



**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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
#1 ST. MARY'S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203**

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Commissioner Dana 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, Public Services Director, Mac Rogers, Finance Director, Anabel Barraza, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, Planning and Zoning Director, Louis Jaramillo, County Attorney, Stan Riggs, Sheriff, Mike Herrington, Road Supervisor, Joe West, County Treasurer, Charlotte Andrade, IT Director, Alfredo Garcia, County Assessor, Sandra Stewart, Facility Maintenance Director, Scott Massey, media, staff, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 19, 2021 REGULAR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR OPPOSED: NONE

UPDATE ON CHAVES COUNTY TAX BILLS

Presenter: Charlotte Andrade, Chaves County Treasurer

Ms. Andrade stated in 2019 there was a bill, HB 407, that contained a small section that affected the Treasurer's Office. School Districts can put a bond question on the ballot, and it will be effective for the current tax year. In 2019, Chaves County did not have this case, however, they do this year. We have a small portion of the Elida School District and because of this they will have to delay the tax collection process for at least a month this year. They are partnering with Roosevelt County. Our portion amounts to around \$86,000.00 of our \$35.4 million dollar tax roll. They've looked at several options but the only thing they can do is delay the tax bill. They do run on statute timelines, so they had to request an extension. The tax bills this year will not go out until December 1st. The election is on November 2nd and is a multi-county election and will have to be canvassed by the Secretary of State's Office. Their canvass will be on November 23rd. Once the outcome is known, the Assessor's Office will be able to put in the accurate tax rates and send them over to the Treasurer. She will then contact the print vendor for the tax bills, and they will have one week to get the tax bills printed and mailed out, so they meet the December 1st deadline. The first payment will be due December 10th and will become delinquent after January 10th.

For all our taxing authorities, normally they have their high distribution amounts in November and December, this will delay and will not be reflected until January and February. They are working with the State to make sure they have everything in a row and get this information out to the taxpayers. Ms. Andrade stated she will be doing a PSA for TV, putting it in the newspaper, and getting the information out hopefully at the fair booth we will have this year. They are doing everything they can to inform the public that the tax bills will be delayed this year. Commissioner Ezzell asked if there was a way to delay just the tax bills for the properties located in the Elida School District. Ms. Andrade stated they did look at this, but it would be a nightmare, it would

affect their distribution, due dates, printing schedules, and it would cause too many issues. Chairman Cavin stated we will have to do this next year for the Dexter Schools which will affect more of the County. Ms. Andrade stated we are looking at Dexter Schools next year followed by the Lake Arthur Schools in 2023. They have sent out notices to all the mortgage and escrow companies because this will affect them as well along with notices to the taxing authorities advising that if they have any budgetary concerns, they will need to contact DFA.

Ms. Stewart, Chaves County Assessor, stated she can't certify only a portion of the tax roll. Before it is sent to the Treasurer, they must do it all at once. They must enter all the new values and then they have a fourteen-step process that they go through and then they send it to the Treasurer. At this point in time, certifying portions is not an option. All the tax rates must be certified at the same time. They are on standby and ready to go but it will also take a little bit of time in their office as well. Commissioner Ezzell stated assuming the bond issue passes, for the first year would it not be possible to send out the status quo tax bills on the regular basis and then add whatever the bond is to the second half that goes out in May? Ms. Stewart stated she doesn't believe so because once they enter the rates and certify it's out of their hands and they can't do anything to it. The Treasurer would be working with inaccurate numbers. She can't go back in and make changes unless Charlotte refuses it. Her office has spent a lot of time trying to find a solution and from her side there doesn't appear to be anything they can do.

Ms. Andrade stated in delaying the tax bills, this will also affect the protest period for the Assessor's Office. They are working closely. Commissioner Ezzell asked if there is a Legislative fix? Ms. Andrade stated this affects a handful of Counties so perhaps there may be a fix. They are doing everything in their power to notify taxpayers and working with Counties that went through this in 2019 who outlined the process.

UPDATE ON THE ROSWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presenter: Andrea Moore, Chairwoman

Ms. Moore stated they are finally finished with the three-year audit that was required by the City of Roswell when the contract between the Chamber and the City was severed back in 2019. It's no surprise there were no significant findings other than what they had already known about office mismanagement. This has since been cleaned up as of August 2020 when she came in and took over. One of the significant things she is pleased to report is that the Chamber took out a PPP loan which has been fully satisfied and forgiven as of about two weeks ago. They are going forward with planning the Rise for Roswell Breakfast which was on hiatus for the last two years due to COVID. Next March they will have this breakfast and they are excited to do so. They are looking at possibly bringing back the balloon rally at the end of 2022 in conjunction with the Balloon Rally in Albuquerque. They are in talks with balloonists that attend the rally in Albuquerque to see what their recommendations are. They are moving along with their magazine. The advertising deadline is coming up quickly. She hopes the magazine will hit doorsteps the end of the first full week in October for all of Chaves County. As they start to see more and more people enjoying the magazine, they are working on a way to do a subscription for anyone outside Chaves County.

Commissioner Dana asked if businesses have seen an uptick in applications, are they still struggling? Andrea stated that everyone they have spoken with is still struggling. They are hoping once all the Federal and State unemployment come to an end, more people will get out into the workforce. A lot of businesses have modified hours because they don't have the people to work or you're seeing longer lines at fast food restaurants. People are starting to use more of the online marketplace. Commissioner Cavin thanked Ms. Moore for pulling this all back together and stated she's done a fantastic job and he looks forward to a great future with the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Moore stated there is still a lot of work to be done to rebuild and repair broken relationships that have happened over the years, but they have a great team of board members and staff members, and they are up to the task to make the Chamber great again.

UPDATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Presenter: Mike Espiritu, President

Mr. Espiritu stated he had a site visit with another aviation company earlier this month and they are returning. It's a rather large company who has their US corporate office in Florida. He will share more information as it unfolds. They've been assisting a couple companies with industrial revenue bonds. As these develop, he will provide more information on the projects. A couple months ago Nature's Dairy was mentioned, they've been purchased by Cattleman's Pride and will be processing beef and packaging at their location. They've partnered with USA Beef. On work force and the community, they held a job fair this past Tuesday. They had 46 Companies that showed up and four that were no shows. They had 149 participants. A lot of the businesses left early which was disappointing. They were fortunate to have the State Department of Workforce partner with them on this job fair. They brought folks down from other communities to help us get folks back to work.

Earlier in the month he and his team went to Albuquerque and Santa Fe to meet with the Department of Workforce with the purpose of identifying ways and methods to increase our workforce and move our County forward. He viewed a database and it's astounding the people in Chaves County that are currently on unemployment. The database also provided people with specific skill sets and they're hoping to link the skill sets up to employers to find workers and hopefully get those folks hired. Some people were hired on the spot and there were over 150 jobs that they knew of. Next month he should have some pretty good numbers on the job fair.

They are seeing a continued presence and inquiries into land and property in the County for solar projects. They are seeking to secure properties in the range of 20 to 40 acres. A consultant out of Atlanta is seeing a lot of activity in New Mexico. Weekly they go out and visit the small businesses in the County. Irma Perez visited 47 companies this past month. The Federal unemployment subsidy ended the 6th of September, but the issue now is the child tax credit. They will continue to reach out to the business community to see how they can help them to be successful. We need to continue to work to get folks back into the workplace. The EDC has been very involved in education and how they can formulate the pathways with the education communities throughout the County for young people to have a successful career. They want to create apprenticeship pathways.

Commissioner Ezzell shared that for the Community Solar Act, the community solar projects are limited to 5 megawatts capacity. The legislation limits the total under the act to 200 megawatts. Throughout the entire State of New Mexico, there will be 40, capped by legislation. Everyone needs to realize that they are trying to tie up your land. He has nine of these contracts on his desk. It looks really good on paper. The people who contact you will not be the people who build. Commissioner Cavin asked about the recreational marijuana and people trying to buy land that they can establish. Mr. Espiritu thanked Commissioner Ezzell for his comment and stated we have Pecos Valley Production which is going extremely well. Their plans are to continue to grow and hire. He hasn't seen a lot of activity yet. Commissioner Cavin thanked Mr. Espiritu for everything he does for our community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM #1 – CASE Z 2021-5 – VARIANCE TO THE FIVE-ACRE MINIMUM LOT SIZE-ACRE II

Presenter: Louis Jaramillo, Planning and Zoning Director

Mr. Jaramillo stated this is a request for a variance to the five-acre minimum lot size in area II, being a portion of the east half of the west half of lot 1, section 20, township 12, range 25E, located in approximately the 100 block of West Orchard Park Road. Mr. Saenz is wishing to divide his recently purchased 8.6-acre tract into two 4.3-acre tracts. He has stated that the two parcels would be for his sister's family and himself. Mr. Saenz also stated he was unaware of the 5-acre minimum requirement when he purchased the property from a co-worker.

The property and the surrounding area are zoned Area II – Agriculture-Residential District. The property is accessible to West Orchard Park Road, a county-maintained road. The properties to the north and east are occupied with residential dwellings; the properties to the south and west are vacant. Skyline Ranches to the north and Fisk Acres No. 2 to the west are two subdivisions that were created in 1961 – 1962 and consist of lots that are less than 5 acres in size. Also, the adjacent property to the east was granted a similar variance in 2007 based on these two subdivisions.

The 5-acre minimum was established in 1981, with the enactment of the Chaves County Zoning Ordinance No. 7 and designed to protect the Roswell-Artesia Water Basin from over usage and contamination from local development. Roger S. Whitcamp, adjacent property owner to the south, did protest in writing and he is here today. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the variance by a vote of 4-0 based on findings of fact 1-6. They are:

- 1) The granting of this variance is not injurious to the public's health, safety, morals, or general welfare of the community
- 2) The adjacent parcels of land will be not be affected by the variance because Mr. Saenz is proposing to construct a 2,500 sq. ft. home on each parcel; being for his sister's family and himself
- 3) The proposed two – 4.3-acre tracts are similar in size to other parcels in the surrounding area
- 4) The hardship for the variance is based on Mr. Saenz's purchase of the property
- 5) The granting of the variance would be within the spirit, intent, purpose, and general plan of the Chaves County Zoning Ordinance No. 7
- 6) Smith Engineering Company has completed a plat showing the proposed two, 4.3-acre parcels of land

There is a findings of fact #7 which states that Mr. Whitcamp, property owner to the south, did protest in writing. Staff does not recommend approval. Staff is unsure that a hardship has been established as the property may still be developed with the construction of one residential home on the 8.6 acres. Commissioner Cavin opened the public hearing for public comment.

IN FAVOR:

Mike Douglas, Smith Engineering, 401 N. Pennsylvania, Roswell

They are asking for approval of the variance to the 5-acre minimum lot size. Mr. Saenz bought this property in February with the intent to build a house for he and his sister on the two lots. They hired a local architect to develop some house plans, ranch style homes, 2,500 sq. ft, then he became aware of the 5-acre minimum. Most of the lots in this site are less than 5 acres, including the property to the east which was granted a variance back in 2007. He noticed in the findings of fact that it stated this would set a precedent, but he would argue that was already set back in 2007 by granting the variance to his neighbor. The statute of the minimum 5-acre requirement was to avoid contamination of the Artesian aquifer. He spoke with an officer at the State Engineer's Office, and he wouldn't have an issue with granting well permits for the two lots. The lots on either side of Mr. Saenz go to the shallow aquifer which is strong in that area and they wouldn't be drilling down into the Artesian aquifer. They see this as a good opportunity to have this property developed and it conforms with the lot sizes in that area. The hardship would be that Mr. Saenz would have to start over and look for new property to build for himself and his sister. We don't see this as something that is going to deter the property values surrounding that area.

Joel Jr. Saenz, 310 N Washington, Hagerman

Mr. Saenz stated that in January, he was promoted to Sergeant with the NMSP. Before purchasing the property, he went out to West Orchard just to look around. His Lieutenant congratulated him and told he had acres that he was willing to sell off West Orchard. He purchased the land. At the time of purchase, he did not know about the variance and rules and regulations. He stated he has no excuse for that and should have looked into it. He told his sister about the land, she currently lives in Portland Oregon, and things aren't going too good over there so he would like to bring her here. They would like to split the land and build two houses that will mirror each other. He's done everything locally. Mr. Saenz showed the Commissioners a picture of his pulimmonary plans for a 2,400 sq. ft ranch style home. He is hoping this will help

the other property values around him because he's not going to throw a double wide on the property, he's going to build a house and invest in living in Chaves County. He's asking the Commission to allow a law abiding, God fearing family to come down from Oregon.

No comments in favor were reported online.

OPPOSED:

Aron Balok, Superintendent of the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District, 2303 E. 2nd Mr. Balok stated the PVACD Board of Directors is extremely opposed to these types of variances for the sole purpose of the impacts on our shallow and Artesian aquifers. As stated earlier, this would be a shallow well but as you well know, the State Engineer can not limit domestic wells. Domestic wells are not subject to a meter order. If a domestic well is a shared well then it would be subject to have a meter put on it. We would have some ability, even though it's through self-reporting, to account for the added strain on the shallow aquifer. They see this as one of the biggest threats to the shallow aquifer in this basin because there is no methodology who puts in what and where. Really the only concern from the State Engineer's Office is the legal stand offs. They do put a restriction on the amount of water that can be pumped from a domestic well but without a meter on it there is no way to know if it's in compliance or not. For that reason alone, the PVACD is opposed to this type of variance.

No comments in opposition were reported online.

Commissioner Cavin closed the public hearing for public comments and took questions and discussion from the Commissioners. Commissioner Dana asked if there will be two wells and two septic tanks, one for each house? Mr. Saenz stated this was correct. She asked Mr. Saenz how long he has been in Chaves County. Mr. Saenz stated he has nine years on the department and has been in Chaves County since 2015. He's been part of this community, but this is the first time he's purchased land. Commissioner Dana asked Mr. Saenz what he would do if he gets assigned some place else with his department. Mr. Saenz stated that won't happen and this is a big investment in his life, and he is going to stay. His sister is an educator and is talking with Gateway to be a teacher there. Commissioner Dana asked what the timeline for building the house is. Mr. Saenz stated within a year. Commissioner Cavin asked if Mr. Saenz would consider drilling one well for both pieces of property? Mr. Saenz stated if that's what it takes, he would be willing to do that.

Commissioner Ezzell stated he would like to address some of the equities involved. He stated lot 1 of section 30 would be the NW1/4 NW1/4. Why is it called lot 1? Mr. Douglas stated that the way those townships were surveyed originally, they started out at the SE corner and worked north and west from there, trying to go exactly a mile by a mile but it doesn't exactly work out that way. The townships were surveyed first and then they went out for the sections and they ended up with lots along the west line and the north line. Those are called lots because they are not exactly a quarter mile by a quarter mile. Commissioner Ezzell stated exactly, so the NW1/4 NW1/4 if it was regular, would be 40 acres. If it was a regular 40 acres how big would each of these lots be? Mr. Douglas stated 5 acres. Commissioner Ezzell stated that the only reason we are here today is because township 12S range 25E is irregular and when that happens, they go to either the north line of the township or the west line of the township and they generate lots because it's not a regular 40-acre quarter-quarter. On the W1/2 W1/2 are probably lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 and it is just a variance. If you are drilling an oil well that requires 40 acres spacing and you have a lot, you still get to drill it. We're talking about 30,000 square feet out of 180,000 and compliance at about 87%. Mr. Douglas stated it would be more than that because he owns more property but some of it is being dedicated to the County as right of way. Commissioner Ezzell stated he understand PVACD's position and Mr. Whitcamp's but he thinks this is a slam dunk because the Sergeant's Lieutenant probably thought he owned 10 acres.

Commissioner Ezzell asked Mr. Jaramillo if staff would still object if one well was drilled? Mr. Jaramillo stated he believed that would be acceptable. Commissioner Cavin asked Mr. Jaramillo if he had any information on why the 2007 variance was granted? Mr. Jaramillo stated that based on the minutes of the meeting it was in reference to Fisk No. 5 that has 1,000 residential lots

varying in size from 5,000 sq. ft. to 7,000 sq. ft. They basically built a city residential subdivision in the County. Skyline North was created in 1961 and there was no minimum requirement at that time.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE CASE Z-2021-5 GRANTING A VARIANCE TO THE 5-ACRE MINIMUM LOT SIZE IN AREA II WITH FINDINGS OF FACT
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

MOTION MADE TO: STRIKE FINDING #4 AND REPLACE WITH "THE HARDSHIP FOR THE VARIANCE IS DUE TO THE IRREGULAR SIZE OF THE NWNW SEC 30. IF LOT 1 WAS A REGULAR 40 ACRE QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION, THE PROPOSED LOTS WOULD BE 5 ACRES
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM #2. RESOLUTION R-21-046 – ORDERING THE CHAVES COUNTY ASSESSOR TO IMPOSE THE 2021 CERTIFIED TAX RATES

Presenter: Bill Williams, County Manager

Mr. Williams stated the County Commission receives a Certificate of Tax Rates from DFA each year in September. The Commission is required by statute to issue a written order imposing the tax at the rate set on the net taxable value of the property. A resolution ordering the County Assessor to impose the rates must be approved each year. It is important to point out that these tax rates are set by the Secretary of DFA and not the County. As our Treasurer, Charlotte Andrade, pointed out, this year is a little unique in that after the bond election pertaining to Elida Schools, they will issue us a certificate number one which is the status quo which assumes the mil levy question will not be approved or certificate number two which will show the mil levy question was approved by the majority of voters. At that time, we will enact those rates depending on which ones they are. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE R-21-046
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

AGENDA ITEM #3. RESOLUTION R-21-047 – OPPOSING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE ORDER SETTING 30X30 GOAL

Presenter: Bill Williams, County Manager

Mr. Williams stated this resolution opposes the State of New Mexico Executive Order Number 2021-052 setting a goal of having at least 30% of all lands in New Mexico withdrawn from use and deemed "conserved", with an additional 20% designated as climate stabilization areas. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Cavin read the resolution out loud.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE R-21-047
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

AGENDA ITEM #4 – RESOLUTION R-21-048 – APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY 21-22

Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Barraza stated they are requesting a budget adjustment for line items in exhibit "A". These adjustments are for various grants that have been awarded to Chaves County and a sale of County property from the Sheriff's Office. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-21-048
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #5 – REQUEST FOR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Barraza stated a Keep Chaves County Beautiful grant has awarded funds to travel to the Keep America Beautiful 2021 National Conference. This conference will take place in Washington, DC on November 14th through the 17th. Sean Davis, Chairman for Keep Chaves County Beautiful, will be the traveler. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE REQUEST FOR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

AGENDA ITEM #6 – CHAVES COUNTY MOODY'S RATING 2021

Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Barraza stated they conducted an interview with Moody's Investor Services and did receive our NM issuer rating. She would like to congratulate and thank previous Administrations as well as the current Administration as they did have a rate increase from A1 to Aa3. Chaves County has had an increasingly positive financial performance over the last three fiscal years. She does expect this to continue over the near term. The report attached has the highlights of Chaves County along with its credit strengths, credit challenges, and factors that could lead to an upgrade or downgrade. This report is for their information and no approval or action is required. The Commissioners as well as those in attendance gave the County a standing ovation. Ms. Barraza also noted this is the highest rating Chaves County has ever received.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – DFA APPROVAL OF FY 21-22

Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Barraza stated they received final approval from DFA for fiscal year 2021-2022 final budget. There is no motion required but per their section 662E NMSA 1978, LGD has reviewed and certified the final budget. This needs to be part of our minutes for our governing body according to that section.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – RATIFY SIGNED LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

Presenter: Bill Williams, County Manager

Mr. Williams stated the Chaves County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to Governor Grisham on August 24, 2021 requesting that she re-evaluate her Order requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated to perform their jobs. The letter was signed individually by each of the Commissioners after attending a press conference hosted by New Mexico Senators and

Representatives, members of our medical community and local leaders. This ratification will make this an official action by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Williams read the letter out loud.

MOTION MADE TO: RATIFY SIGNED LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR
OPPOSED: NONE

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE CHECKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,028,004.77
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
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 TAYLOR
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 TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

Larry Connolly, 2815 Encanto, Roswell

Mr. Connolly stated he is a member of the ETZ Commission. They haven't had access to money. There are a lot of properties in the County that are a nuisance. He read section 1.3 in the current ordinance and presented a picture of a property on the east side to the Commissioners. This is horrible and stated when Mike (Espiritu) brings people, and they drive by, it looks like hell. He is proposing a private committee of five well respected people along with Bill Williams and Joe Neeb to sit in. The County and City need a pool of money. This goes back to 1979/1980, the original ETZ. There was a \$48,000 pool of money, \$24,000 from the County and \$24,000 from the City. If they did this back in 1979, 50 years ago, why can't we do it now? He's hoping by the October City Council meeting and County Commission meeting they will come up with \$100,000.00. You will have the final decision, but the committee could suggest you tear down certain buildings.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATION

Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager

Mr. Williams thanked all the people from the community that come out and help, he thanked Larry for bringing ideas to their attention. He thanked Ernie, who did not come up to speak, they spoke quite a bit last week about making repairs at some of the compactor sites. He is happy that Rise with Roswell is starting, this is his favorite event of the year. He thanked the current and previous Commissioners and Administrations, and Sonny Chancey who was present at the meeting, for their work with the elevator. If it hadn't been for all the people and work, they wouldn't be going to cut the ribbon on the elevator today to dedicate it to our community.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Taylor stated it's a great day for the dedication of the elevator. This started many many years ago when he was on the Commissioner the first time. They came up with an elevator

and it didn't work so he's happy to see that we finally have a solution and it's going to be a great day.

COMMISSIONER DANA

Commissioner Dana stated it is Yom Kippur, the Jewish New Year, and that is why Ms. Rita is not there today. She told everyone that Ms. Rita is praying for them. She stated Shalom and Blessings for a sweet year. She thanked everyone in the County for everything they do.

COMMISSIONER EZZELL

Commissioner Ezzell stated the increase in the County's credit rating by Moody's is a big deal. He congratulated Anabel and her predecessor for getting us in such great shape. He thanked everyone and all the department heads for doing such a good job and stated keep up the good work.

COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

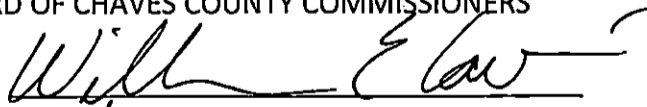
Commissioner Bilberry stated he would like to reflect what everyone said and thanked everyone for their hard work. He stated this is the greatest County in the State.

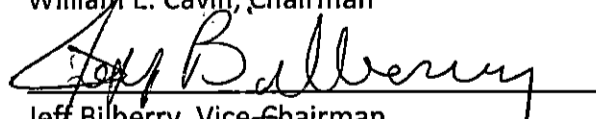
COMMISSIONER CAVIN

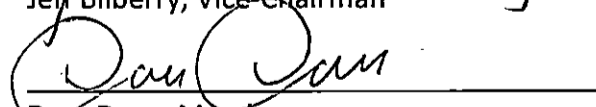
Commissioner Cavin asked Commissioner Ezzell if the sale had already started at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Ezzell stated it starts tomorrow. Commissioner Cavin stated he would like to give compliments to Commissioner Ezzell and former Commissioner Duffey and the Fair Board and others that helped make the sale happen with the livestock and to give kids the opportunity to do what they have been working so hard for over the last several years. They are getting to do this and it's coming here to Chaves County because we have a Fair Board that stepped up and is making it happen. He stated everybody works so hard to do great things for Chaves County and that's what makes this such an amazing family. He recognized Sonny in the room and stated he appreciates all the hard work everyone has done in the past and future to make this such an amazing County. He told the law enforcement guys to keep trucking, our County is safe, and we appreciate them. He mentioned the upcoming election. He told Mr. Jaramillo great job and thanked Larry for his presentation. He stated God bless this Country, Chaves County, and America.

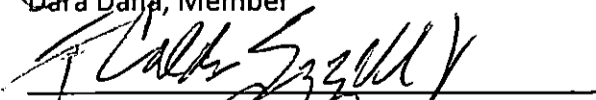
The Commissioners traveled to the Chaves County Courthouse for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new elevator. Dignitaries in attendance were the County Commissioners, State Representative Candy Spence Ezzell, and James Townsend. Senator Cliff Pirtle and Representative Greg Nibert were unable to attend. Bill Williams gave a brief history of the timeline and events that have occurred to get the elevator working. Commissioner Ezzell and Representative Ezzell cut the ribbon with the Roswell Red Coats. Commissioner Cavin made brief comments thanking our State Legislators. Cake was served to the public. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

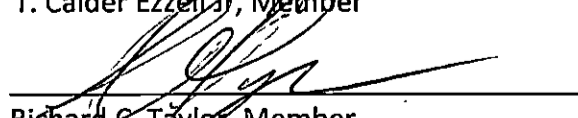
BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


William E. Cavin, Chairman

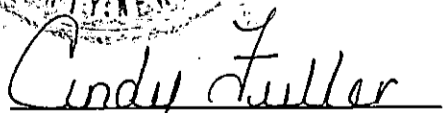

Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman


Dara Dana, Member


T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member


Richard C. Taylor, Member




Cindy Fuller, Chaves County Clerk

COUNTY MANAGER

Bill Williams

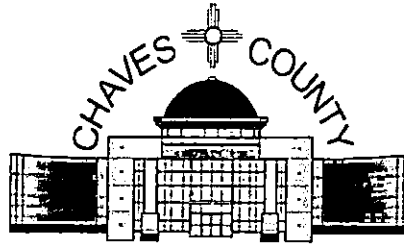
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COMMISSIONERS

Dara Dana · District 1
T. Calder Ezzell Jr. · District 2
Jeff Bilberry · District 3
Richard C. Taylor · District 4
William E. Cavin · District 5

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
State of New Mexico
State Capitol Building, Suite 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

August 24, 2021

Re: Medical Facilities

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

Today the Chaves County Board of Commissioners attended a press conference where many doctors, nurses, and members of our medical community joined with several New Mexico Senators and Representatives, and other local leaders, to speak out against the plan to prohibit unvaccinated workers from entering healthcare facilities. The intent of this letter is to request that you re-evaluate the Order requiring that healthcare workers be vaccinated to perform their jobs. Current reports show that most New Mexicans have been vaccinated. To mandate that this, or any other group, be forced to choose between their livelihood, or their right to determine what is the appropriate course of action for themselves is inherently wrong.

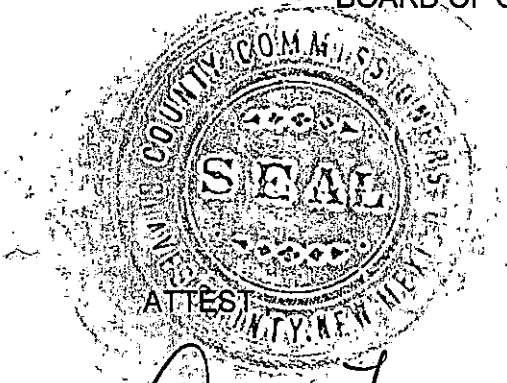
As you are aware, most of the counties within our state are located in remote areas, where filling any specialized positions, such as those in our healthcare facilities, is difficult. We consistently face staffing shortages in the field of healthcare. To make any restrictions which would prevent our healthcare workers from going to work to provide for the medical needs of our communities, would effectively create a staffing shortage, restriction of services, and closure of facilities that would prevent our residents from being able to get medical care. From the beginning of the pandemic, our doctors, nurses and other medical staff have been stepping forward to provide treatment to those who were ill, even though there could be potentially grave consequences for them. Through the course of the last year, these people determined what the best course was for them to follow given what they know about healthcare. The choice to vaccinate, or not, should be based on many factors and is not a choice anyone should make for anyone else. Now, the dedication and selfless actions of these professionals, who have willingly served our communities, are being treated with disdain. In the populated areas of our state this action, although morally wrong, will not cause people to be unable to receive needed medical care but, in our remote areas that is exactly what we can expect.

It is our request that you allow medical facilities in New Mexico to continue to meet the healthcare needs of our communities. To continue with this Order, as presented, would devastate our community healthcare system and would effectively prevent medical care to our residents. We know that many persons have fought diligently to stop the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, but none more so than our doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who have now come forward requesting that we support their rights and their abilities to provide for their families.

We remain hopeful that the spike in COVID-19 cases and its numerous variants will decline in the same manner as it has in the countries where these variants were first encountered. We appreciate the efforts that you have made that have reopened our schools and businesses. We now ask that you reconsider the recent Order which has far reaching implications for most of New Mexico. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Ratified on this 16th day of September 2021, at Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico.

BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Cindy Fuller
Cindy Fuller
County Clerk

William E. Cavin
William E. Cavin, Chairman

Jeff Bilberry
Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman

Dara Dana
Dara Dana, Member

T. Calder Ezzell Jr.
T. Calder Ezzell Jr., Member

Richard Taylor
Richard Taylor, Member