

STATE OF NEW MEXICO, COUNTY OF CHAVES
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Dave Kunko, County Clerk

**NOVEMBER 7, 2014** 

The Board of Chaves County Commissioners held a Special Commission Meeting in the Commission Chamber of the Joe Skeen Building, #1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell, New Mexico. Chairman Duffey called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. Those present were Commissioners Duffey, Corn, Chesser, Nibert and Wooton. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Public Services Director Sonny Chancey, Chief Deputy Assessor Mark Willard, Treasurer Steve Harris, Chief Deputy Sheriff Britt Snyder, County Clerk Dave Kunko, news media, staff and guests.

Britt Snyder led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Chesser led in prayer.

#### AGREEMENT A-14-040 BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND NM AGING AND LONG TERM SERVICES

Stan Riggs stated that this agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for Chaves County to receive emergency funding from Aging and Long Term Services for the purchase of a vehicle for the JOY Senior Center. The vehicle was originally to be purchased with grant funds, however the vehicle did not arrive prior to the end of the fiscal year due to manufacturing issues. Aging and Long Term Services would like the original grant funding to be returned and the County would be reimbursed by the emergency funding. Commissioner Chesser moved to ratify Agreement A-14-040. Commissioner Nibert seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION R-14-052 SUPPORTING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DAIRY RULE**

Mr. Riggs explained that this resolution supports proposed amendments to the Dairy Rule. At the last Commission Meeting the Commission approved sending a letter to support the amendments. The State received the letter and asked that the Commission put this in the form of a resolution. Commissioner Nibert stated that the attorney for the Dairy Producers has requested that in addition to the letter this be put in the format of a resolution for their presentation to the Water Quality Control Commission. Commissioner Nibert moved to approve Resolution R-14-052. Commissioner Corn seconded the motion. Chairman Duffey thanked Commission Nibert for putting this together. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION R-14-055 SUPPORTING 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF NMAC**

The Commission decided to take each priority separately. The first item they discussed was the track upgrade for Amtrak Service to Northeast New Mexico. Commissioner Corn moved to approve support for the track upgrade for Amtrak Service. The motion died for lack of a second.

The next item discussed was the Safety Net Care Pool. The main issue was when this bill was in the legislature there was a 3 year sunset attached that was vetoed by the Governor. Chairman Duffey believes there will be an attempt in the upcoming session to address this issue. Commissioner Nibert moved to support NMAC's lobby effort for the Safety Net Care Pool. Commissioner Wooton seconded the motion. There was discussion to push for the State to take this over 100% and to take out the Counties. Chairman Duffey stated this will be a hard fought issue in the next session. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> item was for Tax Roll Corrections. This priority is to clarify the authority and reasons necessary for tax schedule changes. Steve Harris explained that in Chaves County the Assessor and Treasurer work together and do not have a problem with the corrections. Mark Willard stated this is basically a common sense correction because the statute is written poorly. Commissioner Wooton moved to support this legislative priority. Commissioner Corn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The 4<sup>th</sup> item was for Delinquent Property Tax Payments. Steve Harris explained the legislative priority and stated he supported the intent but not the methodology. Commissioner Corn moved to support the legislative priority for delinquent property tax payments. Commissioner Wooton seconded the motion. Commissioner Wooton was concerned that this was just a waste of time for the legislature. Mr. Harris stated this was a reaction to a much greater problem. A voice vote was 1 in favor and 3 against and the motion failed.

The 5<sup>th</sup> item is for an increase in funding to Detention Facilities. Commissioner Wooton moved to approve support of this legislative priority. Commissioner Nibert seconded the motion. This priority asks the State to increase the appropriation for the County Detention Center Facilities Reimbursement Act at a level sufficient to reimburse Counties for the actual cost of holding the 3 categories of prisoners specified under the Act. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The 6<sup>th</sup> item is for County Industrial Revenue Bond Improvements. Mr. Riggs explained the issue. Chairman Duffey added that Lea County brought this up and wanted to include affordable housing during a boom as a fundable option for County issued IRB's. Commissioner Corn moved to support this legislative priority. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The 7<sup>th</sup> item discussed was a Public Lands Task Force (Memorial). Commissioner Corn moved to support this priority. Commissioner Chesser seconded the motion. This would create a task force to evaluate State and County dependence on Federal revenue, conduct an inventory of Federal land ownership in the State, and study the legal, economic and practical impact of transferring Federal land to the State. Commissioner Nibert stated the transfer from government to government does not help the tax base. Commissioner Nibert said he supported the study and the list should include Oil and Gas, Wool Growers, Hunters and Conservation Groups. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The last item discussed was for Inmate Options (Memorial). Commissioner Chesser moved to approve support for this item. Commissioner Corn seconded the motion. Mr. Riggs explained that this item would study options and service delivery for Detention Inmates with special medical and mental health needs. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION R-14-057 APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASES FOR VARIOUS FUNDS**

Anabel Barraza stated that this resolution was for a budget increase to fund 408 for the purchase of an new Brush Truck for East Grand Plains Fire Department and fund 431 for reimbursement to the Department of Justice. Commissioner Wooton moved to approve Resolution R-14-057. Commissioner Nibert seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

# **2014 GENERAL ELECTION CANVASS**

Mr. Kunko introduced Cindy Fuller the Bureau of Election's Chief. He thanked his staff for all the work they put into this election. Commissioner Nibert asked for an explanation of why the 38 ballots from early voters had to be hand tallied. Mr. Kunko stated that the ballots used for this election had a preprinted back with the constitutional amendments and bond questions. The State of New Mexico has 4 different backs used in specific counties. By mistake we were given some of the wrong ballot stock so the tabulators were unable to read the ballots. The process is to place these ballots into the emergency slot on the tabulator bin to be processed by the Absentee Board on election day. Mr. Kunko went on to State that his office received 19 Provisional Ballots and 1 Absentee in Lieu of Ballot. Of the 19 provisional ballots 6 of them did not qualify. Some of the individuals were registered in other counties and some were not registered. Mr. Kunko also mentioned he found a tally sheet for Precinct 7 that had not been handed in on election night by the Presiding Judge. The Clerk's Office with the help of the Commissioners hand tallied the qualifying ballots. Chairman Duffey stated on election night he watched the Secretary of State's website for election returns and Chaves County was either the first or second County to have all their votes reported to the State. Commissioner Wooton moved to approve the Canvass with the addition of the hand tallies done by the County Canvassing Board. Commissioner Corn seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

## **MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Riggs stated the Veteran's Parade is tomorrow at 9:00 and the County is closed for Veteran's Day. He also announced that the next Regular Commission Meeting would be November 20<sup>th</sup>.

# **COMMISSIONERS COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Wooton mentioned the timely fashion the Clerk's Office was able to get out Chaves County results and that he was actually able to see Commissioner Duffey's race results

announced on the Albuquerque station KOB. He mentioned the Coyotes and Rockets would be playing football this evening and asked everyone to get out and support their team.

Commissioner Nibert stated the last 3 elections he spent in Dona Ana County but for this election he got to stay in Chaves County. The way elections are run is night and day between these 2 counties. We have good knowledgeable people running the elections. There were a couple of minor things like tearing off ballots that were beyond our control. The Clerk's Office should be congratulated for a smooth election. He mentioned the Memorial the Commission passed regarding Federal Lands will continue to be an issue for many years to come. We must continue to be vigilant at the local level and continue to fight issues that affect this County. He also stated he has appreciated his time on the Commission and feels he will be leaving it in good hands.

Commissioner Chesser thanked everyone involved in working on the election. We really need to look into moving to the voting centers and most of the tallying we did today would not be necessary. He believes this would be beneficial to everyone involved.

Commissioner Corn thanked the poll judges and election officials at each precinct for all their work because it would be impossible without them. Everything went pretty smooth, it could be better but was alright. Thankfully we do not have the issues they have in Sandoval County.

Chairman Duffey stated we need to figure out how to get people to vote. He has been contacted about a lot of weeds in the County, especially along railroad tracks which hurts visibility at these intersections and becomes a safety issue. The County is going to draft a letter to the railway to get them to take care of the weeds in their right of way and we are getting some of our legislators involved to see if they can make something happen.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38p.m. pending the signature of documents.

**CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** 

JAMES DUFFEY, CHAIRMAN

RN. MEMBER GREG NIBERT, MEMBER

KIM CHESSER, MEMBER

ROBERT CORN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

**DAVE KUNKO, COUNTY CLERK** 

LE D. "SMILEY"

**WOOTON, VICE CHAIRMAN**