



**CHAVES COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Jeff Bilberry, Chairman
T. Calder Ezzell Jr.
Vice Chair**



**Dara Dana, Member
Richard C Taylor, Member
Michael J. Perry, Member**

William B. Williams, County Manager

**SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023
CHAVES COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – JOSEPH R SKEEN BUILDING
#1 ST. MARY'S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bilberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Those present were Commissioners Bilberry, Ezzell, Dana, Taylor, and Perry. Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Public Services Director, Alex Palomino, IT Director, Andrew Rey, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, Chaves County Sheriff, Mike Herrington, media, staff, and guests.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ACCEPT REQUESTS FOR NOMINATION TO SENATE SEAT 27 VACATED BY STUART INGLE

Presenter: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager

Mr. Williams stated the Commission will accept requests for nomination to Senate Seat 27 vacated by Stuart Ingle. No formal action will be taken by the Commission. The vote will be held at the regular Commission meeting on November 16, 2023. Each Commissioner received a packet with the information received from each interested person in the order in which they were received.

Chairman Bilberry opened the floor to hear from those requesting the nomination.

Greg Nibert stated he would like to have his name brought before the Governor for consideration for nomination to Senate Seat 27. He believes they know the work he has engaged in not only on this commission but also as a legislator. They know his advocacy for issues that have affected this area, and he believes they know his effectiveness as a legislator. Many have observed his abilities in the legislature and what he brings to the table. He has been recognized by the former Association of Counties for his work primarily on issues that affect counties. He will take his experience, knowledge, and relationships that he has built, into a smaller arena. He believes he can be a more effective voice in an arena of 42 than he was in an arena of 70. He has the support of the local legislators in this area, and he cherishes the relationships he has with them and their support. There weren't any questions asked of Mr. Nibert.

Travis Glenn thanked the Commission for calling the special meeting. He has lived in District 27 all of his life, since 1965. He has three children and raised them in Tatum. He has been on the Tatum School Board since 1994 and has been able to see how the bureaucrats in Santa Fe have elbowed Mom and Dad out of having a solid say in the curriculum that our kids are being taught. He saw this during COVID when the PED ridiculed parents for believing that they should have a say in the different things we had to go through. That motivated him to want to get to where he could influence that more. He has been on the school board for 30 years and there's a limited amount that you can do. If you get to Santa Fe, you can hold the bureaucrats accountable more so. One of the things we run into is that our values are different in southern New Mexico than in northern New Mexico. We have to work with those who have more votes than we do and be able to convince them that they need to vote their values. He believes that today's Democratic party

has veered so far to the left that they have left a lot of those solid Democrats behind. He believes he can work with them to bring them to our side of the aisle. He is currently on the board at NM Junior College and has had to work with people on both sides of the aisle to either create policies that are beneficial or block policies that are not. He is currently on the Board of Directors at Lea County Electric. He is aware of the energy issues that we have not only state-wide but nationwide as well. He doesn't like a lot of policies coming down from the Governor right now. The car mandate that she is coming up with to eliminate 85% of gas-powered vehicles being sold in NM is something we cannot survive. We don't have the electricity to power these cars or the infrastructure to take care of them. Those are just a few of the issues he can attest to firsthand. There weren't any questions asked of Mr. Glenn.

Pat Boone stated he appreciated getting the opportunity to come before the Commission. He is a public servant of 45 years and he thought he was done. On the eve of his 70th birthday, he decided he wasn't done yet. God had something in his heart that wouldn't let go. Stuart Ingle is a man he greatly admires, and they have been friends for many years. He always knew that he was represented well by Stuart Ingle in the Legislature. He has an interest in continuing the work Stuart has done. He has no axes to grind or specific goals he would like to get up there, but to just have the issues brought before him, and do the best work he can with what is presented to him. He has some experience with the legislative process, having served with the Cattle growers, being on the electric board for many years, and Roosevelt extension. He just wants them to know that he would like the opportunity to serve and be able to do the work that he feels God has put before him. He wants to serve his family; his family is everything to him. His family has been here for a long time. His grandfather, Pat Boone, is buried at South Park. He was very active here in Roswell. Mr. Boone has a lot of roots here and has a desire to continue serving and do the very best job he can. There weren't any questions asked of Mr. Boone.

Larry Marker stated he appreciated them having him here today for calling this special meeting and for allowing him to throw his hat in the ring for this position. Stuart Ingle's resignation presents them with a unique opportunity. These are unique and strange times we're living in, and we can all agree on that. Several years ago, he had decided he was going to get completely out of the spotlight, pump his crapy little oil wells, and be left alone. His goal in life was to be left alone. Unfortunately, the State of New Mexico had different plans and they decided they couldn't leave him alone. He is a little bit combative and passionate about what he believes in and does. What makes him unique from all the men that have put in for this position, and they are all good men, is we do have a 30-day session coming up. The advantage they are going to have if they throw his hat in the ring is he's already developed relationships all over the State of New Mexico and they are currently working on several grassroots projects. He can carry the influence from being a seated Senator all over the State of New Mexico. This little Senate district will have influence all over the State like we've never had before. He's typically pretty humble but we're not in a time when he can be left alone. They're gonna get guys like him and then they're going to come after people like you. He hates to be combative and constantly the rebel out there blowing the horn and leading the way. That happens to be where we're at in life right now. He is the most unique individual that has put in for this and we can get more out of this position if they submit his name. By some miracle if the Governor actually picked his name, which is going to be a challenge all by itself, we can all agree with that. He could stand up there for four or five hours, but we can get more good out of this position. He fully intends to run for this position in 2024 and has already started gathering his nominating signatures but if he could get a year head start he believes he could get a lot of good out of this position as they move forward with the connections he's made all over the state. We've never seen in New Mexico what is happening on the conservative side as we are right now. We could add to the legitimacy of all the projects he is working on and spearhead some of them if he were a seated Senator.

There weren't any questions asked of Mr. Marker.

There wasn't anyone else in the room who wanted to request a nomination for this seat.

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

Representative Candy Spence Ezzell, 8501 N. Spence Rd., Lake Arthur, NM

Representative Ezzell stated we heard comments from four very good men today and it's going to be a tough decision. The Governor made a decision not long ago and it was her choosing. A united front is the way we need to go here. She is not telling them how to vote, they have to vote their conscious. Personally, she has seen one candidate who has done nothing but good for the entire State. He stands strong and has represented the State as a whole, just like she has. When they make a final decision, it is about what is in the best interest of all of New Mexico. We do have a 30-day legislative session coming up now and it is going to be fast and furious, and you have to have everything ready to go. You have to be prepared for everything they are going to throw at you and that includes getting legislation rolling before the session even starts. We have one candidate that is always prepared. This is the area of the State that funds the State with oil and gas being number one and agriculture being number two. We need to go in there prepared, we need to have someone who will stand strong.

Bonnie Brainerd, 1012 N. Lea

Ms. Brainerd stated she hopes Stuart Ingle is well because earlier he stated he was going to run for re-election. She is very glad to see we have some great candidates running for this. Everything in this County, State, and Country is out of whack. The he/she, she/her, I'm this today, and that tomorrow is crazy. In this State, we have an out-of-control Governor. She doesn't even hear people talking about how she has instigated the suspension of our Second Amendment rights. She thinks we need to send someone up there who is a fighter. He does irritate people and is combative, but he fights. He also builds a network. They are going to get the bills on that November election because they've got the signatures. She knows Mr. Taylor has signed all six and she is hoping everyone else has. She knows they have been emailed by people in their network because they're a network. She is here to ask them to send a true fighter to the State. All four candidates are strong and impressive but it's time to combat our Governor and take a stand. We can't keep doing what we're doing, we're losing. Please consider someone who truly does have a network in all 33 Counties and is strong.

Margaret Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez stated she has wanted for a long time to publicly say good things about Larry Marker. She has supported other of our candidates over the years, she has respected them, they do their job, and they help them in their way but as Bonnie said, it looks like we may need a different way. Being very informative on the law and land issues is all very good but there are real people out here, people who deal with life. She is a substitute teacher, and she sees what is happening to our children with this transgender nonsense that has crept in. Her main ministry is trying to get respect for life from the time God has created life in the womb. In the 49 years that she has been here, Larry is the first man who has really stood up, got in the ditch, and worked amongst all types of people trying to educate and let people know what's going on. He is her hero now. Larry is a very learned man, self-taught.

There were no comments online.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams thanked everyone who supplied their letter requesting to be considered for nomination. Several Counties have been working together to coordinate this, so it allows each of them to go to the other counties and speak with them. Their vote will take place at the regular Commission meeting next Thursday. All the Counties have worked pretty hard to make sure everyone gets an opportunity to speak to the various commissions.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER PERRY

Commissioner Perry thanked everyone for coming and stated it was nice to meet some of them. He had spoken with some at the Roundhouse before and it's a pleasure to be reacquainted with some old faces. He also thanked those who spoke on the candidates' behalf.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Taylor thanked the four gentlemen for appearing tonight. It was a pleasure to meet those he had not met before. The commission will take this into deep consideration and look over all the resumes to make a decision later this month. If you haven't voted you have a half hour so go down the hall and vote.

COMMISSIONER DANA

Commissioner Dana thanked the Chairman for holding this special meeting and thanked the gentleman who have stepped up. She has been home many nights before filing day trying to get people to run for office and it's nice to see people step up. As Candy and Greg know, being in Santa Fe is like beating your head against the wall so she really appreciates them stepping up to the plate. They will take everything into consideration and see them on November 16th.

COMMISSIONER EZZELL

Commissioner Ezzell thanked everyone for showing interest and making their presentations. This is weird for him because the constituents of a district are supposed to pick their representatives and senators. With resignations we have a procedure under the Constitution, he understands it, it doesn't occur very often. He wants them to know the five of them take this very seriously because they are basically in the position of the voting public. They do not take that lightly. With our Governor there's no telling what will happen but he wants them to know they are not taking this lightly.

COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

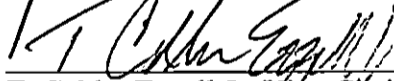
Commissioner Bilberry stated it's a privilege to sit in a room with individuals who are willing to step up and are currently elected officials or are seeking the position. There's a huge responsibility as a citizen of Chaves County, this State, and these United States and we're all stepping up to the plate because we know how tough it is. No one in this room is taking anything lightly at all and we all have issues we want to alleviate and things we want to do but we all have to work together. As his fellow commissioners have commented, they will not take this lightly. This is the second time they've had to do this in the last few months, new ground for all of them, but he's glad they are here and he's glad to have his fellow commissioners because everyone there is serious about their job.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

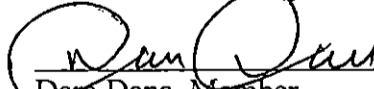
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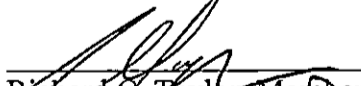
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T. Calder Ezzell Jr., Vice-Chairman



Dara Dana, Member

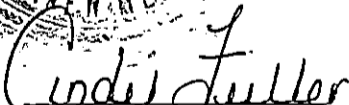


Richard C. Taylor, Member



Michael J. Perry, Member




Cindy Fuller
County Clerk