

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
February 12, 2025
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

RYAN SCHWEBACH-COUNTY CHAIRMAN
KEVIN MCCALL –COUNTY VICE-CHAIR
LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Others Present:

J. JORDAN BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER
MISTY WITT – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY
SYLVIA CHAVEZ – COUNTY CLERK
GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III
JUSTICE WIETZ – ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

1. **Call Meeting to order.**

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Calls the February 12, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. **Pledge led by:** Ryan Schwebach– County Chairman

Invocation lead by: Kevin McCall – County Commissioner

3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Deferred 5B and 8A.

4. **PROCLAMATION:** None

5. **CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:**

A. Risk Awareness Program (RAP) Award NM Counties.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: Torrance County received the 2024 Rap Award. This comes from New Mexico Counties for 16 years of participation in New Mexico County's Risk Awareness program. We were able to reduce multi-claims by 7% this year. This is based on the multi-line claims we file yearly with New Mexico Counties. It's a participation that counts over 50 weeks. We do RAP training and risk awareness training, which all of the staff members participate in. This is an award for all of the staff of Torrance County, and especially to our Safety Compliance Officer, Julie Gravel-Pickering, who leads this effort. Thank you, everyone, great job.

B. Torrance County Employee of the Quarter for Q4 2024. -Deferred

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- A. MANAGER:** Discussion and possible appointment of County Manager, Jordan Barela, as the Torrance County voting member on the New Mexico Insurance Pool and Deputy County Manager, Misty Witt, as the Alternate. (Current Identified Members – Janice Barela, Alternate – Tracy Sedillo)

Jordan Barela- County Manager: The insurance pool requires each County to appoint a voting member, generally the voting board meets annually to have discussions about changes to the Insurance Pool Directives that the Insurance Pool Board is putting together. Traditionally, those positions have always been the County Manager and Deputy County Manager. Currently, on the list of New Mexico Counties, are Janice Barela and Tracy Sedillo as active members. This requires a formal board appointment.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to appointment of County Manager, Jordan Barela, as the Torrance County voting member on the New Mexico Insurance Pool and Deputy County Manager, Misty Witt, as the Alternate.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

B. PLANNING AND ZONING: Interview of Final Applicant and Potential Appointment to the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board.

Jess Segura – Resident: I'm a long-time resident of New Mexico. Born in New Mexico, raised in Tucumcari, attended school there, grew up on a Farming Ranch, and was active in 4H and FFA and sports. I graduated class of 1969. I attended New Mexico State for a couple of years and have been in business all my life. I was in sales of golf course equipment, tractors and different types of equipment. Ended up in Torrance County in 1996, I joined a company out of Texas in the golf equipment business, and we're looking for a place to settle and run a business. We bought the old Leroy Steppe place on King Farm Road. I've always enjoyed Torrance County and look forward to working with this Planning and Zoning and helping out in any way I can. We had Triple S auctions, and we've had a couple of businesses here, Triple S Auctions is still a live business.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What interested you in applying for the P & Z Board?

Jess Segura – Resident: When I moved back, the first thing I did was go to Planning and Zoning and let them know what I was doing with the equipment business. I was welcomed to the County and supported very strongly. I feel like I'm interested in positive growth in the County and seeing, good things come. I retired from Tillery several years ago, and for the last 16 years of my career was Director of Sales Lead and bus sales for Tillery. I have a lot of interest in what goes on in the County.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We have three candidates, Mr. Segura, Mr. Conklin and Mr. Oden. I've known Mr. Segura for a long time. He knows a lot of people in the valley, and I think he probably has his mind in the right place for what I'm looking for on P & Z, he knows the Community. He has time available. He doesn't feel that his current dealings if there's a conflict of interest.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I'd like to recommend that Tim Oden be appointed to Planning and Zoning because of his many years of experience. He was on the Planning and Zoning Board. He has an impressive resume of over 40 years in many aspects of land development in Torrance. Water is a big issue in Torrance, and he has been a consultant on water rights. His wealth of experience would be an asset to Planning and Zoning. That's my recommendation.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to appoint Jess Segura to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:
(Comments limited to two minutes.)

Scott Guffey – Resident: I'm here to talk about the Christmas Day fire, where somebody's house burnt down to the ground their backyard goes right into the Indian Hills Fire Department. They were one of the last ones to show up, and that house was a total loss. Another problem is code enforcement doesn't do any code enforcement. That house burnt down to the ground because there was a camper living right next door to it. Planning and Zoning knew for over two years and allowed it. There are rules against that. That camper caught on fire, caught the house on fire. I heard that there were supposed to be full-time firemen living there a couple of years ago because of a \$70,000 putting in a sprinkler system because the State Fire Marshal said to everyone, came to a stop. There's probably \$350,000 worth of stuff lost Christmas Day, their backyard goes into the Indian Hills parking lot. I want to know why there are no full-time firemen. Are there any houses safe in Torrance County?

Henry Hennessey – Resident: When I moved to McIntosh the County Road that came down toward my place was great. Ever since the 15 inches of snow, I've seen at least seven people stuck, and one went through the night when he was stuck. It's very hard driving down Andy Road. If you drive fast or at an excessive speed, you could knock your vehicle out of alignment, and that's the problem. The one the bus turns on and the bus comes down. There was a time I have seen the bus come down when it was all muddy, and he stopped, and he wouldn't go down. It's all hard and it needs repair, extremely bad. Thank you.

Jarrah Medina – Resident: I stand before you today with a heavy heart, seeking support and attention regarding my son, Christopher Medina, who has been missing since March 25, 2023. We approach the two-year mark of his disappearance. The ache and uncertainty grow deeper with our family. Christopher was just 28 years old when he vanished without a trace. Now he would be 30, a milestone we celebrated without him. We're going to be going on another birthday this April, celebrating without him again. He stands at five feet, six inches tall. He has brown eyes and black hair. He was a beloved son, brother, grandson and friend. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that they believe foul play was involved in his disappearance. This revolution has intensified our grief but has also made us desperate for answers every day that passes without knowing Christopher's fate is a day of heartache and unanswered questions. Our family has been profoundly affected by this tragedy. We live in a constant state of worry, and pain, longing for closure. We implore you, the members of the Commission, to help us bring more awareness to Christopher's case. We need your support in advocating for resources to aid in the investigation of spreading the word about Christopher's disappearance. I ask that you join us in the quest for justice and truth. Let's ensure that no family has to endure this agony that we have been going through. Thank you for your support.

Sharaya Medina – Resident: Christopher Medina is my big brother; my mother just spoke of him. I come to you with deep concern, as it has been two years since his disappearance, and despite all efforts, there has been no significant progress in the investigation with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has repeatedly stated that they are understaffed and simply cannot manage this case. While the Sheriff initially agreed to transfer this case to State Police, just days later, the decision was reversed with no explanation other than that the Lieutenant was handling the entire investigation on his own just fine. The Lieutenant has quit communicating with my parents. Phone calls and even text communication have come to a complete halt. We are now left in limbo without answers and unsure where to go next. On February 4, once again, we met with the Undersheriff who assured us of a meeting with State Police that would be set up to move forward with the case. Unfortunately, no action has been taken since. We are reaching out to the Commission for help because we do not know what else to do and have nowhere else to turn. We desperately need your support to ensure that this case is transferred to the State Police, where it can receive the attention and resources it

needs to move forward. Time is of the essence, and we cannot afford to wait any longer. We respectfully ask for your assistance in pushing this case to be transferred so that we can finally see progress and the answers we desperately need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chad Hamilton – Resident: Our community has been dealing with this road for 17 years. The residents have talked to several Commissioners over the years, and nothing has been done for years. The Road Department has lied to the residents, saying that our road is private, but the whole time it has been a County Road, the residents still are being discriminated against. We all pay taxes. There should not be some roads maintained and others not. This is not right. Mr. McCall said two meetings ago if the County does one non-maintained road. The County would have to do them all. In November, the County graders slid off the road. He backed up on our road pushed a lot of material off and created a lake to cover his mistake. I talked to Mr. Barela about this again. I've given him pictures. nothing has been done. I told the Commissioners my road is impactful for fire and rescue. The Fire Department has told them the same. I hope the Commissioners and the County Manager know this could turn out bad. If someone dies or loses their house due to a fire, or a child gets hurt on a bus because of crappy roads. They have known about it for several years; liability can be brought up in court. I called the County Road Department on January 27 about Andy Road and Little Lake Road. The lady said the crew was back and going to start blading. It is a school bus route. Tuesday, the grader was out on Sod Farm Road. Wednesday and Thursday, they were on Clements Road. The residents in our neighborhood have tried to hire independent graders to smooth out our road, but none of them will touch it because the Road Department has threatened to sue them. What can we do about this road?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We have discussed this road, and we're moving forward on this road. However, if we're talking about lawsuits and threatened suits, this is not the time or place to be talking about those threatening suits. You are saying a lot of incorrect things. First, that is a County Road. It is not a county-maintained road. We have also said we are moving forward with other options. We explained this Commission's position on what can and can't be done with that road.

Tiffany Wong - Innovation Law Lab: My colleagues and I share testimony from people detained with Torrance County in the Torrance County Detention Facility,

people who at the time are detained at the detention center are residents of Torrance County. I have visited people detained at TCDF, and talked to them about their lives, in their home countries, and why they came to the US. I've also attended many County Commission meetings and met local community members. I've witnessed all your dedication to making this place the best it can be, things you advocate for within these meetings, safe road conditions, access to emergency medical care, and safe spaces for young people to gather the water. These are also things that many people in TCDF fought for in their home countries and faced severe consequences because of it. Just last week, more than 100 people were sent from New England to TCDF, many of whom have lived in the US for years and have established themselves in their communities. Many had encountered local police during something like a traffic stop, who then called ICE, who then chose to lock them up and send them far from their families, possibly torch deportation. Yesterday, some of these men explained that they had gone three days without showers while at TCDF due to lack of water, that the inside air temperature is frigid, and that many people are sick. What I want to ask you all to think about is whether you want your town, your community, to be a place where people are set to suffer for your resources, your tax dollars, your water, and your people are utilized to keep people locked up and to tear families and communities apart. I want Torrance County to be a place where people are safe, healthy, happy, and thriving. I want to work together to develop a plan where this County's resources are all used to help people not cause more pain. While TCDF remains open, I intend to keep coming here and sharing testimony for people detained inside, because you have a right and duty to know what goes on just a few miles from this building. I truly mean it when I say I wish I could be discussing things that we could be doing instead to build up this community. Once again, I ask you to end the contract with ICE and CoreCivic. Thank you.

***Comments by Zoom**

PJ Podesta - Innovation Law Lab: Played audio in Spanish.

Ian Philabaum - Innovation Law Lab: This is a translation of the recording you just heard from (inaudible), who's seeking asylum and being detained by ICE and core civic in the Torrance County Detention Facility. "My name is (inaudible). I'm here imprisoned because it's not detained, imprisoned here in Torrance County, where, unfortunately, working in the kitchen to be able to support myself here and talk to my family, I was burned. I had second and third-degree burns, for which

there's no adequate medical care here, for that and from many other illnesses, they don't even have the capable staff to give first aid for burns of the level that I had. I had to wait three and a half hours, almost four hours, for an ambulance to arrive so they could take me outside. We want help from people out there. We are people. We are human beings who deserve opportunities. We did not come here to be detained for so long without argument. We are here in the hands at the mercy of God. We need help from people outside the closure of this place. This is not a detention center. This is a prison. This is a maximum security prison where, unfortunately, they have us here so that they can make money. The longer we spend here, the more money they make. Enough, really, we are human beings. We need opportunity. We need attention from many people out there who can help us. We are human beings, please. We are not prisoners. We are not animals. We are human beings. Thank you."

8. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. ASSESSOR: Update on House Bill 47/Senate Bill 192 (Veteran's Exemption Bills) -**Deferred**

B. ANIMAL SERVICE: Department Update

Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director: This is an update for 2024 current. In January, had a lot of things going on, so our calls for service in 2023 were 457 and our calls last year for 2024 were 1028 so that's an increase of 571 calls. It averages out to about 85 calls per month. That doesn't mean we get 85 calls each month. Sometimes we'll get 101-102 calls in a day. Now in 2025, we had 105 calls as of January 31st. These are calls for service, running at-large requests for information, surrenders, fights, and anything animal-related you can think of. It was more than double. This has kept us on our toes. Our intake in 2024 was 855 animals, which is up from 708 in 2023 it's an increase of 147 animals, with an average of 71 animals per month, in January 2025, we took in. This number is not correct. It says 135 animals. It was 140, which is huge, if the most we've ever taken in one month was 120 and that was 2007, that's only January. We're getting in more animals. We are trying to place more animals. We euthanized 428 animals for various reasons last year. Most of them were for medical or behavioral issues. Several of them were for lack of space or resources for placement. It was a tough

year. Most of the places that we normally transfer animals to were not taking animals, we had no options other than to euthanize them. We can't hold them. We don't have the staff to keep them socialized and cared for.

We were contacted by numerous 501c3 organizations that we work with, such as Rocky Mountain Puppy Rescue, RezDawg, Best Friends, Animal Sanctuary, and Animal Humane's Project Fetch and they have received grants that will allow them to increase transfers from rural, underserved areas such as ours and around the state. This is translated to us transferring out 30 dogs last month, which is huge. We normally do not transfer out 30 dogs. We don't adopt out 30 dogs. That's a huge increase. We have a transfer available to us every two weeks with Rocky Mountain Puppy Rescue. They will take puppies, dogs, and cats. Nobody has any cats, so we're looking for cats. They are offering us an opportunity to write a proposal for some funding to be able to increase our outtake or outcomes for animals. I will be writing a proposal to see if we can get animals spayed or neutered before adoption, that will make it much easier. I believe that if we receive the funding, things are going to start to look up even more. We do have a transfer scheduled for this Friday, six cats, and seven dogs. That's still a big number because we're able to take in litters of puppies. We haven't been able to because of space.

We had to periodically close our food pantry multiple times in 2024 due to a lack of resources. The organization that we work with, RezDawg, from whom we buy most of our donated food for the pantry just hasn't had the money or had the food come in if we buy on Chewy or Amazon, are more expensive, we can't always afford that. We use our donations money for that, but we get donated it's become extremely popular, but we did raise over \$5,000 last year for our pantry, and we have seen regular donors making significant donations. So that does help. The Clerk's Office and an elementary school class held a donation drive for us, which was extremely thoughtful and very much appreciated. We still have to limit the number of times a person can come, but we can help more people in the long run. By doing that, this year, we've seen such an increase. We have not been able to keep food in the pantry for dogs, and we do limit the amount they get and the times that they can come, but we've had a lot of new people sign up. We have been able to provide animal supplies to our community, sweaters, coats, costumes, followers, leashes, bowls, streets, and toys. We put medications, carriers, and other things. Small donations or free, people can pay the small donation fee of \$5 we welcome. We will provide them with those things for animals for free.

Our SNIPIT and REACH programs, which SNIPIT is the Spay and Neuter Intact Pets in Torrance County program. REACH is the River Emergency Animal Care and Health program. With SNIPIT, we sterilized 69 animals in 2024 because we started at the beginning of the fiscal year, and we are still scheduling clinics. We are seeing that the prices are dropping for those services, it looks like we're going to be able to get more from them. In that program, we have seen a huge increase in reclaimed animals, because we offer SNIPIT to owned animals instead of finding people. After all, they don't have the money, and they cannot afford to get their dogs out. If we have to charge them full price, we charge them \$30. They pay for the microchip and vaccines, and then the sterilization is free. They have to keep the appointments, and the appointments are we can schedule clinics whenever we want. We have one coming up on the 19th, and we spend it on that every two weeks.

Our River Emergency Animal Care and Health program has been very successful. We provided help for 28 animals experiencing medical issues. We've seen everything from pyometra and female dogs, broken bones, enucleations, Parvo, snake bites, lacerations, COVID removals, and dental procedures. We have used over \$18,000 of that, \$25,000, that does speak to the need for assistance in our community, because they do keep coming in, and eventually we will have to tell people No, but we typically don't, because it is a very poor community, and people love their animals, we want to help them stay in their homes.

Our kennels have seen a lot more wear and tear because of the number of animals that we have, we've seen a lot more deterioration. They are made out of pro panel, and they start rusting. Once they start resting, it's over. We did have a repair job done a few years back with Former Deputy Manager Philip Tenorio. It was a Band-Aid. Not a very good band-aid, but a band-aid, nonetheless. Unfortunately, I think that due to the material the kennels are built with, that's the only type of band-aid we may be able to provide if we're just repairing them, short of replacing the whole kennel. I have some pictures because these have gotten significantly worse just in the past few months. We have a lot of issues on the inside as well because every kennel has some degree of damage. Most of the areas at the bottom of the wall, between the wall and the concrete pad, are floating out. We use a very corrosive cleaner, but it's top of the industry. It's peroxide-based, hydrogen peroxide-based, and it's corrosive. They're wide-iron kennels. There's nothing we can do because we have to keep the animals sanitary and clean to prevent disease and whatnot. It's not an option to quit using the cleaner that we use. All of the industry cleaners are corrosive because they kill things like Parvo molecules. Anybody is welcome to come out and look at the kennels anytime they would like.

We'd be happy to have you out so you can see what we do if we have to shut our kennels down. We have to shut some of them down because they are unsafe to use. That will drastically decrease our ability to take in animals and hold them for appropriate hold times we do hold them for the 72 business hours they come in. That's not considered a whole day. If they're straight with no identification, they're available on the fourth day with identification on the seventh day. We will hold them that long, but we may not be able to hold them to give them a chance to get rescued or be adopted out. We may have to start euthanizing as soon as they're available. With the increase in animals, I think that that's probably a likely possibility unless we can get some repairs done. Richard came out Monday looked around, and I showed him all of our concerns and what was going on. He said he would contract a contractor, and he would let me know.

Best Friends Animal Society is giving out grants to the rescues and whatnot, because they have the no more homeless pets movement, and we are trying to align ourselves with that. Strongly want to align ourselves with that, because that will help not only our County, but it will also help the animals, and it will make us, I think, of more use to our county. We get a lot of people angry because we can't take animals, and I think with funding to keep our panels open, we can continue doing what we do at the increase, but with the increases we're seeing, it's just going to get worse.

We've seen several hoarding situations. Most of them are elderly, low-income people who have experienced medical issues or worse. When that happens, we are required to go in and make sure the animals are cared for. A lot of these have been cat-holding situations and in hoarding situations, the cats are generally unhealthy. They have upper respiratory all kinds of things going on and are not social.

We experienced a lot of burnout and compassion fatigue. Everybody gets burned out on their jobs, but ours is when we're euthanizing 428 animals, it gets to us. They are knowledgeable, compassionate, smart, hardworking, and dedicated, and they have really met the demands, and new demands on our staff, I cannot say enough good things, and they constantly get compliments from our animal patrol officers, they are just top notch.

We have a part-time Kennel Assistant. We talked about the part-time assistant to a full-time. I think that it's necessary, and we will be able to utilize more hours. As of right now, we've lost an Animal Control Officer. He had personal reasons. We're looking to hire.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: At Genell's suggestion, we opted to donate to the shelter instead of exchanging Christmas gifts. When we went, I asked if I could come back and see your kennel. Judge Josie Eaton went in with me, and I was so impressed. It was so clean. There were no smells, I'm not a pet person like I used to be, but the dogs seemed very happy and content. They have these shelters where they have them inside, but then they can open up to go outside so their dogs can run freely. I did see all of that rust all over the place. I commend you for your good work and everybody who works there. Thank you so much for what you do. I know it's hard to euthanize but I'm very proud you are a part of the County and doing this job. You take your job very seriously.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Thank you for what you do as department head, but thanks for the update. Um, those are the updates Commissions need to see before you come to us and say, it's a lost cause. When Jordan and I went to Santa Fe we did pitch it to our Legislators about the Regional Animal Shelter, it's on their radar.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I want to reiterate thank you for that extremely informative update. I'm anxious to hear what your thoughts are on that repair. The reality is we need to repair it. We're not going to get another building in. I think I'd like it done right looking at the band-aid we put on it needs more than a band-aid. There are different materials out there. I would like you to think about when we do repair it.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the January 22, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

Kevin McCall -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE & PURCHASING: Request approval of payables.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve payables.

Kevin McCall -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

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

12. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. MANAGER/GRANTS: Resolution No. 2025-07, A Resolution authorizing the County to submit an application to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: The LDWI grant is due at the end of February, and we are currently working on that grant application. DFA does require us to submit any type of application to them with a resolution whereby the governing body approves our ability to apply to participate in the program. This is one of those preemptive steps where we would pass the resolution and then submit this in conjunction with the grant agreement.

I think this is also a good opportunity to make the board aware that we have a new DWI coordinator, Myra Luna. In conjunction with the Grants Department, we are working on that application.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve

Linda Jaramillo -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

- B. **FINANCE:** Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025-08, A Resolution approving budget adjustments to the FY2024-2025 budget for new grants.

Misty Witt - Deputy County Manager: This is to adjust the budget to account for the Fire Protection Grant Funds we received for our districts two and three, as well as for stipends for the Fire Department.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-08.

Linda Jaramillo -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

13. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

- A. **MANAGER:** Request for approval of an agreement with Studio Southwest Architects for design, bidding, negotiations, and construction administration services of the Torrance County Fair Multipurpose Building in the amount of \$350,369.91, exclusive of New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: This proposal has been provided to us by Studio Southwest. Studio Southwest has been working on the project for the fairgrounds. Their initial agreement was for preliminary work and schematic design. This agreement based on option three, which was selected at the last board meeting when Studio Southwest presented, would be for the full engineering and design services. There would also be assistance with Studio Southwest regarding the bid process and negotiations, though the County would be selecting a contractor. This would also keep Studio Southwest on board for the duration of construction to aid in the process of any design changes or things that may occur as a result of construction. The proposal is for roughly \$350,000. One of the older appropriations for this particular grant was in the amount of \$700,000. That has not been encumbered. I have submitted a reauthorization request to Senator Stefanics Office. That has been signed and sent to the Senate Finance Committee. I confirmed with the Senator's office yesterday. The Senate Finance Committee is looking at how many of these grants have an encumbrance on them right now. This

proposal, should it be approved, would allow us to submit that Notice of Obligation within the next week or so. Letting the state know that at least roughly half of that appropriation is encumbered for this project.

Linda Jaramillo -County Commissioner: Within the packet, there was a proposal by Bohannon and Huston for design service. It's not mentioned here. Is it a subcontract to the original?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Yes. There are civil engineering firms that work with Studio Southwest. They have included their proposals in the packet as well. Those are sub-agreements that will be used for Studio Southwest to do the full engineering services.

Kevin McCall -County Commissioner: What have we spent to this point with Studio Southwest?

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: I believe we have not spent anything for this fiscal year. I'd have to look for the last fiscal year. We were still covered by their last contract, so no money was spent for FY25.

Kevin McCall -County Commissioner: What is design costing us on a \$4.9 million project?

Laura Anderson - Studio Southwest Architects: Program fees were \$9,986 and the SD fee was \$29,958.

Kevin McCall -County Commissioner: I think it's in the realm of design and in other projects.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: The reauthorization period would likely take us, through construction. The remainder can be applied to construction, but that will be used for this particular contract, to ensure that's not recaptured by the state.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Motion to approve 13A Studio Southwest Fairgrounds design.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:
MOTION CARRIED

B. FIRE: Request approval to submit an application to the USDA Forest Service for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant in the amount of approximately \$450,000.00 for: (1) Mapping of all water resources in Torrance County, (2) the purchase and installation of three 12,000 gallon rainfall collection cisterns for Torreon, Tajique and Manzano, and (3) the purchase of two tankers and climate controlled buildings to house them.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: We're seeking approval to apply for this grant through USDA, there is oftentimes a match required with this grant. However, they do have some match exemptions, and we believe Torrance County may fall under that. We are seeking to get that match waived for Torrance County. The grant would also be a reimbursement grant. The match is 25%.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

C. FIRE: Request approval to submit an application to the US Department of Interior, Office of Wildland Fire, in the Amount of \$33,000 for the purchase of two Slip-On Tankers.

Misty Witt-Deputy County Manager: We're seeking approval to apply for this grant. There is no County match. This would also be reimbursement.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

D. MANAGER/GRANTS: Request approval of Amendment No. 1 to the grant agreement between Torrance County and the Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for the Enhanced 911 Act grant program (25-E-13), increasing the total grant amount by \$6,652.00, and delegation of signature authority to the County Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the grant agreement.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: We have a current and active grant agreement with DFA for the E911 program. I received notification via email last week that our appropriation, or our portion of that grant funding, was going up by roughly \$6,600. This is a slight increase to the total grant amount that will be available to Dispatch for the program. This covers E911, equipment, software, and services. The agreement is digital, it has my name on the signature line, I also requested signature authority. I can go online and execute this to receive that additional appropriation.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

E. FINANCE: Request approval of an unauthorized purchase to Ambitions Technology Group in the Amount of \$1,893.26 for the purchase of a laptop for the Treasurer's Office.

Kristin Saavedra-Chief Procurement Officer: This laptop was purchased between June to August 24th. We received the invoice a few weeks ago, because Ambitions is a CES vendor, the purchase order needed to be approved by CES to place the order. That didn't happen. I'm requesting permission to submit the requisition to get the purchase order approved by CES. I can send the purchase order to Ambitions and get them paid. I did speak to our CES representative, and he recommended that we do this, especially for the audit, because this will show our paper trail.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve

Linda Jaramillo -County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:
MOTION CARRIED

F. FINANCE: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the agreement between Torrance County and Serena Ortiz for the Estancia Valley Youth & Family Services Girls Circle Program, reducing the total contractual compensation to \$47,000.00 due to a misstatement in the original agreement.

Kristin Saavedra-Chief Procurement Officer: When I went out to RFP for this in the original contract, it stated \$98,900. That was the incorrect amount. CYFD did clarify that was for the entire program in total. It needed to be split in half between Serena and another Program Facilitator. I reduced the amount on each contract and need approval for the amendments.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:
MOTION CARRIED

G. FINANCE: Request approval of Amendment No. 2 to the agreement between Torrance County and Jessica Love for the Estancia Valley Youth & Family Services Girls Circle Program, reducing the total contractual compensation to \$47,200.00 due to a misstatement in the original agreement.

Kristin Saavedra- Chief Procurement Officer: Same as the previous agenda item.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:
MOTION CARRIED

H. MANAGER: Presentation and request for direction on a potential secondary site location for the Torrance County Administrative Building.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I wanted to provide some insight, there may be some additional information that we don't have here today that we can request and bring back to the board for further discussion. This conversation was geared around the site on Allen Ayers and our last meeting. There was a discussion of the need to put a septic system on that site. In the interim, our Planning and Zoning Director Don Goen had discussions with the Public Works Director for the Town of Estancia as to where the current sewer access is. Don advised me that the closest point on the first existing site on Allen Ayers of sewer access, is on Allen Ayers itself, on the west end of NM 41. As a developer, we need to try to get that line to the site location, which would be a relatively substantial cost to the project. Based on that information, the septic tank is an added project cost. The Architects are still trying to get an estimate. We do know it'll increase the total value of the costs. Don looked at potential secondary sites with access to water, sewer, electricity, and gas. 3.9 acres of County land was found near the Judicial Court building. If this site was selected, would we be able to use current design standards, or would we have to make modifications? We reach out to Wilson and Company. They took a look at the building's current design as it's been presented to the board, it does fit on the current 3.91 acres without any real changes to the actual design of the building itself. In addition to that, there is a little bit of room still between Tract A and Tract B for the addition of a future County building, whether that be an animal shelter or some other type of administrative building. Between the tracks, there is enough land to put an additional building. There is a current roadway. It is not named, but it does provide Eastern and Western site access to this particular site from New Mexico 41. That road would have to be upgraded and probably dedicated over to the Town of Estancia because this is in the Town of Estancia for long-term maintenance. The one thing that we thought was maybe unique with this is it does provide a concept of a County campus where you could have the Judicial Court building, the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Administration, and room for future expansion, all in the same area. This is also not in a flood zone.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I'm in favor of moving. I think this makes more sense. You can see it when you come into town. I like the campus idea. I'm happy that the County already owns it. Who owns Tract E and F?

Justice Wietz – Zoning Enforcement Officer: I have looked at the county website, tracts D, E, and F are all owned by the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, and tract G is owned by Mr. Connell.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I would like a full assessment of all of the County property because I think it's something we need to look at. I don't know how it came about, but I'm open to liquidating some land or a trade, because that may make more sense for Solid Waste. After all, it's a little more removed but still accessible. Solid waste is part of the government; it fits into that if they have other plans, we can discuss that and maybe work together.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to move forward with changing the location of the new Administrative Building.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

14. DISCUSSION

A. MANAGER: Presentation on the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA)

Jordan Barela- County Manager: We've been having discussions about at the staff level how to address Economic Development in the County. EVEDA had been functioning in that capacity for some time, we wanted to take a look at how we address it. One of the areas that we are looking at is a potential membership to AREA, and what that entails for the County. AREA is a nonprofit of 501c3 with approximately 143 members, public and private. I also attached in the packet material a scope of services, just to give the board an idea of what some of those services look like. What we're talking about is aiding with business attraction, potential site identification, and trying to bring businesses into the region. In addition to that, we're looking at marketing services, evaluating site readiness, and getting Torrance County to the table as part of a larger economic development network. It would provide consultation, and data analysis services. AREA and our membership in the area is not direct economic development, it's not a person on the ground working with Torrance County to bring these projects in the way that EVEDA did. It is a resource and a toolbox for Torrance County staff to use that will help them in the efforts of fostering relationships with the business community and conducting economic development in Torrance County. We're not making any

proposals here today. Staff recommendation would be to create an economic development position within Torrance County to deal with not only the economic development side but also the management of our capital projects. Membership in this organization would give that person, or anybody working in that capacity within the County resources data, and tools to use in those efforts that we do not currently have. As far as a membership fee area, membership is based per capita, let's say 36 cents per capita. In Torrance County, the annual fee would be \$5,643. From a financial perspective, there's \$25,000 in the budget this year that was allocated for EVEDA. A portion of that could be re-appropriated for this, and then potentially the remainder could be used for a position if the board so chooses to fill that position in the future.

Danielle Casey – AREA: Thank you for the opportunity. For those of you who may not be aware of the AREA. It's probably because we've had a big change in the last few years in our approach. A little bit about ourselves, I came here in October of 2020 to run the organization, when my predecessor, who ran Albuquerque Economic Development, retired after 25 years. I have spent my entire career 20 years in economic development as a professional in that work, the majority of my Economics Development career in the Phoenix metro, before some time in Sacramento, and then coming here. I share that because I also have a passion for rural communities. The first decade of my career, I was in a very fast-growing, but very long time extremely rural community about 45 minutes south of Phoenix, called the city of Maricopa. We did a lot of really great work there. I worked in Scottsdale, Arizona. We are also really proud of the organization. We're the first accredited organization globally in the state of New Mexico, the 79th in the globe. I got here in 2020. I looked at the organization and realized that what was then called AED said in our bylaws that we serve the four-county region. A lot of folks didn't know that. We thought very hard and did a lot of strategic planning, and that resulted in us knowing we needed to change our name to reflect regional support. We also then converted from a 501c6, a membership or business support organization, to a 501c3 which is important, because that means that in our actual articles of incorporation and bylaws, our purpose is to relieve the burden of government and work to reduce poverty. We think about that every day in our strategic plan and our work. We made all of those changes, and we created this opportunity for the government to be a partner. This is based on really successful models in metros around the country. That per capita rate we modeled after what they do in Greater Phoenix, and they're doing pretty well. They're doing some pretty cool things, but that wasn't the case 20 years ago and in a lot of other markets. What this would also do for the county is give you the ability to serve on a public sector advisory council that then has one collective seat on our board to

help inform what we do in economic development. Regionally, your County Manager mentioned data and resources. If you add up the data and resources that your team would have access to, we probably spend about \$50,000 or more on those assets and tools that you would be able to get reporting from and you wouldn't have to pay for yourselves, things like economic impact analyzes, labor analytics, demographics, all those things that you need to run an economic development shop in house.

The other thing that you would also get is, and I completely agree with the County Manager, you still need a boots-on-the-ground, internal person to run your day-to-day and understand what sites you have, and what's going on with public works. What does the community want to see? Come within your, within your boundaries. What we do is serve as a regional marketer, to bring in site selection, consultants, developers, and other interests to look at our market. When those clients come to us, either through the state or to us, we circulate that with all of the economic developers in the region who are in communities that are engaged with us. You will see all of the things that are looking at the region and know what that pipeline looks like, and the growth opportunities that exist, and also be part of the voice on what we are trying to attract to the region. I think that's important. Another thing that your staff person would be able to engage in is a monthly call of all the economic developers in the region, which also includes representatives from the State Economic Development Department and others and the utilities around the region. All that, day-to-day economic development work is something we do, and we also work on big strategic initiatives for the greater good in the larger region that we'd love to see Torrance County itself be a formal part of. If you're watching right now, we've talked a lot about site readiness and trying to get the state to invest in infrastructure in public and private sites around the state, which would mean all of the communities in our region. The governor has recommended \$24 million in their budget. LFC has recommended 35 that'll get its first committee hearing next Tuesday, and this has been a piece of the research and work and information that area has been preparing for two years and became a top priority for the Cabinet Secretary. Thank you.

B. MANGER'S REPORT:

1) NM Legislative Updates

Jordan Barela- County Manager: Commissioner McCall and I, went up to the legislature a couple of weeks back to have discussions about the capital outlay

process. Nothing is final until the bills are approved, and we know the numbers, but we did get a majority support from our state representatives regarding providing some level of financial support for the Administrative Office. We also had discussions with the Governor's Office in that regard as well. Assuming we can get a majority of support from our State Representation, that should increase the likelihood that the Governor's Office may contribute to the project. We will keep the board posted. Concerning the resolution related to the bill for a two-year moratorium on commercial cannabis. That bill has been introduced by Senator Stefanic. That is Senate Bill 152 she has requested a representative from Torrance County to come up and testify when that bill hits the committee. I will make myself available to do so once I get the notification. In addition, along the lines of cannabis, there were two additional bills that we are looking at relatively closely.

House Bill 10 establishes an Enforcement Bureau within the Department of Regulation and Licensing and amends a Cannabis Control Act to provide for enforcement provisions. Essentially, it's changing the act to put penalties in place for violations and then giving regulation and licensing and enforcement bodies to go out and enforce those actions once there are violations that do not currently exist.

House Bill 112 which is being introduced by Representative Tara Lujan and Santa Fe. This is not mandatory right now, but anybody going to the state requesting Commercial Cannabis Licensure would have to submit to a state and federal criminal background check before that process happened. It's my understanding that that's not currently happening now, but this amendment would make that a requirement for anybody going to the state to receive a license.

2) EMS Grant Update

Some direction came down from Deputy Manager Witt to see if we can get the grant that was issued to Superior that happened, and that grant has been issued, and it is available for our EMS functions now.

C. COMMISSION CHAIR: Torrance County Fair Board.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Johnny Perea and Mrs. Wallin are officially resigning, pending they get replacement. It's something we need to think about as a Commission. We need to actively look for replacements for these

positions. The other thing I want to do is, no longer want the County to conduct the sale. I think there are multiple ways that the community and/or the Fair Board can orchestrate it. I don't know if that takes formal action or communication. There are too many conflicting issues. This is the direction I want to go, and that's why this is a discussion I would like some input. The other thing I would like to propose is identifying the County's role within the County Fair. The property is one thing we've already identified that. We're talking about buildings, we're talking about land, we're talking about services that we as a County can use as we see fit multi-use. This County still wants to have a County Fair. What does that look like? We're going to appoint a committee to conduct this fair, and we're going to give X amount of dollars to put this fair on. Within this fair, what we want is a livestock show, an indoor exhibit, community involvement, whatever that looks like where the County Fair has a scope of work in what they're tasked to do. A little bit clear on the budget within the fair right? There's a lot of discussion on what that looks like. They set up the fair book, they set up the dates. They do a lot of stuff they're currently doing, but other things need to be cleared up. They don't need to be out there voluntarily fixing leads. They need to make us aware of it, and we're going to fix it. We accept that responsibility, and then they conduct a fair for us. Similar to any contract. We make sure we fund them, you know. There's no question. The details are more for the committee. That is my concept.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I think you're spot on. Let me start with a thank you to the Fair Board for what you guys have done and are doing. Thank you.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I want to interject because I apologize. What Kevin McCall just reminded me is thank you very much for the work you've done. This is in no way discounting that. My concept is to take the stress and the work that you guys have done for so many years, to take it off. I want to be clear on that. I don't want to undercut you from what's been done from the concept. I intend to take stress off of it.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Marcie feel free to speak. Do you feel like the Fair Board has, in a sense, been out wondering? What does the commission want? You don't have to answer, because I kind of feel like. Maybe you have. I've been on this Commission for six years, and I haven't, not that I give you directives because I'm a one Commissioner and not a body, but we've let you all do your thing, and I appreciate it. For those of you that don't know my kids will be the fourth generation, 4H and FFA showers. This is important to me, and I think you

have done a good job. Would you appreciate more direction as Commissioner Schwebach was talking about by giving you priorities and making it happen?

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: That's a catch-22 because we have been doing our own thing under several different Commissioners. I think this is the fifth County Manager that this board has worked under. It has been up to us to involve you by saying this is what we're going to do, and this is how we try to do it, and this is what hasn't worked or what works. It's whether we want you to say these are the things that you need to make happen. It would narrow our scope because we feel like we have to do it all, from plumbing to bringing our equipment, painting, spraying weeds, mowing weeds, etc.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I want to try to alleviate that. On the flip side, I think it is important, especially with the 4H, that the kids are involved. They need to see and be a part of it, but it's not for three weeks' worth of volunteer work. What I envision is, that we are slowly but surely working on improving the grounds. When we get there, that's going to take a big load off, on prepping the ground. As far as the Fair Board is concerned, it's a lot more of planning and direction, instead of on the boots doing.

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: It depends on who the Commission is and their knowledge of what is in a fair. I realize you two have been fairgoers for a long time, and Linda has always participated at the fair, but sometimes you may be putting your neck in a noose by saying, "We want the Commission to tell us what to do because we can't think on our own."

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I understand what you're saying in the structure of this, what I also envision this is where you professionals for them is that we have a very simple scope of work on what we expect out of a fair. We're not involved in it. We simply fund it. It can be structured through an ordinance, this is what we want a fair to look at, and then it can't be touched. The funding can be touched, but it can always be touched. The Fair Board has more say in the day-to-day stuff because that's the other risk you face is that the Commission does not need to be involved directly in telling you what to do. I feel that there was, some thought that the Commission needs to tell us what to do. You need to have a little bit more freedom within the parameters.

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: We didn't expect any Commission to tell us what to do, we had our vision. Most of us have been on participated in fairs or family members' fair boards, etc., We know what it takes. People who get on the

board may be surprised by the actual mental and physical work it takes because there are two different trains of thought on that. I'm a little leery of having any Commission say this is what your scope of practice is, and this is what we expect you to provide.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I have to counter that slightly because if you're asking the Commission to not give a general scope of what's expected for the fair, as a Commissioner, I have reservations about giving them any money to the participation fair.

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: A general direction, is fine. You mentioned we give you objectives that we want you to complete. That is where I have a little bit of an issue. I agree that you need to be involved, but to specify the objects that the Fair Board would have to follow through on is harder to agree with.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: What's your opinion about the committee of the County not conducting the sale?

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: We used to conduct the sale, but the County was able to pay the sale exhibitors right away. The Fair Board presented what each kid was owed to the Finance Department, and they paid those kids. It came back to being a conflict of interest, and the County Finance Department took over the bookwork as a sale. Not all the bookwork because that's still figured out by its currently figured out by Jill Harral as to what each exhibitor is owed and who owns it. Then that's presented to the Torrance County Finance Department. This year that was presented the Friday the following week, Torrance County had the information to them as to the amounts owed and who owed it.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I feel like I need to clarify since I posted the question and here's what I'm thinking so, so the Fair Board is to put on a livestock show, a junior livestock sale, and an indoor exhibit hall and I would love to see something like one community activity. Citizens of Torrance County to come to the fair that is not to see livestock. That's what I'm thinking is, very broad, not this is you're going to do it this way and this way, but this is your parameters in which the Commission is asking you to facilitate a week-long activity.

Marcie Wallin – Fair Board President: That's a little broader than what I interpreted from Commissioner Schwebach's statement.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm sorry, this Commission does not need to micromanage you. With future Commissions, we don't know what they're going to do. We set the stage now that it has a better possibility to remain in that structure in future Commissions.

Nancy Brockerman – Resident: I'm speaking from the point of view of being a worker bee at the fair. I'm a member of the Moriarty Garden Club, which includes much more than just the town of Moriarty. They have various planning things. I want to point out there are two categories. There are worker bees and the planners who go with that in advance, and they're the fair tourists this past year for the fair. On Wednesday, I was a worker bee because I was helping with clerical things for the judges of the various plants. The next day, my friend and I were fair tourists, which gave me a chance to see the cattle, the various critters, and so forth. This issue is outside of that, but the length of it, because this past year or two, starting probably with COVID, we had a much shorter schedule. There's not a parade on Saturday ending the week of the fair like we had for many years. So just another point of view. In the planning stages with the Garden Club, we go through naming conventions and the kinds of rules that the umbrella organization for the Garden Club is a member of the National League in terms of the stems or these flowers are bad and very involved things, which is getting us down into the weeds. It takes a lot of effort, and certainly, it's more than just three weeks of stuff for the garden club entries, and it can be anybody in the community. You're planting something in February or March to be shown at the fair.

Marcie Wallin - Fair Board President: Thank you for your work. You've worked very hard. I don't see what you do in the garden club. I'm not part of that, but as for the fair, I'll vouch for it.

Patrick Riley - Fair Board Chair: Changing the sale would be a good idea, as it currently ends. It's a lot of frustration and headache from I think both ends, both the County, the exhibitors, and the Fair Board. I feel that there's a more efficient way we can change the process. I would like to see that process revised, changed, and even moved. The having an idea of a scope of work. An agreement between the Commission and the Fair Board of items, A, B, C, and D, that the Commission would like to see the Fair do. I understand the point of the funding piece coming with that, I don't think is unfair. I think that that is something that could be worked out. An MOU or agreement that commits, the County will provide maintenance this many days or even have a maintenance person there to help with leaks or other maintenance issues that arrive at the facilities. I think that all that could be a positive thing for the fair with more discussion and ironing out of the details.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: When it comes back to the sale, Ryan and I, kids show Santa Fe County, and I'll just tell the public how they do it. I think it's superb the way they do it. They have a 5013c, Santa Fe County Boosters Club, that handles the sale. I have always had reservations about taxpayers' money, and resources going towards the settling of the sale. Not only settling it but handling the money, from collecting money from the buyers, then paying the exhibitors. I've kind of had a hang-up with it, but that's the way we've done it. I think it's a much cleaner, a much better system, if you as a board, create a 5013c, and you can handle the money in and out. The other thing is you're not handcuffed when you need a PO for belt buckles or judges for all the incidentals that it takes to put on a fair. You can go out and fundraise with that money. Yes, you're going to be held accountable for that, and you should be, but I see that as a much better avenue, and the exhibitors get paid quicker. That's between that nonprofit and the exhibitors, and it doesn't have a triangle in it, with the County being at the top.

Marcie Wallin - Fair Board President: That's an excellent idea, all the way around, having accountability to go out and bypass the County, per se, to purchase something, be accountable for it, with those procedures and taking care of the sale.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That is very similar to what happens in Santa Fe. There's one liaison on the Santa Fe Fair County board that goes to the County to make sure all the POs are in place, but they have a budget. They have a direction at the beginning of the year, and then they're executed. Certain things are separate, the operation of the fair versus maintenance of the ground, two very different planes. The 5013C opens many doors for the relationship between the exhibitors, citizens, and the County.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I've been asked by buyers, "Can I get a tax deduction if I write my check to Torrance County, can I deduct this purchase?" I'm not getting into your IRS and what you do with your deduction, but it would be a whole lot cleaner for buyers to write a check to a nonprofit and say that is now a 100% deduction because it's an it's deductible event.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I would like to move forward in putting that in place.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Thank you, Marcie, for your service, and keep up the hard work.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1. Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: Jordan and I went to Santa Fe and had good meetings with our Legislators and the Governor's Office on the funding of the County Administration Building. It was neat to walk into the Senator's Office and have one top priority request. She said, "Thank you". Note to future Commissioners, that sets well with Legislators when you can help them like that.

2. Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: None

3. Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner, District 3

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I attended the EMWT board meeting and learned a lot about the EMWT progress they have made and their future projects. I also went to the Senior Center and met with Lisa Lujan. I went on a ride along with the van to deliver food to the homebound individuals. It was such a rewarding experience. It was humbling to see some of our people who can't leave their homes, and they are so grateful for the service. The people at the Senior Center are excellent. They care and are compassionate. I rode in the van with Barbara Harrington. We went to high school together; we had a lot of fun while we were doing that. I knew almost everybody on that list, except for maybe two, some of them were my age. I want to thank the Senior Centers for their compassion and their caring for our elderly. I also went to the Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District meeting. I've always been very supportive of what they do. They do a great job for our County. I didn't even know there was a new building. I plan on attending some other Soil and Water Conservation District meetings. I'm retired, and I have the time to do all of this. Thank you.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. COMMISSION:** Discussion on Limited Personnel Matters (Torrance County Fire Chief) Pursuant to NMSA § 1978 10-15-1(H)(2).

- B. **COMMISSION:** Discussion of Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between Torrance County and the Professional Fire Fighters of Torrance County IAFF Local 5441 Pursuant to NMSA § 1978 10-15-1(H)(5).
- C. **COMMISSION:** Discussion of Pending Litigation (Quick Grow, LLC vs. Torrance County) Pursuant to NMSA § 1978 10-15-1(H)(7).

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to move into Executive Session.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Absent: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

12:02 PM

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to Regular Session.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Absent: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

1:35 PM

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: No action taken

- 16. **Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:**
February 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

- 17. **Signing of Official Documents.**

18. Adjourn.

Action Taken:

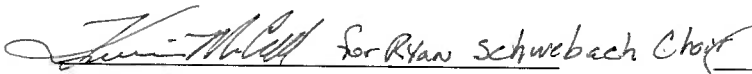
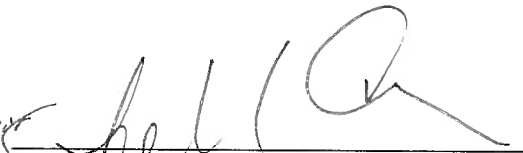
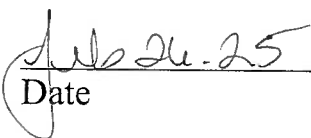
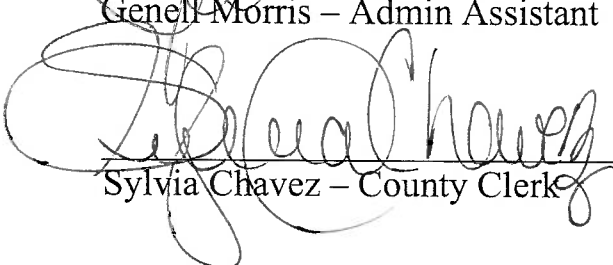
Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to adjourn.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Absent: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM.

 _____ Ryan Schwebach – Chairman	 _____ Genell Morris – Admin Assistant
 _____ Date	 _____ Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

The video and audio of this meeting are available upon request.