



CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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William B. Williams, County Manager

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021 #1 ST. MARY'S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. Commissioner Ezzell led the pledge and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer. Those present were Commissioners Cavin, Bilberry, Ezzell, Dana, and Taylor. Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Sheriff, Mike Herrington, Finance Director, Anabel Barraza, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, County Assessor, Sandra Stewart, County Treasurer, Charlotte Andrade, Detention Administrator, Daniel Ornelas, Road Operations Director, Joe West, Flood Commission Superintendent, Richard Smith, news media, staff, and guests.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

County Manager, Bill Williams, stated the departments have been working for months and the budgets have been kept relatively flat. All the departments have done a really good job. Today's opportunity is for the Commission to ask the Department Heads any questions they may have. He thanked the Finance Committee and Anabel and the Finance Department for all the work they've done.

County Finance Director, Anabel Barraza, stated it is her pleasure to present the 2021/2022 budget. This budget doesn't just represent numbers, it also represents hopes, goals, and visions. Fiscal year 2022 does have some unknowns but we are striving to conquer those together. Our budget quote for this year is "E Pluribus Unum" which means "One from Many". We see this on our currency every day and Ms. Barraza stated she felt this was fitting as we work to overcome challenges and face the recovery together. We will do this with the help and guide of the Commission, our new leadership, all the departments, our employees, and most of all, the Chaves County residents. Together we are one. Ms. Barraza thanked the Finance Committee and Lucia Serrano. The departments do their best to only ask for what is needed.

Ms. Barraza then turned the focus to the budget workbook. The first slide showed the general operating revenue at \$27,470,687.00 along with the total revenue at \$57,642,953.00 and the total expenses at \$63,908,794.00. The general operating expenses are \$27,625,859.00. Going over the recap cash, we are in the black in all our funds. The number needing approval is \$63,908,794.00, this includes all department requests. Concerning the general operating budget, we were very conservative because currently we are at a 7.83% decrease in gross receipts tax compared to last year. Upon the recommendation of our Finance Committee, we cut the projections for next fiscal year back 15%. There are also other declining trends that we analyzed, and we also decided to stay conservative on those as well. Based on our revenue projection, the overrun of costs over revenue is \$155,172.00. This is within our tolerance amount. A budget is a projection, a plan for a future year. We have a record of accuracy. We will continue to ask for your guidance and wisdom for the coming year.

Concerning capital outlay, we are focusing mostly on projects we have going on now. The HVAC will hopefully be completed by next year as well as our Courthouse elevator, the ongoing radio project we have with PVRCC, the roof, and Area D. Thanks to the departments staying under budget we are able to buy some of the requests in this fiscal year. Some of the road equipment

will be bought this year as well as the transport vans for the Detention Center, Sheriff's Office, and community service.

Agency allocations include everyone that is already in the budget for this fiscal year. Mr. Nava from the Hispano Chamber sent an email yesterday to request an allocation of \$20,000.00 and this request is not listed as it came in last minute. We also have two new positions in the budget for the Sheriff's Office and I.T. We also have two re-classifications in positions to different charts.

The American Rescue Plan Act is in the budget. We are working with the Finance Committee to form a committee that will be connected to the community to help us do a strategy plan and see what investments we can make for our future using these funds.

AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

MAINSTREET ROSWELL

Presenters: Julianna Halvorson and Molly Boyles

Julianna stated that MainStreet Roswell used to have a partnership with the County and they don't know where that went but they do need the support of the Commission to promote the downtown businesses and appreciate their time and consideration. Molly Boyles stated she used to have a business downtown and she knows the value of MainStreet Roswell and all the work it does to help bring additional individuals into the corridor. Several MainStreet Roswell events were highlighted such as: First Friday Downtown Markets, Chili Cheese Festival, and the Farmers Market. Ms. Halvorson stated they keep great reporting and records and can provide monthly reports. Commissioner Dana asked about their funding sources. Ms. Halvorson stated they have an MOU with the City, (\$40,000), which pays their operating expenses. They hired an Executive Director this past week but finding qualified people for the salary they're able to pay is very difficult. Ms. Boyles stated that in addition to the MOU they also seek out grants and have been able to complete several projects with grant money. Their fundraisers were cancelled due to COVID. Ms. Boyles stated they do not charge membership fees. Commissioner Dana also asked about the boundaries of the district. Ms. Boyles stated they're from Lea to the Railroad tracks and Walnut to 8th. It's not just Main Street and they are looking to get some of the businesses on Virginia and do have some that participate on Richardson.

Commissioner Dana asked what they will be doing for the Alien Fest/UFO Fest? Ms. Halvorson stated they will be doing the Passport Program that will be a scavenger hunt and will have live music at the Courthouse. They want to encourage people to spend time in the downtown area. Ms. Boyles stated they have fantastic relationships with several different organizations here in town and large corporations that help to benefit our merchants. The ladies discussed some of the projects they do such as: planting flowers downtown, the lights at Christmas, they purchased flags that are put out on Holidays and they also partner with Keep Chaves County Beautiful.

Commissioner Ezzell asked if the Commission had their budget. A copy was given to Alys who made copies for each Commissioner. Rita Kane-Doerhoefer came to the podium and stated that without partnering with MainStreet Roswell, Keep Chaves County Beautiful would not be able to do the things they do to beautify Chaves County. Commissioner Cavin asked what kind of collaboration they had with the EDC and the Roswell Chamber. Ms. Halvorson stated that Melissa from the EDC attends their monthly meetings and they've kept in communication with them especially with all the PPE and COVID support and relief.

Commissioner Cavin stated there is more to Roswell than just alien stuff and asked them to work as closely as they can with other entities to do great things for this community. He hopes there can be more collaboration with the Roswell Museum and everything in the downtown area being promoted, not just the UFO Museum. Ms. Halvorson stated that's why they do the Passport Program so people can see there is so much more here than just aliens. Commissioner Cavin also stated all entities need to be working together, he thanked them for coming in, and asked for them to get pecans involved.

Ms. Boyles stated that the Chili Cheese Festival is a way to celebrate our farmers and the dairy industry. We want people to understand just how important agriculture is to our County.

ROSSELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presenter: Andrea Moore, Chairwoman

Ms. Moore stated they are continuing on their path and working on the second issue of the Roswell Now magazine which is called “Our extraordinary people”. They will be highlighting the citizen of the year and partnering with the Realtors Association. Last year the Realtors Association banquet was cancelled, and they won’t do it this year, so both recipients of the award, last year and this year, will be the feature on the cover of the magazine. They are reaching out to all the high schools in Chaves County to do a write up on all the Valedictorians. They have reached out to several people in town who are over 100 years old and want to do an article on that. Ms. Moore is in the process of getting the budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 approved by their Board next week. She stated she has learned a tremendous amount since August.

Commissioner Dana asked how the audit was going. Ms. Moore stated they are complete with ‘18 and ‘19. She has been in contact with the Auditor’s office and there are just a couple things left they need to submit for 2020. The 2020 audit should be completed soon, and no extraordinary findings have been found thus far. Commissioner Dana stated the magazine was terrific and she thanked Ms. Moore for including all of Chaves County. Commissioner Cavin thanked Ms. Moore and encouraged collaboration with all entities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Presenter: Mike Espiritu

Mr. Espiritu stated he appreciates the partnership they have with the County. The EDC is about several key things, business attraction, business retention and expansion, workforce development, things of that nature to help build our community. The EDC never closed their doors last year and have continued to reach out to businesses. They have tried to educate more folks across the Country about who Chaves County is. They have done around 30 virtual site selection meetings with consultants about why they should build their companies here in our area. They did a lot more outreach with advertising in light of being unable to travel and meet with people in person. They partnered with the County to push out information on PPE and the Cares Grant applications. They visited around 500 businesses in the County. From this, they learned there are a lot of folks that do not speak English and have limited skills in this area. The EDC is fortunate to have two staff members that speak Spanish and they are in the process of transitioning their website and materials into Spanish. There are a number of businesses in the County that continue to struggle, and the EDC continues to reach out to them.

Mr. Espiritu attended the MRO show in Florida. He had about 30 appointments with companies and as a result of that visit he has three companies that are considering Chaves County as a possible expansion. One even came and has already had a site visit. They currently have about ten active local projects. They respond to respective recruitment opportunities for the State and last year they did about 14. From a workforce development perspective, they have a very strong collaborative partnership with Eastern New Mexico University. The EDC believes that people from Chaves County that have an opportunity to work here, get dedication so they can find a job here, are going to stay here in Chaves County. A former Governor of New Mexico once said that our greatest export is our kids. If we can create opportunity, create the pathways for young people to stay here and have a great job, that makes us a better place. The Air Center is a great gem for Chaves County. They have worked on the ACCENT aviation project, 360 jobs over a few years. They do have a fully executed agreement with a hangar building company.

A company here in Chaves County will be expanding and that is going to grow another 30 jobs, initially. He will share more information as this develops. They testify to the State Board on job training incentive program funding. Companies that are seeking to expand by growing more jobs can request funding from the State to offset training costs. Several Chaves County companies have received hundreds of thousands of dollars to offset their training costs. USA Beef started

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with 30 people and are now up to 65, they are going to hire more folks and they have an application for JTIP funding for June. The EDC also worked with the University on an FAA grant program to get more aircraft mechanics.

Mr. Espiritu stated he believes we are leading the State in apprenticeship programs. This is a way we can grow our own workforce. Next fiscal year they will continue to support local businesses and give them the resources they need to be successful. They have expanded their FASOD grant program to include any business in Chaves County. As the County is opening up, they will begin their trade and sales missions to attract companies to Chaves County. Commissioner Cavin thanked Mr. Espiritu for his work and stated he hopes we get more funds from the State to assist us.

County Manager, Bill Williams, stated that the remaining items on this particular part of the budget include the requests from Dexter, Hagerman, and Lake Arthur and are pretty much flat and unchanged. This is also the portion where we have the Cooperative Extension funded, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and USDA.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Presenter: Joe West, Road Operations Director

Mr. West thanked the Commission for allowing the departments to present their budgets. He stated his budget is pretty much flat with just a few adjustments. The capital outlay he had requested for next year was able to be procured this year. In his Administration budget, (651), there isn't anything drastic that stands out. 652 is the shop and they just had one slight increase in the 230 line. The shop needs a new piece of equipment which will cost around \$10,000. 653 has a couple of decent changes. There was a decrease in the funding they receive from the LGRF funds from NM DOT. In the 18 years he has been with the County, this is the first year they did not receive funding for the school bus route program. They did receive cap and co-op. The last four-year average of those funds is around \$135 to \$150,000.00 dollars so this was a decrease. Line 291 is an increase; this line takes care of projects that we do ourselves. This last year we had a bridge collapse. Any time this happens it's around \$50 to \$70,000.00 to replace one of these bridges and there are 18 bridges in Chaves County that they maintain. Also, out of this line they pay for cattleguard materials and culverts. Historically, this was a million-dollar line and in the last couple of years it dropped down to \$600,000.00 so he'd like to see it get back up.

He left the fuel the same but he doesn't know what it will be a week from now. No changes in 654, Vector control. They partner with the City of Roswell and do all the spraying for the City as well as the County. The City reimburses them for this annually. The 437 line, waste management, is a significant increase. The pandemic affected this department as well because when more people stay at home, they generate a lot more trash. The \$120,000.00 they budgeted ran out in March so Anabel will be doing a budget adjustment next week for an additional \$50,000.00 and this is what he raised the budget to for next year. They are making changes to the waste management program which he believes will make a positive impact on the County.

Commissioner Dana thanked Joe for everything they do and for replacing signs. She asked what they are looking at with the trash in Midway. Mr. West stated they are looking at expanding this site and putting another unit in so there will always be two operating compactors at this site. They are looking to do the same thing at the Ojibwa site. They are also looking at doing away with the open tops. Commissioner Dana thanked Joe for working with her to alleviate some of the problems they've had in Midway. Commissioner Cavin asked Mr. West if he thought the bus route funding would come back. Mr. West stated it's gone for this year. DOT has hired a new engineer, Francisco Sanchez, but he hasn't had a chance to reach out to him. DOT has released what's called TPF, transportation project funds, and he will put in for that. This is a 95/5 split with DOT paying 95% and the County paying 5%. The project he's looking at is between \$250 and \$300,000.00 so the County's portion would be around \$15,000.00 for a project that size.

Commissioner Cavin asked about the time frame for Berrendo. Mr. West stated they will start chip sealing Berrendo on May 24th. It is first on the list. If it doesn't rain it will be done by June. Commissioner Ezell stated from time to time the DOT has hired the department to do work for them. He asked Mr. West if he expected any of that coming up. Mr. West stated there is an issue they are having on a road in EGP they have been working on for five or six years. There is a State road that winds all the way through EGP and they will ask them if they can do the work themselves. They are concerned if they do this the State will ask if we just want the road. It's not a bad thing but it is a possibility. Commissioner Cavin thanked Mr. West.

DETENTION CENTER

Presenter: Daniel Ornelas, Detention Administrator

Mr. Ornelas thanked the Finance Committee, Anabel and Lucia, and his staff for helping him with his budget. He stated he's been with the County 24 ½ years, almost 24 of these years with the Sheriff's Office and it all comes down to "does your Commission support you"? As long as he's been here the Commission has always supported all of the departments and agencies. He stated one of the most important areas they needed to discuss is his training budget. He increased the training budget and is a firm believer that effective staff training can improve consistency in operations, policies and procedures, promote staff confidence, professionalism, and improve morale. He feels it's his job to assure that the staff is properly trained, and this is why he is requesting an increase in his training budget. He would also like to have the detention officers starting entry pay adjusted due to it falling behind in the pay scale. Right around the corner at the local fast-food restaurant they are advertising \$13.00 an hour. He requested that the Chief of Security position be reclassified to Deputy Administrator which it used to be several years ago. This will be the number two position in the facility, and he does need it to be filled in the future. He's also requesting that the salary for this position be significantly higher than the Lieutenants, there has a be a differential in the gap.

He has discontinued the Administrative Services position and he is willing to drop two Corporal positions off his line. He thanked the Commission again for the capital outlay requests he had, the van, he appreciates that because it's something they do need. He also made an increase to the 650 line regarding the kitchen. There is equipment in there that they need to replace. Commissioner Dana asked Mr. Ornelas how many officers he was down right now. Mr. Ornelas stated he is down 19 officers. He had an officer get assaulted the other day, he was punched in the face and was hurt pretty bad, and he's had two quit in the last couple of days. Commissioner Dana asked how many were incarcerated right now. Mr. Ornelas stated 223. Commissioner Cavin asked what the top number would be if they had everyone hired out. Ms. Goldstrom, Human Resources Director, stated it would be 61 Officers. Commissioner Dana asked what the number two position person will be doing. Mr. Ornelas stated he will be the one making sure the operations are taken care of. He'll also be in charge of the Lieutenants and it goes down from there. They have their accreditation coming up next month. It will be their third accreditation for the next three years. Commissioner Dana stated it seems the focus right now should be officers. Commissioner Cavin thanked Daniel and stated it's always a difficult task when you're shifting leadership, but he thinks he's doing a great job.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Presenter: Sheriff Mike Herrington

The Sheriff thanked those that worked on the budget with him including the Undersheriff Charles Yslas and the Sheriff Administrator, Janet Gomez. They haven't asked for much more, only the things that are truly needed. He appreciates what the Commission has done for them and the continued support. The Community also appreciates this because they have made a big impact on this community in law enforcement. We've had a lot of shooting, fights, and stabbings, but it is groups attacking groups not the civilian population. They are out there working hard every day. He started with 751, Sheriff's Administration. They asked for an increase in subscriptions and publications for law manuals. They went up \$1500.00 because of all the new laws that have been changed. They need updated books for every deputy. They can get online but there are times when they are in the field and it's easier to get into the book. If you look at the law manual

from even a year ago it's completely different in some areas. One of the positions he asked for he understands right now we're going to look at going a different direction or waiting a while, but it's the IPRA Records Clerk. The reason they asked for this is because the IPRA has become overwhelming and time consuming. For every one hour of video is about seventeen man hours. They have a great camera system but to go in you have to edit slide by slide. If you want to put a blur on someone's face it has to be done slide by slide if not, when the person moves, the blur stays where they put it and doesn't move. In the last month they had seven vehicles that ran for 15 hours straight because the investigations took that long and you can't turn the camera off during that time. 15 hours times seven vehicles times the amount of time it requires to go through that is overwhelming. This affects the new IPRA laws as well as every Deputy having a body camera, which he thanked the Commission for. Sheriff Herrington stated we're going to be able to save this County a lot of money by being able to show that allegations are false. He's hoping the Attorneys handling these cases will watch the videos before they want to settle out because just settling is killing his budget. They have to be able to review the videos and with the laws being put into place there are going to be a lot of IPRA requests because people are looking for an easy dollar.

Moving on to 752, the Sheriff stated they asked for a couple other things, but he wanted to explain the increase in fuel. Right now, with the United States trying to go to wind instead of fossil fuel, gas has gone up and because gas has gone up, the fuel costs are going to go way up. They are averaging around 55,000 miles a month at \$2.76 per gallon. He has no doubts that come summer it's going to be \$3.00 if not closer to \$4.00 per gallon. They just came back from the Academy in Hobbs and all the pump jacks are stopped. Gas is going up and we need to have the extra money in there to be prepared. He stated the \$34,500.00 was in the budget for the Hobbs Academy. They have chosen to pay to go to Hobbs rather than Santa Fe for free because the quality of training is truly a hundred times better.

Sheriff Herrington stated they are asking for a Desk Deputy out of 752. The reason for this is that it's going to give a Deputy the ability to be in the Chaves County complex. Every hour they will be expected to make rounds throughout this County building. Since this craziness has all started, we have seen more and more people think that our Governor is located in this building and that because this is a government complex that we have the same beliefs and are enforcing the same things. We have an influx of homeless people, but we've also had some people come in who are not happy with the County. By having that Deputy walking through the building we will have somebody onsite throughout the business hours of the Sheriff's Office. This will become a District. If there is a big scene somewhere, there are currently no Deputies in this building, and we want to change that.

753 is the LEPPF money. They had to go in through the Academy and show who was certified and who was not certified and this took a lot of time. Nothing really increased except the number of certified Deputies which gave them more money. They also need the big transport van to take people to DOC because they are hauling 6 to 8 individuals and their luggage. He thanked Anabel for helping them throughout the year. Commissioner Dana asked how many Officers they were down right now. The Sheriff stated six, but he has three that are in the process with Susan, one in the background stage, and they should have the other two positions filled by June or July. Commissioner Dana asked how many Officers usually patrol the Valley. The Sheriff stated one but with the increased number of Deputies getting ready to come back from the Academy as well as those they are going to hire there will be two Deputies in the Valley, one in the Duncan area as well. The Desk Deputy will be fully certified and could be a different Deputy every day, so people don't get complacent. Commissioner Ezzell thanked Charles Yslas for doing a great job with his interaction he had with the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Cavin stated he thinks it's important to have someone on site and not call someone in off the streets because we are in a different environment today as government officials. Commissioner Cavin stated they will be putting up some barriers soon to protect some type of vehicular entry into this building. The Sheriff stated that people in this County truly do support them and the surrounding Counties all stick together. He thanked the Commission for how blessed they are in Chaves County.

FLOOD COMMISSION

Presenter: Richard Smith, Superintendent

Mr. Smith stated they have a 613 scraper that is 10 years old and it's worn out. They would like to purchase a new 623 scraper. The problem is the cost, it's \$790,000.00 and they are afraid to purchase it outright. Caterpillar is willing to give them a trade in of \$159,000.00, then they could make a lease payment for five years and then a balloon payment of \$368,655.00. The lease payment would be \$115,000.00 a year and he feels like they can afford that. Mr. Smith stated they had two part time employees, one got sick and had to quit, so he's asking for half a person to add to the staff. Sandra Rodriguez reiterated the details on the scraper lease. Anabel Barraza, Finance Director, stated Mr. Smith and Vera did come to speak with her and Sandra before they submitted their budget. They looked at their fund balance and the projections for the next couple of years and decided the lease would be the better option at this point. Commissioner Cavin mentioned that Mr. Smith's right-hand person will probably be retiring soon and asked if he had anyone to train up. Mr. Smith stated he's been there 26 years and he guesses he'll stay around for a while, but he could have a couple of guys going out. Commissioner Cavin stated Mr. Smith is greatly appreciated and his knowledge and experience you can't get anywhere else. He thanked him for all he does.

TREASURER

Presenter: Charlotte Andrade, Treasurer

Ms. Andrade stated her budget is flat, they had a few lines with increases and that was only because of price increases for their equipment agreements. She is requesting one additional staff member. They currently have a staff of five and that includes herself, her Chief Deputy Treasurer, two Deputy Treasurers, and one Senior Accountant. As of yesterday, she will be down to four people as one of her employees is going to the Detention Center. The tax roll every year exceeds 34 million, and right now they are at 94%. They've collected 32 million and have 2 million outstanding. That is really good for this time of year. They have not been affected by the pandemic. The issue they are having, as they continue to improve services to the public, is that they are spreading their staff pretty thin. This in turn will eventually affect internal audit controls. She stated there is a misconception that the Treasurer's Office is only busy during collection periods but it's actually all year long. They have included additional modules online for the Assessor and Planning and Zoning so they are having to reconcile those payments every day. Each staff member has duties they are responsible for daily, in addition they have opened a drive-up window to help Seniors so they don't have to walk in as well as those who may be physically challenged. They are spread very thin. They maintain a high collection rate, the ten-year average is over 99%, but she emphasized they are spread very thin. She has one employee that has been out on extended medical leave, with the loss of the senior personnel, this will leave them down to three. They are all working the counters and servicing the window and they are getting to a point where they are jeopardizing internal controls. She's asking for one entry level position that would be responsible for servicing the window as well as making an aggressive effort to bring in delinquent accounts. Currently every year, they send anywhere from \$44,000 to \$80,000 to the State. This is the delinquent penalty and interest they collect once an account reaches a two-year delinquency. This would be a source of covering the expense for adding another personnel. They work non-stop all year, collaboratively with the Assessor's Office.

Commissioner Ezzell asked if she has anybody in mind for the employee that is leaving. Ms. Andrade stated no, she found out yesterday and it was a surprise. She has 3 ½ years left on her term and at that time the other Senior personnel will be eligible for retirement. This will leave two people in the office who currently have experience. She would like to replace the vacancy as well as add another person who will be ready for the next Treasurer. This will assure they have a fully trained staff to meet the requirements. The Treasurer's Office collects 34% of the operating revenues for the County and 18% of the total revenues for the County. This is worthy of bringing in one more person to cover the additional duties and help maintain their high collection rate. Commissioner Taylor stated he imagines they have a peak time in the fall and Spring for about a month, what about a temporary person for that period of time instead of a full-time person all year round. Ms. Andrade stated she did have a temporary person come in

when they had someone out on maternity leave for approximately six weeks. She was previously employed by the Treasurer's Office and was a very valuable asset at that time. She is no longer interested in doing this. There is a lot of training that is required. She would be willing to add a part time staff but they definitely need the help. They have to cover each other and stagger their lunches so there are always two people because of audit requirements. She can't emphasize enough what the need is. A graph showing the money they send to the State was presented. In addition to the auctions they have every year, they lose the penalty and interest. Once an account becomes two years delinquent, they have to flag it and tack on a \$125.00 fee, which goes directly to the State. Every month they send the State a check. This is more than sufficient to cover an additional person who would also aggressively handle the delinquent accounts prior to them being listed on the list sent to the State. This will reduce the amount of money we send to the State and we will keep it here in the County.

Commissioner Cavin asked for the time being if they could get her established with some part time assistance during those four months would that be helpful. Ms. Andrade stated that there is a process to get them to the collection periods so the help would be needed throughout the year. If it was part time that would even be helpful. They have to make sure they file liens for mobile home delinquencies with the State, they report on a monthly basis to the State tax division, so a part time would get them through but she respectfully asked for it to be for the entire year. Ms. Andrade stated she can't emphasize enough how bad they are drowning. They are improving the services they are providing to the taxpayers and being responsible for that much in property taxes she hopes would be justification to bring in even a part time. Commissioner Cavin stated if we start with a part time person and found their value that could be something that grows into a full-time position that she is requesting. He stated maybe she can encourage some people to apply and they can be trained up and be ready to be the next Treasurer for Chaves County. Ms. Andrade stated that would be ideal, but this is an entry level position at the very bottom of the chart. She stated she has an excellent staff right now.

STAFFING NEEDS AND COMPENSATION

Presenter: Susan Goldstrom

County Manager, Bill Williams, stated that evaluating staffing needs and compensation is something that Susan does an exceptional job on and she's been working on how the County should move forward in some of these areas. Ms. Goldstrom stepped up to the podium and stated she has requested that a professional salary survey be done which can be up to \$20,000.00. She feels we need to do this because we have minimum wage that we are just not meeting. She mentioned the Road Department and the Detention Center. Right down the street we have restaurants offering \$13.00 an hour with bonuses to work in fast food and it's hard to compete. She stated they may want to consider holding off on a couple of the upgrades until the survey is finished but that's up to them.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Presenter: Louis Jaramillo, Director

Commissioner Cavin asked Louis if he felt Chaves County will be over 64,000 people in the census coming up. Louis stated yes. Commissioner Cavin asked him for his estimate. Louis stated 66 and a half possibly. Commissioner Cavin stated this is a better figure than what UNM is saying. Mr. Jaramillo stated for the most part his budget is still flat with the exception that they expect gas to go up. There are four staff members in his department and three of them carry certifications that require continuing education. They are fulfilling those through virtual classes; however, they do expect them to return to normal classes in 2022. The budget does increase a little on that side. The largest increase for his budget is an additional \$50,000.00 to begin the process of cleaning up abandoned and neglected properties. These properties are an issue in the County in several areas. This will help us deal with transients that continue to light fires and burn properties and have bon fires at night. They are finding that these properties don't have clear ownership, so it takes him time to find the owners and contact them and then begin the condemnation process. This money would help with clearing the property, dumping, and any

legal fees that may be necessary. The reason they look at contracting out this kind of service is because there are a number of insurance issues they have to be concerned with. They also have to be concerned with utility services, property lines, and neighboring properties, so hiring a contractor is important. On the capital outlay project, they have a split cost for the EagleView pictometry which they share with the Assessor's Office. These are beautiful pictures that came out February 6, 2021. They have assisted them in a number of enforcement issues. They will continue to pay for these for the next two years at which time they may ask for an additional fly over and funding. Mr. Jaramillo will be presenting the EagleView program to Dexter, Hagerman, and Roswell in hopes that in two years they'll pitch in and it will cost us a lot less.

Commissioner Dana asked if he was working on updating anything with the new marijuana laws coming in to place. Mr. Jaramillo stated yes, there is a small increase for publications and printing in his budget. This is something we will have to address along with wind energy, the P&Z Zoning Ordinance, and rural addressing. There are a number of issues. They recently received the ICC building code recommendations for dealing with marijuana facilities. This will help us understand the categories they put these in, commercial, hazard, and a lot of it depends on the product they use, the alcohol they use, how much their processing, and the leaching into the walls. They've found that drywall absorbs a lot of smoke and product and when they stop doing that it releases it because it wants to balance. Commissioner Dana asked about water issues when this comes in to place. Mr. Jaramillo stated this is something they will all have to sit down and talk about along with septic issues.

Mr. Jaramillo stated we have grown significantly here in Chaves County and two years ago he ordered 200 pieces of steel signposts and he is down to two. The cost of steel has increased by three times. He is scrambling to find what is left in the surrounding area. He was able to transfer some money and purchase those now without increasing his rural addressing budget for next year. Commissioner Cavin asked if Mr. Jaramillo has gotten any type of indication from the State if they will limit the amount of people who can grow marijuana. Mr. Jaramillo said the Health Department has made a statement that the regulations they will write for recreational marijuana will be much more detailed than the medical. This will be a battle between the Governor's April 2022 deadline and the Health Department's rush to get this document done. Commissioner Cavin stated this must be a concerted effort on the part of the City of Roswell and our smaller communities. Mr. Jaramillo stated we can look at a density restriction, County wide, by working with the municipalities but we have to have it reasonable, explainable, and understandable so we're not over restrictive or under restrictive.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Presenter: Bill Williams, County Manager

Mr. Williams stated they have requested \$29,000.00 for a special project that would take care of the barricades that are necessary both for safety and security of our employees as well as the COVID requirements. The Clerk's Office got a grant and paid for theirs last year. We are ready to move forward. Based on what was spent in the Clerk's Office they put in a factor of \$29,000.00. They will be replacing the Facility Maintenance Director and Mac has a lot of experience with facility maintenance and improvements and he will be a big help. He's glad he is here as he will be able to help us move forward in those areas. Mr. Williams formally introduced Mac Rogers as the new Public Services Director. He is currently working on making sure the irrigation of our lawns and whatnot does not waste water. There are several different budgets within the facility maintenance department and each one has a 230 and 257 line. The 230 line is used when we do repairs in house and we need to buy or stock materials. Those are all at the same numbers as last year. The 257 line is where we hire outside vendors. All of those numbers are the same. The only increase is for the improvements to the building with the barriers in each department. Commissioner Dana stated she doesn't want to see the big red Target balls. Is there a way to make art? Mr. Williams stated the barriers in this year's budget will be the glass barriers and store front doors in the departments. As far as in front of the building, they are looking at the need to replace a lot of the concrete that is broken and the trees that have died and they'd like to rework the front of the building. He would like to hide any kind of barricades that would take

away the great look of this building and figure out ways to work them in to the landscape. They don't want it to be an eyesore but absolutely have to protect the staff and building. Commissioner Dana asked if the County had any additional PPE grant money that could be used for these projects. Anabel stated the Clerk's Office grant was used for election related expenses as well as their office expenses. In regard to the CARES grant they have fully expended that. They do anticipate receiving the American Rescue Plan Grant money and that will be taken into consideration with the Finance Committee as well as the committee they form to figure out a plan for those funds.

Mr. Williams stated that the County is required to provide a Health Department to our Community, we have, and that building is aging. One of the things we are trying to do is work within the guidelines for the Rescue funds and utilize those funds to hopefully build a new building or certainly fund a large portion of a new building. A new health department will fulfill all the stuff the Rescue Act is for, pandemic response, COVID, improved access for community, mental health care, the list goes on. We want to have a lasting contribution to our community. Commissioner Cavin stated they need to work with Rita and Keep Chaves County Beautiful for some planters in the front. Mr. Williams stated this was the end of the Department presentations. Commissioner Dana asked if Keep Chaves County Beautiful could give a run down.

KEEP CHAVES COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Presenter: Rita Kane Doerhoefer, Treasurer

Ms. Doerhoefer stated they have already written their grant and will hopefully know tomorrow if they will receive the grant money. They can move some money from one area to another and may be able to do that for barriers. They have asked for \$16,000.00 for a mural of Chaves County and what we have to offer. If they find any grants, please let her know. They are here to help Chaves County. When the man ran up the stairs at the County, they gave gloves and asked the workers if they needed anything. She has spoken with Mac. She told him they are here for anything we need, grass seed, filler, that is what they do. It's beautification. They have moved some trees over to the Joy Center. They have paid for water for the trail. She doesn't know if they can buy barriers, hopefully they will get the \$5,000.00. They have purchased a huge tree for the Courthouse. They will help with Cumberland Park on Sunday. She has a group of volunteers that will weed and water. They have never asked the Commission for money or asked them to fund something, they are all volunteers. She and Shawn volunteer hundreds of hours as well as their Board. They believe in helping where they can, to promote Chaves County. She thanked Commissioner Dana for going to the Greenery. She stated their trash cans say, "keep Chaves County beautiful" and they provide trash bags. Commissioner Cavin thanked Ms. Rita.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS

Larry Connolly, 2815 Encanto, Roswell, NM 88201. Internet sales tax, he believes the State is going to get us more money, hopefully. Anabel stated as far as she knows she didn't think so because we were given an increase last year. Mr. Connolly stated he heard the City will come up with more money and legally they have to. Before he left his house this morning, they were talking that Amazon has to hire 500,000 people to cover all their business. Commissioner Cavin stated there will be a lot of funding coming from the Federal Government and the State on increasing and expanding broadband internet. It's extremely important for our community but will be an interesting process over the next year.

There were no online comments.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATION

Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for all the hard work they put into the budget and he welcomed Mac. He's looking forward to the next year and thanked the Commission for all the great decisions they make for us, they don't always come easy and he respects how they come to their conclusions. He's thankful we work in a great County.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Taylor thanked Anabel and her staff; they did a great job putting the budget together. He thanked Commissioners Ezzell and Cavin for their hard work on the Budget Committee. We have to have a balanced budget, not like the Federal government where you can just print money to cover whatever expense you want. Everyone did a great job.

Commissioner Dana thanked Anabel and her staff, she thanked all the Department heads and stated she appreciates them looking at their budgets. As we've seen with gross receipts tax, every time Anabel sends those out, she does not want to open them because she's afraid of what the figures will be. She has asked her UPS and FedEx drivers what they are delivering, and they say 80 to 90% is Amazon and online ordering. She has been an advocate for shop local. During the pandemic she did creative shopping and went to our local and small businesses. If they didn't have what she needed they would research and find it for her. Chaves County has done very well over the years and are in a position to maintain our roads, law enforcement, detention center, the very things that need to be taken care of and make our County safe. She asked several of the ladies in the room to stand up and stated we have women in leadership rolls in Chaves County. She congratulated everyone. She stated she works with the best group of people that are working to make Chaves County safe and taking care of business and mindful of every dollar that comes in and every dollar that is spent.

Commissioner Ezzell thanked all the Department Heads as well as Anabel and her staff for all the hard work that was done on this budget. It is a huge process and there are new department heads. Everyone came up with a great budget and he hopes they can fund it.

Commissioner Bilberry stated he knows everyone works extremely hard trying to get their budgets put together and work through this. It's a privilege to work with such hard-working people in Chaves County. He thanked everyone.

Commissioner Cavin stated we have the greatest group of folks that are working together to make this one of the greatest Counties in the Country as well as the State. It's a great family and it's good to have new faces, people who have stepped up to serve the citizens of Chaves County. We've gotten a lot of great things accomplished but he knows we have a great future with everyone working together. God bless Chaves County, the State of New Mexico, and this amazing Country. He thanked everyone for being there and for all their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.



Cindy Fuller
Cindy Fuller

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