves County Ag Agent, 200 E. Chisum, Suite 4

Mr. Garnett stated they will be hosting CEU's in Chaves County on November 3rd at the Eastern New Mexico State Fairgrounds at the newly dubbed Hobson's Hall. Sign up will be at 8:30, it will start at 9:00, lunch will be on your own. You'll need to sign in in the morning and in the afternoon to get all five CEU's.

Online Comments:

Randy Robertson, 6234 Devonian, asking for an update on the Mescalero Bridge

Commissioner Ezzell stated that is a City bridge. Commissioner Dana stated she also received a call on this and it's her understanding they are still waiting on the money from the Governor's office.

Sheriff Mike Herrington, #1 St. Mary's Place

The Sheriff introduced his newest deputy, Cody King.

Justin Porter, Chaves County Detention Center Director, St. Mary's Place

Mr. Porter stated they had a tour of the facility with some of the Commission members and the County Manager as a chance to help the federal court system. The US Marshalls are asking Chaves County to find places to temporarily house federal detainees so they can move them in and out of Roswell to get them sentenced and then move them on through the judicial process. The Federal systems have been overwhelmed and overpopulated and asked if we would be able to help. Mr. Porter asked them to come down and take a look at the building to show them the area he had available and discuss the number of detainees they would be able to help with. They came down and toured the building. As an agreement they can house fifteen or fewer detainees for a period of less than five days. The idea is that they will bring them in from Lea County where they are being housed, and then if there are additional people that need to be seen by the courts, they could hold them. The Marshalls were very appreciative of their ability to help them and are looking forward to using their services. Right now, this is just a contingency plan. Commissioner Dana asked if the federal government is paying for us to hold these detainees. Mr. Porter stated yes.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams stated he would like to add to what Mr. Porter just said and stated he received an email yesterday that the Lincoln County Detention rate is going to increase to \$85.00 for us with an additional escalator of 5% each year. In the near future we may want to look at our rates again. We have some of the best rates you can get in detention in the State of New Mexico. He thanked all the flood control staff for showing up this morning. We made a lot of comments about Dick and the great job that he's done, and he's trained every one of those people that were here and that's why they do such a great job. In speaking about Operation Green Light and the Veteran's appreciation proclamation, he stated that Mike Espiritu and others in the community are going to help them put on a small presentation on November 9, 2022. He invited the Commissioners to this public event. They want to thank the veterans from all the services for the duties they have done over the years.

Yesterday he travelled to Clovis and sat on a farm bill roundtable with Senator Ben Ray Lujan. There were people from all over the Eastern part of the State talking about what their needs are. A lot of agriculturists had a lot of very good information. He had discussed this prior to going over with Commissioner Bilberry and they agree with anything that helps farmers increase production, reduces regulations and red tape, and certainly anything they can do for dairies. He brought up the fact that they are probably most concerned outside of all the great things that were brought up by the agriculture community, about the Title 2 issues in the farm bill. They don't want to see the farm bill become a political football over climate change when it should continue to be a farm bill. They appreciate CRP programs, equip programs, and conservation easements, and they all have a place in our communities but not in perpetuity. They agree that the farm bill conservation easements are at a ten-year term. A member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association brought up the 30x30 and any initiatives that remove large blocks of land from private ownership to become public lands is not a good thing when we're all trying to produce food, fiber, and minerals for the world. Senator Lujan was very receptive to all the comments that were made, and he was pleasantly surprised to find out Senator Lujan had spoken to the Administration on some of the points in the 30x30 and asked that those be lessened.

Mr. Williams thanked the PVACD in their work protecting the water rights in the Pecos Valley. Next month New Mexico Counties is going to come and do a presentation on the problems faced

by detention centers in New Mexico. We also have a company that wants to come and do a presentation about building a mental health facility in Curry County. He thanked each Commissioner for everything they do and stated he appreciates all the people in the audience.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Taylor stated as Commissioners they get to address many issues, sometimes controversial but this morning was a very pleasant situation where they were able to honor Dick Smith. This is one of the pleasures of a County Commissioner. Naming that building was very appropriate. Elections are coming up, we are less than two weeks away from the election. It's a right to vote, exercise it. He encouraged every registered voter to please go vote regardless of their political affiliation. There has been controversy about the voting machines, and he would like to say that we have an excellent staff in our County Clerk's Office, they have done a great job with elections in the past. If you look down through history, Chaves County has always had a excellent staff in the County Clerk's Office and he thinks our elections are above board, are honest and straight, and you don't have to worry about whether your vote is going to be tabulated correctly. The staff has gone way out lately with demonstrations on certifying those machines. You can rely on the fact that your vote will be accurately counted. It was nice to have Rita back today, she is a great asset to our community.

COMMISSIONER DANA

Commissioner Dana stated, like Commissioner Taylor said, it's nice to be able to recognize somebody in the community and let them know their services are appreciated. She was asked to help with the mental health board that we have. She and Justin Porter went to the mental health summit that was held in Santa Fe last week. They recognize there are issues with drug abuse and mental health trauma. All 33 Counties were there. They heard about the Miami Dade model and what they are trying to do with mental health issues. It was amazing to hear about the resources we have right here in Chaves County. We have a lot of pieces to the puzzle and now we have to put the puzzle together and work together. She stated they want to work with the City of Roswell too. Cristina Arnold went with them as well. They will be able to address some of the issues and hopefully move forward with this. She too recognized Cindy and her staff and thanked them. She knows the staff and poll workers are putting up with a lot of stuff and they will be November 8th. She agrees with Commissioner Taylor, if you don't vote please don't get in her face and tell her what is wrong with the County, Nation, our area, because she has been on the phone for too many years trying to get people to vote. The excuses that she hears are just ridiculous. Our County Clerk's Office has done a phenomenal job over the years, and she appreciates their hard work. She hopes people will get out and exercise their right to vote. That is our first line of defense, our voting. She thanked Cindy and said she hopes she knows that they as Commissioners have her back because they want the election cycle to be safe. She thanked the Chairman for allowing her to sit on the mental health board. Now more than ever we have got to get people plugged in to the right resources.

COMMISSIONER EZZELL

Commissioner Ezzell stated he echoed the comments made by Commissioner Dana and Commissioner Taylor. On the Green Light resolution, he noticed it encourages people to put green lights in their homes and businesses. Is there a source? Mr. Williams stated on Amazon you can get green bulbs and a few at Home Depot. Commissioner Ezzell told Cindy that she listened with interest when they were talking about digitizing records, and she is the person in the room that knows more about it than every other person combined so if she has any ideas or suggestions, they can get to the working group he would appreciate her input. He thanked all the staff for their hard work.

COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

Commissioner Bilberry stated he would like to thank the staff and all elected officials and those that attended today. He told Councilor Corn it was good to see him today. He thanked Bill for going to the meeting yesterday because it was an important meeting. What we do in the county and the farm bill are intertwined, especially here in Chaves County. He heard Bill did a good job of presenting and his voice was definitely heard. He stated he's had the privilege of working with Dick Smith for over 20 years and not only has he become a friend but he has been a wealth of information with hydrology and water and all the things that pertain to that. He has such a passion for that. Somebody needs to sit with a tape recorder to write everything he knows down and just

let him tell stories. He is a true historian on the water in the Pecos Valley. He appreciates what they are doing for the veterans. He did not know about the green light. He thanked Cindy and her staff for all they are doing.


COMMISSIONER CAVIN

Commissioner Cavin stated he would concur and agree with all the comments that were made by the fellow Commissioners. We have an amazing family that work really well together in Chaves County. He was glad Cristina Arnold was at the behavioral health summit. We are at a stage now for Chaves County that is really momentous because the City of Roswell and Chaves County are working together on a lot of different things. It's huge for us to be working together and he appreciates the fact that the Mayor and some councilors are all working off the same sheet of music to make a difference for the citizens of Chaves County and Roswell. He thanked Councilor Corn for being there today. Mike Espiritu brought up the medical malpractice deal that is crushing for our State and hopefully in our 60-day session we will have some new legislators up there with common sense. When you have trial lawyers that are running the House it makes it very easy to set the table for House Bill 4 and some of the other stuff that has put us in a financial liability across the State. We don't want everyone going to Texas for their medical services.

Everyone probably saw in the newspaper that the Lesser Prairie Chicken is back on the radar. We've been battling the Sage Grouse for over eight years, and they are going to come back with it. We need to be prepared to take a stand for our farmers and ranchers and oil and gas. They had a great meeting in Ontario, Oregon for the WIR meeting. He apologized to Mr. Clements about the things going on and he knows the Sheriff is on his side. They hear him and are seeing what they can do to help manage some of these things for him and his neighbors. They will keep working. Their next meeting will be November 17th and will be a combined meeting instead of having a separate meeting to canvass the election. He has already voted and stated if you haven't voted you can go right down the hall and vote. You can also still register and vote. It will count and be done right, and he gives great appreciation to all the departments. He stated he will close by saying "Go Astros", God bless Chaves County and this country, and everyone have a great end of October and be safe on Halloween.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

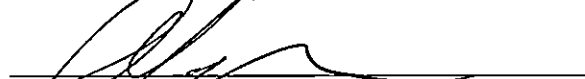
BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


William E. Cavin, Chairman

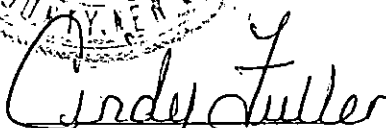
By Phone
Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman


Dara Dana, Member


T. Calder Ezzell Jr., Member


Richard C. Taylor, Member




Cindy Fuller