FINAL COPY Torrance County Board of Commissioners Regular Commission Meeting February 28, 2024 9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

RYAN SCHWEBACH – COUNTY CHAIRMAN KEVIN MCCALL – COUNTY VICE CHAIRMAN SAMUEL SCHROPP – COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Others Present:

JANICE BARELA – MADAM COUNTY MANAGER TRACY SEDILLO – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY CLERK SYLVIA CHAVEZ – CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I DONALD GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR

1. Call Meeting to order.

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Calls the February 28, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. <u>Pledge led by:</u> Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman

Invocation lead by: Kevin McCall – County Commissioner

3. Changes to the Agenda:

<u>Janice Barela – Madam County Manager:</u> Remove agenda item 12B. We will not need to revisit this item.

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4. **PROCLIMATION: - None**

5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS: - None

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None

A. COMMISSION: Request approval to form and appoint members to an Ad Hoc Internet Connectivity Advisory Committee for the purpose of assisting Resound Internet in identifying fixed internet coverage areas in the County and in putting together a County plan for a fixed, high-speed internet system. (Commissioner Schropp)

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner (by Zoom & Phone): Good morning everyone: I regret I can't be there in person; I have RSV and I am too contagious to be among you all. It is my intention in asking for this discussion item to bring together representatives of Resound with this Commission and members of the public to flesh out a resolution to form an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of bringing High-speed internet to the people of Torrance County in a timely manner. At this point I have a concept in mind, but since Resound has worked this model in establishing rural internet systems successfully in the past, I think it is best to let the representatives begin with a recap of what they can bring to us, the monies required and the sources of those monies, the deadlines we are working under, and the part Torrance County can play in making this project a reality. That information is important to this Commission in drafting a resolution authorizing the Ad Hoc Committee. Second, I have invited members of the public who may be willing to serve on this committee to hear what will be required of them and determine whether they are willing to participate. To that end, when a member of the public has a question, please come to the podium, and be recognized. I see the members of this committee as the eyes and ears of this Commission bringing timely updates and recommendations to us in Commission meetings at regular intervals, or as needed. Letters of support from the municipalities are needed initially and are relatively easy to obtain. In order for Resound to plan for the placement of equipment, individual letters of support will be needed following a model used in a rural water system I have referred to in the past. This will take the form of a standard form letter that does not oblige anyone to use the services of Resound. It is used to support grants and other funding which may be available, and those letters will give Resound an idea of how many households may be

interested in subscribing in the future. This letter will require door-to-door outreach to family, neighbors, and friends. A letter of support is not a commitment to subscribe. That type of document would take a different form at a later date. Third, having gathered the information from Resound and the members of the public willing to participate, we will form a resolution authorizing the Ad Hoc Committee and defining the duties of its members and its role in reporting to, and advising this Commission. With that, and since Zoom can be a cumbersome way to do business, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner McCall, please assist me in bringing Ms. Rosenberg to the floor to begin.

Tamara Rosenberg – Resound Network: I want to introduce my colleague. Misty Willow, who is our VP of Strategic Partnerships. I wanted to reiterate what Commissioner Schropp said that there are a few things that we're here for today. When we're talking about these grants, we currently have an RDOF grant. This is the grant that covers a good portion of the county. What we are trying to do is fill in the gaps. There are some communities that were not within RDOF that were not covered. According to the New Mexico Office of Broadband Expansion and Access, these areas still need high-speed internet. We started the process to discuss covering the rest of those areas. We have worked out a way so that 95% of the county will be covered if we get the New Mexico Wave Core grant. We have a lot of coverage with our RDOF grant. We are looking to cover the rest of the county. So, what does that look like for you guys? That's where we were just discussing the letter of support. The dots on the maps before you are as follows: orange dots are unserved, the yellow dots are underserved, and blue dots are served. You will see where we are seeing areas that need broadband coverage. We are talking about two grant programs. The one coming up immediately is the Wave Core due on March 11th. We need community support for the Bead Grant because it has to do a lot with challenging maps getting coaxed out in the community to be engaged with the process and understand exactly what is missing.

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> When looking at the dots, there's a big difference between underserved and unserved. Underserved means that that household or business has access to broadband at 25 meg or greater. The orange dots are unserved, they do not have access to 25 DPI three, at least 25 downloads, or three uploads. We attend a lot of meetings with the New Mexico Office of Broadband Expansion Broadband and Access. One of the things that they've been worried about is that the monies being allocated for Bead won't be able to cover the underserved, it's only for the unserved. This is why we are going after this Connect New Mexico Fund and the Wave Core application because we can include the underserved and unserved. The more homes we can cover with that funding, the more opportunity there will be to cover some of the homes that may not have been covered otherwise with the Bead Grant.

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Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So going back to the dots, orange is unserved, 25 by three, or less. Where did you get this information?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> FCC. Unserved is anything 25 or less, underserved is between 26 meg and 100. These are download speeds.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> I think this information is incorrect. I think there are very few spots including satellite that were hitting that 25 three plus. <u>**Tamara Rosenberg – Resound Network:**</u> Satellite is not included in these maps, these maps come directly from the FCC. I encourage everybody here to look at the FCC map and have them do a challenge. I would strongly advise your Ad Hoc Committee to go into the community and have people challenge the maps for the next release of the FCC map.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Let's talk about the blue dots.

Tamara Rosenberg – Resound Network: Blue dots are served, according to the FCC, at 100 or better.

Rvan Schwebach-County Chairman: Many of the center pivots on the farms original setup was a radio system are much more economic than the cellular systems, but the internet could not handle all the data without any issues. Everything is cellular. In my place of business, I went with a cellular modem to give enough speeds and accuracy. There are a lot of the smaller wireless companies. You need to talk with them. They offered packages that say they can give you these speeds, but I have yet to see it delivered. When you look at CenturyLink, it's available up to those speeds, but when you start ordering them, they can't guarantee it. We run into these problems. I don't put a lot of stock just going off of what FCC is saying because it's an advertised number and nothing more. I've only seen these speeds with government offices and schools. Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships: Correct. Those are not included in the FCC maps, if they are dedicated services. This is just your basic, best effort service, high speed internet. I haven't been to a community in years where the maps that are put out by the FCC or USDA, are accurate. What we would ask of Torrance County is to put in your own challenges. You can do that as a bulk challenge by gathering that information. We can help facilitate a community survey. My background is all rural broadband. I worked for a company called Secret Wind that was very successful. I would work with the communities putting together these surveys, compiling the data, and submitting for grant applications. I want to make sure everyone understands that in the next application period we are asking for your support. This will give gig speeds to the majority of your county. This has multiple phases, the first phase would be the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund the RDOF, which is already in process. By your next meeting we will work on getting a better idea of what that date looks like. The great thing about how we are handling RDOF is it's a hybrid system. We use fiber to the tower, but from the

tower to distribute to the community, it's wireless at gig speeds. It has some built in redundancy, so that if that fiber goes down, we're still going to be able to radio back to our shop in Albuquerque. So, you will have better uptime than you would with fiber. It's a fraction of the cost. To build a fiber for a home project in Torrance County, even if I were to look at some of the more densely populated areas, just creates little islands. It would still take two and a half to three years. With Torono, we're talking a year to a year and a half. If we have problems getting backhaul out of Torrance County to Albuquerque, I don't expect that's going to be a problem, because we have CenturyLink and Plateau nearby, those are two of our partners. I think that there's a third partner that we're going to look at as well, who has some fiber going down I-40. As far as the timeline, you will be up and running maybe within the next nine months. I intend on talking to engineering and find out what their plan is and if have they hit any roadblocks? From what I understand, a lot of customers are Star Link customers. They ship you a box. You plug it in and mount on your house. We actually set up professional installers. We don't do self-install. We'll make sure that there's proper line of sight. We'll make adjustments if needed, and you will have a working service. RDOF is a \$15 million dollar grant for Torrance County.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You represent a private firm to install Internet?

Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: How does that affect the existing wireless providers? Where are the guarantees that you'll provide the service without competition?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> We are competitors with wireless companies that are out here. I assume that there's some well-intentioned people that have put up wireless ISP. We're not in the business of putting people out of business, but our products are extremely competitive. You're going to get higher speeds. It's a matter of spectrum in a lot of cases. You might have a wireless ISP here that is unlicensed. As far as the FCC and other organizations are concerned, that's not considered service. The prices are part of the RDOF contract that we have with the FCC. The pricing is extremely competitive. We are going to give you probably triple the bandwidth, if not more, for about the same price you're paying.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> If you can't provide the speeds consistently, what do you have to go back on?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> With any kind of wireless, it is best effort service. Keep in mind, this is a federally funded program. If we are not doing our job, come to us first. Let's find out why, what's going on. We have 24/7 customer service and tech support. We have a New Mexico engineering team.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> This wireless does get piped into fiber, solar?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> It does at the towers. I think we have eight or nine throughout Torrance County right now.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> Is it a similar structure on what you have with some of your cell phone services. When you have high usage, you start throttling back service to where everybody gets a portion.

Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships: It is unmetered. We do not throttle, and we do not meter. We don't shape traffic. Are we going to have moments of congestion; however, those are going to be few and far between. We've been around for over 10 years serving the Texas panhandle, as well as parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I know Plateau has a service area. This was from lines they ran a long time with similar government funds. If you get these funds, do you know how much an area you have to serve? We didn't know competition.

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> No it's the guideline from the US Treasury. If you have an area that's federally grant funded, you cannot get funds to bring in a competitor. That's not to say that we will come in using our own funding. If we see an area that's covered by somebody now using grant funding, but that community says, hey, we're not so happy with what ABC is doing for us. Can you come in, do an evaluation, and maybe you can come in and offer a competing service? We will look at those. In fact, we've got several that we're looking at now. The other thing about fixed wireless is we have about a 10-mile radius. We have a lot of terrain that we have to take into consideration.

<u>Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:</u> This does not give Resound exclusive franchise to Torrance County, is that correct?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> That is correct. We welcome competition.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> You have been selected for this grant already? That's not what we're discussing today, correct?

Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships: Correct.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We are discussing, what Torrance County's role in helping you?

Tamara Rosenberg – Resound Network: Yes, there's a secondary grant, which would cover the areas that are not within our RDOF. We have already mapped it out, and there were 3600 households within Torrance County that were not captured in our current grant. We started putting together the application package to capture the rest of those households.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You are asking for us is a letter of support from us?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> Since we have members of the public here, it's always helpful to get letters of support from the public as well. Realtors, doctors, anybody who relies on broadband, which is everyone, farmers, ranchers, students, their parents; any letters of support that we can garner from the county and its constituents are helpful to attach. There's no limit.

<u>**Patty Alexander – Resident:**</u> CenturyLink is constantly down. They don't provide very good service. Do you have a setup where you might line up for businesses?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> Yes, there will be redundancy and resiliency built into the network. As far as what that will look like. I don't have the final design; they're still working on it.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> You'd mentioned you did a lot of work in rural Texas. Can you give me names of organizations that we can contact?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> We have a list of references we're happy to provide.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: So, you are not regulated by the New Mexico PRC?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships</u>: We are not. None of the ISPs are regulated by the PRC that is more of a phone side.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> Its clear you are needing letters of support, and we need broadband. Specifically, to your company?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships</u>: Yes, we would ask the letter state that you have the competence of faith that we are going to provide broadband to your constituents. We're happy to meet with your committee and go in a little bit deeper to show you how this technology works.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: To clarify the timeframe, you have an existing grant that you're going to put stuff on the ground already?

Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships: Correct.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What you're asking us is for the second grant, to get up to the 95% coverage that you stated.

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> Correct. If that application fails for any reason, or if they come back and ask us to rebound and ask for a little less money, which that sometimes happens, we would continue to build out in Torrance County using Bead funding.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> What's the timeframe on that ground? <u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> I want to have everything done by March 10. **<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u>** Commissioner Schropp brought up an Ad Hoc Committee Commissioner Schropp, do you have names in mind? <u>Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:</u> The outline right now is we're gathering information and see if we can have people who are interested in participating. Competition is going to show up in the services here. The money is available. We would be foolish to pass it on. Today, I hope that we will pass a resolution forming an ad hoc committee. I have information that the people I had invited gathered here. They can decide whether they would apply to be appointed to that committee. James Yager, from Deer Canyon preserve would help with the South and the Mountainair district. Phil Tapper, Aziz Hindi, Mayor David Dean has someone in his village, Tracy Gallegos from Encino, then each of the mountain communities Senaida Anaya, Jason Quintana, and Andrew Gutierrez. Other than Phil Tapper in the north, I don't have any contacts. We have a month. If we can get a commitment by the next meeting, to appoint the committee.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> Can we appoint an Ad Hoc Committee? This is for information gathering only.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: It is on the agenda for you to approve and to appoint. It is not in the form of a resolution. However, the Commission does have the ability to create an Ad Hoc Committee and to appoint members today. **Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** The purpose of this committee is to go back to their communities figure out what kind of services they have and what their communities say.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Do you need input from this Ad Hoc Committee?

<u>Misty Willow - VP of Strategic Partnerships:</u> I don't believe we can do that at this point. I know that the maps are disappointing. We still feel confident that even with the maps as they stand now, we'll be able to cover 95% of the county. The way I see the committee being of benefit is not just with Resound, but any other company that wants to come out, is providing the information. The letter of support is simply a letter, we can provide a boilerplate, and you can touch it up as you see fit.

<u>Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:</u> Looking farther out in the future would we have this opportunity to appoint members? Can we resolve to form an Ad Hoc Committee today and then appoint members at a later date?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yes, after learning the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee then the March timeframe is not quite as important. We are going to have an Ad Hoc Committee, specifically for this, to challenge the accuracy of this map, and to learn what the community's needs in regard to internet service for both business and residential. We need a member from every community, which would be the land grants, municipalities, a couple from rural communities, and all

the subdivisions. I'd like to make this committee to where we get that scope of work to our committee members, and they are not sitting here spending a week on stuff they don't need. We can come up with boilerplate information that needs to be gathered with room for comments to be submitted digitally. I would like somebody in the county to gather that information for these individuals to compile.

Action Taken:

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee for discovery on rural broadband consisting of adequate coverage throughout the county and municipalities within Torrance County.

Kevin McCall - County Vice Chairman: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

(Commissioner Schropp left the meeting due to being unable to hear, the internet went down, and Zoom was dropped, cell phone is unreliable. He felt he wouldn't be able to make a fair decision.)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS

Jason Quintana - President of Manzano Land Grant and President of Manzano Acequia Association: My question to Resound is, can they give us plans for their build out? Does that mean they can put towers where they want to? Do they have to follow certain rules? Are these towers shareable? Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: Are you talking about eminent domain? Jason Quintana - President of Manzano Land Grant and President of Manzano Acequia Association: Yes, that, and what are we giving them access to? What are we legally allowing them to do? Since this is federal money, other companies are going to want to bump up their service. Are we going to have 14 towers in the same area? Are they going to just all be able to share one tower since it's federal dollars? We do have some fiber that's already out there. Are they going to use that fiber or run new lines. I would like to see some maps. With the federal dollars that they're receiving, does that give them enough money to completely build the system? Is there any extra that anybody has to come up with? How much power are they going to have if we support them?

Marcia Wallen Fair Board President: I would just like to say that the new and improved communication and increased community participation is encouraged and welcome for and with the Fair Board. I would like to thank Manager Barela for her professionalism in assisting the Fair Board members to make the necessary changes that have been asked for. Thank you.

Melita Waldrop - Resident: Thank you Ryan Schwebach and Ms. Barela, for showing up to the Fair Board meeting. I think the support was well attended and well taken. I have some concerns about how that meeting was handled. I would like to voice those concerns. I'm excited to hear about a rules committee that has been brought forward. I saw that some of the Fair Board members were willing to accept and talk about it and some got offensive about it. My concern about the ones that did get offended about it. They spoke about how we don't need a rules committee. In saying that, I think that's a reason why we need a rules committee in place. My concern is, and I hate to just put someone on a stand when they're not here, but I think it needs to be addressed, is how Johnny Perea handled the meeting at the end. How I felt and how some other community members felt about how he attacked some of our families, and most of our kids that were there. As a parent and a family member in this community, I was disappointed. He was belittling everyone in the room by saying that he thought we were entitled to sale slots when nobody at that meeting ever asked to be handed sale slots. He was confused and I was confused about the situation. When I did ask him, he asked that we talk about it later, but it never got brought up again. I want to make sure to see if the Commission can look into the situation to see how it was handled, and to see what is in the best interest of the kids and the community going forward. Thank you.

Linda Jaramillo - County Clerk: I wanted to announce that March 12^{th,} from nine to five is candidate filing day in my office. The offices that are up for election are Commissioner District Three, Treasurer and County Clerk. Declaration of Candidacy forms are available in the Clerk's Office. Candidate filing fee is \$50 or a candidate can have petition signatures in lieu of the filing fee. Commissioner, District Three will need 10 signatures from their registered party, County Clerk will need 20 signatures from their registered party and County Treasurer will need 20 signatures from their registered party. If anybody has any questions in regard to candidate filing day, you can call my office at 505-544-4350.

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Are the signatures new?

Linda Jaramillo - County Clerk: Yes, beginning this year. Primary Election is June 4. I welcome anyone to call my office if you have any questions. You have to be in person or send a proxy with proper documentation.

Linda Gallegos – Deputy County Assessors: This is an announcement. We sent out livestock and business personal property forms earlier this year. The livestock forms went out December 1st, and the business personal property went out January 1st. For those of you that are in business or do report your livestock you have until tomorrow to get that information in. Otherwise there will be a 5% penalty on your taxes. Just an FYI, there were 2630 forms sent out. That's how many livestock accounts we have. We've received back 2328. There's still 302 livestock owners out there that have not reported or landowners who have not reported that they are leasing their land. I'm encouraging those folks to contact our office today or tomorrow. If you're mailing that information in, it must be postmarked no later than tomorrow, the 29th. There's a 5% penalty on your taxes for non-rendition. For those folks that have not reported within the last year, you are in jeopardy of losing your special method of valuation for agriculture, which is significant. Your land rate will revert back to a non-residential vacant land rate. Regarding the business personal property we sent out 362 forms, and received 390 back, which means we have some new businesses that we have contacted and are reporting back. Again, the deadline is tomorrow to report. If you have a new business and we haven't contacted you, it is your responsibility to call our office. I plan on doing some public service announcements and some outreaches in the near future. Facebook is the social media that we use to get information out. I will be contacting radio stations and newspapers to get this information out in the future. The reason I state this is because our staff is diligently working to get our accounts current and correct. We will send out our notices of value on April 1st. You have 30 days, in the month of April, to file for any exemptions, protest, dispute evaluation, or file for 65 and over evaluation freeze. That's what I'll be talking about in the public service announcements. We are partnering with the Treasurer's Office to do outreach. Our office has partnered and participated with the Treasurer's Office, going to Encino, Mountainair, Edgewood Soil and Water to be available to the public. If they have any questions, concerns, need to get any filing information or need assistance in filling out applications for either special method evaluation for AG, or their 65 and older forms we're available for that. We will be doing that

again, one day each week, in the month of April. Some of the older folks that need to submit paperwork, it's a little bit difficult. I'm going to be going to senior citizen centers, putting fliers out into public places, restaurants, the post office and so on. This extra information is out there as a service to the taxpayers making ourselves available to the public. Just an FYI, on how much work the Assessor's Office does. We have 859 Personal Property accounts. That includes ranchers and farmers that report their business/personal property to do business, anyone who runs a business must report their personal property. The personal property accounts are a little bit different than the livestock accounts and BPP accounts simply because it's outside of a hotel or restaurant, they still have to be reportable. We have 28,949 real property accounts 3,105 mobile home accounts 143 state assessed accounts for a total of 33,056 accounts that our office maintains. That involves reappraisal, account cleanup, adding new construction, new permits etc. For example, our Customer Service and Office Manager assists the taxpayers in person, via email, telephone and the ownership and transfer account cleanup come from that department. BPP, which is business personal property account data entry is also done in that department. Our Appraisal Department consists of five senior leader appraisers and four appraisers who are responsible for reappraisal of all of these accounts, new construction permits, permit processing, field checks, and account cleanup. Last week, our appraiser Zach Davis completed his fourth IAAO class. He is now a New Mexico Certified Appraiser. Our office has four Certified Appraisers, five including myself. I feel that's pretty significant, which means we have qualified expertise folks on our staff that are doing appraisals making sure that we have the most current and correct information with what's going on in the market. We also have a computer aided mass appraisal or cama data analyst. Helen Gutierrez is our Data Quality Control Specialist. She oversees and does reports on all information coming in to her office. She's basically an IT person and overall expert in making sure that our accounts are going to transfer properly when it gets time to send to the printers for Notices of Value, and then ultimately in the fall when we send over the tax roll to the Treasurer. In April I'll be getting the information out regarding the process that taxpayers can take advantage of. I will be coming before the Commission next month prior to budget with our annual report, which includes our evaluation maintenance and reappraisal report, which contains the data that is necessary for the county to use when dealing with the upcoming budget. Thank you.

<u>Patty Alexander – Indian Hills Resident:</u> Do you have any kind of bids going out on Martinez Road, south? Martinez Road is not getting any better and the state

has repayed their portion and the City of Moriarty has repayed. The county still hasn't done anything to Martinez.

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> I don't have that answer right now but I will look into it.

<u>Kacy Riley Chavez – Resident by phone:</u> I wanted to comment on the Special Board Meeting that was held for the Torrance County Fair Board on February 22. I had a couple of problems with the meeting itself, that were not addressed on the agenda. I feel as a community member, we're here trying to build the Torrance County Fair and welcome more youth into the Torrance County Fair, and as a member attending the meeting, we were told that if we didn't like what we were experiencing that we were to get out and go to a different county. I feel like that is very unprofessional and inappropriate behavior coming from the Torrance County Fair Board members. I think we should be open about the youth and promoting the ag industry. I don't think such behavior was warranted. I also don't believe that being called "entitled" was professional. I wanted to make the Commissioners aware of what was being said. Thank you.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Tracy Master was signed up by Zoom. Since Zoom was down, she was called. No answer.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the February 14, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to approve minutes of the February 14, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Janice Barela – Madam County Manager: On page 6; the 05 needs to be removed for the agenda item title. 2024-05 was used that number on the following resolution.

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to approve minutes as amended. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion.

<u>**Roll Call Vote:**</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE & PURCHASING: Request approval of payables.

Action Taken: <u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to approve payables. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

10. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE: None

11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. FINANCE: Request approval of Resolution 2024-06, Disposition of Torrance County Property, auction and/or salvage of three county-owned vehicles and trade of three LifePaks for new Zoll machines.

Toni Lowery-Chief Procurement Officer: I'm requesting permission to dispose of the three vehicles in our parking lot that are inoperable. They will be posted on an auction gov site, there will be a reserve that will be their scrap value. If they don't meet that reserve, we'll sell them for scrap. Then the LifePak is just a cleanup. They have already been approved to trade those for credit towards the new Zoll machines that we received.

It was a trade; we have to put it as a disposal on our asset list. So, we're all clean for this fiscal year.

Action Taken:

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to approve Resolution 2024-06, Disposition of Torrance County Property, auction and/or salvage of three countyowned vehicles, and trade of three LifePaks for new Zoll machines. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -

Yes: MOTION CARRIED

12. APPROVAL

A. FINANCE/GRANTS: Discussion of WAVE 4 broadband internet grant and partnership opportunities; discussion of obtaining letters of support from identified communities; and discussion and possible approval of submission of GWEP Grant for feasibility study of areas identified with Resound partner.

<u>Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator</u>: There is a grant available that is related to but not the same one that Resound wants to go after. This would be a grant that we as, Torrance County go after to do a feasibility study. So essentially, they would be working with the Ad Hoc Committee. We could hire a local consultant that could work with them to develop plans and also see those community needs.

That's what this grant is for. This is a different grant, and I just wanted to get permission to ask for letters of support from various communities.

<u>**Ryan Schwebach** – County Chairman:</u> This is a grant that Torrance County is looking to help facilitate up to 100,000?

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: Yes, this is through the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion. Some of those questions we had this morning about if they only get to 80%, how do we get to 100%. This grant would help us determine as well as work with that committee to figure out what the needs are in varying communities.

<u>**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:**</u> This is not the grant Resound is speaking of? They're simply mentioned in this because we are working with them, but we're not necessarily tied to them at this grant?

<u>Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:</u> Correct, this will be information for us to move forward regardless of who is installing the systems.

<u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> I got a phone call from the CEO of Central New Mexico Electric. Is this in line with what they are asking for?

<u>Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:</u> I believe that Central New Mexico has already received a large grant to install Internet down Highway 41.

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> This is not tied to any installer; this is tied to the county to give potential providers the information?

Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator: Correct, it's coming from

the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion with the state of New Mexico. It will go through the Grant Committee tomorrow. The reason is because usually we get approval for applications from the Commission, then they go through the grant committee before we accept the money. It's an open grant and there are no matching funds. They'll give us up to \$100,000.

Action Taken: <u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion for approval. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED **B. FINANCE/GRANTS:** Request approval of Budget Adjustment for Juvenile Justice Grant.

Action Taken: <u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to remove item 12B. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

C. FINANCE/GRANTS: Request approval of Amendment No. 2 of the Professional Services Contract, Estancia Valley Youth & Family Council (EVYFC), Girls Circle Services in the Estancia Valley with Lyndsi Donner dba Braycon Companies LLC.

<u>Toni Lowery-Chief Procurement Officer:</u> Before you is the amendment to the services agreement. The need that Lindsay has experienced in the schools has significantly increased. She's already used the budget for her contract for this first fiscal year. We are coming before you with an amendment to increase the amount from \$29,700 to \$50,985 as well as the sessions that would occur as a result. We get this funding from CYFD.

Action Taken: <u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion for approval. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED **D. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Request approval to submit grant application for 2024-2025 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program for Rural Communities Funding Application for Education and Outreach Activities, up to \$20,000.

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: This application that we are requesting to submit for this grant is for education and outreach activities which will be up to \$20,000. There is a \$2,000 match that can be in kind. What I would like to do with this grant if we do receive this funding is to create workshops. We would do four workshops that would last approximately three hours each, and we would do some information on threats in our community. Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has these evacuation workbooks that we would go through with residents who attend the event. They would be creating their own evacuation plans for their own residence. After they complete the workshop they would receive the go bags, which is where the funding would come in. We would be purchasing a waterproof bag or backpack depending on what we find that meets the needs, a first aid kit, pen, paper, work gloves, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, portable weather radio, whistle, emergency blanket, poncho, flashlight, bowl, cup spoon, fork, paracord, batteries, and evacuation guide. All of this would be put in that bag and would essentially be the beginning of a go bag for the residents if they needed to evacuate during a wildfire. My goal for having this would be to have approximately \$100 spent per bag. We would be able to purchase 200 bags for residents. I would like to limit the workshops to 50 people, which is where I came up with four workshops. My goal would be to have the workshops in various areas of the county. I would like to start in the heavily wooded areas. I don't want to eliminate anyone in the community. It is going to depend on the participation that we get from the residents. If we don't have enough in that area, we're going to move to different areas so that we utilize the funds. One per household.

Action Taken:

<u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion for approval. <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED **E. FINANCE/GRANTS:** Request to accept Wilson & Company's proposal for the new Torrance County Administration Building, specifically for Architectural and Engineering Design Services, and authorizing County Manager Janice Barela to sign a contract with Wilson & Company for such services.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Due to the results of the last meeting and how that was led, my understanding was that the Commissioners were going to reach out to get more information, speaking directly to our on-call engineers. I visited with the Commissioners individually to see if we're ready to discuss this again. I'd like to thank Wilson & Company, Brett Beaty, for showing up today to also answer questions for the Commission.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> I did visit with Mr. Beaty this week and he answered all my questions. I'm a little hesitant to approve the size of the contract based upon the fact we still don't know the real definite size of the building, and we do not have a definite budget. In the initial talks of this building, we're limited to the 9.5 million. In the original talks, we the Commission would probably add some funding to that. That hasn't been discussed amongst the Commissioners. I'm hesitant as to what size of building we are looking at, then comes the budget and price per square foot.

<u>**Rvan Schwebach** – County Chairman:</u> I have a much better understanding of what we're doing on the scope of work. There's a lot of stuff that is not in here, and it's not fair. We also have agreed for a long time that we need to move forward with the Admin building. You have a number to base a bid. When we start adjusting this bid, I'm assuming the payment can be adjusted. That's the part of understanding I was lacking with these design quotes; the design process takes quite a bit. Is Wilson & Company fairly priced and competent enough to get us through that design to build the building? Within that, it may be phased, it may be changing the budget. Can you answer that?

Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company: We are an architectural engineering firm that has offices across the region, but primarily our main office is in Albuquerque. Your point is well taken because there is a lot to figure out between now and the endpoint of having a finished administrative building. Right now, what we are talking about is the design phase. There is still a lot of time between now and when we get to the point of bringing contractors on board and how we do that in order to really nail down what that budget is. I've had a conversation with my boss, who wrote the original proposal, and we had submitted

a proposal just for programming about a year ago. I wanted to find out what that was, what it covered, and why we elected to go a different direction. It was a discussion with the administration of the county, and our office that we do know enough about this building to get started. We need to have three or four meetings with selected staff to get the information we need to identify that number before we proceed into design. We're going to verify that programming back with the leadership of this county before we start going down the road of designing a building. We have a good target right now. We know it's somewhere around 24,000 square feet, give or take, let's say 2000 square feet. We know a lot of information. You're physically operating out of a building you have been for a long time, and you know what works and what doesn't. That's a great starting point. We are not starting with a blank slate; you have a well-functioning establishment here that we can look into and use to build on for the new building. There are some costs that we need to identify, and those need to be brought back to you as a body. What we're worried about is the design of an administration building. We are looking at the price of what that potentially could cost for both the design services and the construction services for that building. There are other costs associated with this project that we need to identify and clearly articulate so that you can plan well for the next three years. Where are the utilities coming from? What kind of subsurface needs to be looked at? Does it need geotechnical engineering? What are those other functions? A lot of times the furniture is forgotten. We get threequarters of the way through construction, and someone says. Where are we going to get desks from to put in here? Those are things that are better planned out ahead of time. When the desks, chairs, and whiteboards show up in that final stage of construction, they can be in place and people can physically move in and start using it the way it's intended.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> It's critical we stay within this budget. We know there will be unforeseen extras and decisions to be made. If we have a \$9.8 million budget, I would like to target an \$8.9 million budget. In my line of thinking, is that there is a million dollars left over for those unforeseen things, like furniture. We also need to sit as a Commission and decide how much extra money we're willing to add, I want to be on the conservative side. When the numbers come back and say, we can't hit that target. I want to know why. Can we phase? Can we back out of it? Can we look for other sources of funding? Those are the questions I need answered to push forward. I want to know if I have that flexibility. **Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company:** We need to be aligned, this is the biggest problem that we run into is if there's not alignment between the owner and the architect and all of the folks, the community members what they need/want out of this building. What I first see is in a couple of months, we come back here, and we present the programming document and the information we gathered and

tell you how we got there, who participated and what we ended up with. I agree with your idea of shoot for 8.9 million. If we have 9.5 million, you need to have a contingency to cover so that you're not backed up against the wall if something happens. There are always things that could occur.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> We feel like 6.6% of the cost of the building will be in for design. I appreciate that it can be a moving percentage scale, as the building goes up, so does your design. If not, maybe down from nine, six, or six to maybe six, five. I appreciate that flexibility. I'm hung up on how we know 24,000 square feet is what it is going to take.

Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company: This building is 22,000 square feet. Let's just say we rebuilt this building, again, using 22,000 square feet but making it more efficient. Potentially it could be a better building of the same size. I want to give you a building that 50 years from now you can add on two wings to pay for the growth that may have occurred without having to tear down the old building because it doesn't work with expansion. I want to plan expansion into this over the next 20 to 40 years, so, you could add six more offices if you need them. They don't have to be added now because the budget is what the budget is. It's like every household, you have a certain amount of money, and we've got to build it for that amount of money. Occasionally grants are found, but we need to build it for the money you have. If 9.5 million is what you have, let's start down that path. If you find two more million and want to add on something else, we can look at that. I can't give you any better information than I've given you until I can start drawing, thinking, talking, writing down, recording information, and compiling all that together. A drawing won't come until we get the programming. There's still design as we look at which departments might be able to share a break room. Some of those discussions are going to happen internally with the design team, some of them are going to happen with the folks who participate in the building committee, and some of them are going to happen with the leadership. Ultimately, you all get to decide what this building is and how it functions. I want to emphasize I'm just here to help facilitate that and make that happen using my experience and knowledge to make that occur.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We have the square footage working in this building. This is one of the most inefficient buildings. I also have other avenues that have not been explored yet. One of them is the repurposing of this building. When we started looking at what we need, the service storage requirements, there is going to be some extra day-to-day operating money to bring long-term storage over here. There are a ton of possibilities, along with the possibility of a department over here if needed. I'm bringing that up because I am comfortable with moving forward for multiple reasons. I think the devil is in the detail of the contract how it's worded and how flexible it is. What payment

structure we are tied into. What receivables are when that payment is delivered, and what we have in turn on those phases on this design.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> What is set aside for programming? To bring the public up to speed we did spend some money on programming. You're taking that information, not discarding it, and using it to do some updates in programming. How much of that is going to cost to get to that square footage? We have to know our square footage before moving any further.

Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company: Absolutely, that is essential, we do have to have those concrete numbers, we cannot just start designing with what we have now. The original document that we submitted as a proposal was just for programming only because there was some questions at the time. I don't even know if they knew where the original program was at the time when the discussion happened, and then we found some more information. It was about right at \$15,000.00 for programming. What we're looking at in terms of the overall contract, we have actually pushed a phase called programming, but it's really programming conceptual design. I think it's 15% overall, and it's a much higher number. It's not just for that verification, it's only for the first stages of design. Programming would still be about a \$15,000 exercise. The verification would still be effective, whether we do it standalone or whether we do it within the other contract. That's what the value of that is. At the end of that 15%, you will have preliminary conceptual drawings. Before we get that, I need to get the program to you approved.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> Just to be fair, we get to that stage, and we say, we're not getting along with you. You give us all your drawings and all the work you've done for the county.

Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company: Right. It's always an option with an architectural contract. You can at any time decide to terminate it for whatever reason. If you're not satisfied with the direction. we're going.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> I'm comfortable with your proposal. I feel rushed. I know we're rushed for funding reasons. When I feel that way, I don't get a good sense.

Brett Beaty - Architect with Wilson & Company: I hate that you feel rushed. That's not the way I want to do this. What I will tell you though, is if there's any point along the way that you have questions or you have concerns, call me, and say "I'm really bothered, this doesn't look like it's going in the right direction." I'd rather not get to the end of something, and you say "we're really not working out well here." I really don't think that's going to be the case. If there is anything that arises that causes you concern, contact me immediately. Action Taken: <u>Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman:</u> Motion to accept Wilson & Company's contract as provided and to let County Manger Janice Barela as signatory. <u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Real Vote: Served Schrong</u> County Commissioner. Absent: Byon

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

13. DISCUSSION

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Discussion of pros and cons of Emergency Management Building at various locations within the County.

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: At the last Commission meeting, the Commission asked me to look at three different locations within the county and create a pros and cons list of each location. I created a table in your packet. I have talked to several people as well. I've met with the Fire Chief several times regarding this and talked with the County Manager as well. The overall thought that I have at this point is that if we are included within the fire complex within the McIntosh area, we're going to not have redundancy in other areas. My thought behind that was, if we have our location in the Moriarty building, we're going to have to create the EOC, a kitchen, secure parking, etc. Same thing with a new admin building. Those things are already going to be included in the potential complex that the fire department is going to be in. It would eliminate some of the redundancy and save some money in the long run. I think that with the relationship that we have with the Fire Department and the amount of work that we do together, it would be beneficial to be in the same area as the Fire Department moving forward. It's also centrally located with more secure areas for the EOC, and secure parking, which could potentially be a concern in an EOC activation of some kind of a large event that potentially the media would be trying to get any information that they could at that point. It's also one of the things that I looked at in the admin building versus a fire complex that the admin building could potentially become congested. If we do have an EOC activation during business hours, we have the normal day-to-day business that would still be occurring. Then we would have the

EOC activation, which would bring in additional entities. It would be most beneficial if we were located in the same complex as the Fire Department. The complex would have the Emergency Operation Center, Office for Emergency Management, Emergency Management Specialist, and Safety Compliance Officer together.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We met with the architects on the preliminary design for the new fire complex. We started talking about adding two Emergency Management Offices, also a training room that was incorporated into the design as well as part of the programming band that would be expanded and utilized as the EOC as well. There would also be a storage area. I don't know what the size of that is for Emergency Management to use in the design of the building. Currently, we're looking at the area just outside of Estancia as a location that would still be centrally located in the county.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> The proposed site will be tied together with the Fire Department. This will be beneficial for multiple reasons that will be your first pick.

Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager: Correct.

<u>Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:</u> I think we need to put any remodeling on that Moriarty building on hold.

<u>Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager</u>: There was some discussion previously about there being a Sheriff's Department substation at the Moriarty location. In the past, they've had a need for a bay area for some of their search warrants or areas to store some of their vehicles that are in evidence and that type of thing. Maybe it could still be a substation and storage.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Or it can be liquidated.

Thank you.

B. MANAGER'S REPORT

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: We have hired on ten new people since January 1. Thank you to those who have decided to join Torrance County. We currently have all of them working except one, which is scheduled to begin on March 11th. We still have vacancies. Two of those individuals were hired for dispatch. We are excited to get them trained and certified to operate on their own or with a partner. I wanted to introduce Kassandra Sandy; she started in the Manager's Office as Executive Assistant to the Manager. She will be in charge of Constituent Services in the county. If anyone has any concerns in the county, she's the one to contact first. She used to work here in the county before and has knowledge of what offices do and can point people in the right direction. I would like to also mention that last week, Commissioner Schwebach and I made a trip out to Manzano to look at their water system. I was out sick Monday and did not get a chance to get more information on it. I appreciate how everyone works well together. I talked to other County Managers, and they have Commissioners that fight with each other. They have Commissioners who don't work together and make it very difficult for a County Manager to do their job. I am blessed, I don't have that problem. You ask a lot of tough questions, and I welcome those questions because that makes us better. I had that on my mind this week because I heard about a County Manager who has decided to retire. Thank you for the opportunity to work with this great Commission.

C. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1) Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> Legislation is over, and I've reached out, but I haven't heard back from Deputy Secretary of Transportation, who promised me a ride along in Torrance County to look at our state roads. Do we have a better way of getting hold of the Cabinet Secretary?

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Yes. I wanted to let you as well as the public know that we do have a new District Engineer for District Five. Brasher took the position at District Three, which is in the Albuquerque area. The New District Engineer is Rhonda Lopez, she's amazing at her job. We can set up a meeting with her.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Our legislators appropriated for Torrance County. We did quite well. Legislators put a lot of faith in Torrance County and gave us a lot of funding.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: Assuming that there are no line-item vetoes, Torrance County will be receiving these appropriations.

Torrance County Comprehensive Fire District plan \$90,000,

Torrance County Emergency building design \$50,000,

Torrance County fairground improvements \$2,910,000,

Torrance County Fire Department vehicle purchases \$50,000,

Torrance County Fire Department water system improvement \$125,000,

Torrance County Road department vehicle equipment purchases \$40,000, Torrance County records preservation designed \$50,000,

Torreon Mutual Domestic Water Association system construction \$300,000, Duran water project \$100,000.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:</u> I'd like to say thank you to our four Legislators, two Senators, and two Representatives that we met with. They took care of Torrance County very well. In addition to those numbers. We also got the Junior Appropriation money of \$200,000 from one Senator and \$160,000 from a Representative for different items.

2) Ryan Schwebach - County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I have two items. First, one is what Manager Barela alluded to. The two of us went up to the Manzano Water District. A while back, we put some ARPA funds toward helping them with their system. It would appear at this moment that the scope of work was not done, according to what the contractor was given. I don't have the details. County Manager Barela is going to get to the bottom of it and see what we can do. We attended the Fair Board meeting, I'm sure you have heard about it, from some of what was said in public comment, I was there. I want to thank the Fair Board members for doing that. They didn't have to; they handled themselves correctly. There were some heated items. I've been in this hot seat; it is extremely difficult when you're attacked. Not in public, when you're cussed up at a county fair, then you are thrown under the bus for decisions you made for the sake of putting on a county fair for the youth. It's hard to hold your tongue. I have watched these individuals do a very good job. I want you to know that. With that being said, the agendas will now be very clear on what's going to be in the meetings. In that meeting, a lot of individuals said we're trying to get youth to come to get encouraged to show them about Ag. My question to anybody that was there, whatever your feelings are was it the right way to get a kid involved by watching people yell at each other, is that the proper way to get a kid involved in these activities? I don't think it is. I help with the Estancia judging teams. These kids are looking for mentors. They're looking for individuals, whether they're business owners, a connection to AG, or anything in their interests. They're looking for those individuals to volunteer their time to share their knowledge and opportunities. That is something the schools cannot give them. That is where 4H, FFA, and these county fairs come together. That's the missing link for these kids to connect to these individuals, whether

they're family members raising animals or have nothing to do with it, other than that, that is what those kids need in an unbiased manner. I urge you to think about that. A lot of the comments where we are going to get more involved; it needs to be talked about, it needs to be brought out. I didn't speak at that meeting. I do think it is a golden opportunity for the entire community within that fair to move forward positively, to create something constructive and honestly analyze what is the county fair. I believe it's more than just showing animals. I think there's a lot more to it. Those conversations need to come out. Nobody needs to be scared to be able to get up here and say anything to anybody. Everyone had a chance to speak at that meeting. My understanding is a lot of those individuals aren't there at the Fair Board meetings until that time. That is what needs to change.

Janice Barela-Madam County Manager: You mentioned that the Mutual Water Association is in the third Commission district. Commissioner Schropp was aware that you were doing that tour with me, he wanted to say thank you for that. I wanted to express that he appreciated that we made the time to go out there. **Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** As a Commissioner, yes, we have districts because that's how you get elected but the reality is we represent everyone within this county.

3) Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner, District 3

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Absent

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

15. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting: March 13, 2024, at 9:00 AM

16. Signing of Official Documents

17. Adjourn.

Action Taken: <u>Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:</u> Motion to adjourn. <u>Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Absent: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM

Ryan Schwebach - Chairman

Date

Genell Morris – Admin Assistant

Linda Jaramillo / County Clerk