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Torrance County Board of Commissioners Regular Commission Meeting February 26, 2025 9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

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- Zoom
SYLVIA CHAVEZ – COUNTY CLERK
MACKENZIE CARLSON – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I
DON GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR

1. Call Meeting to order.

<u>Kevin McCall-County Vice-Chairman:</u> Calls the February 26, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

2. <u>Pledge led by:</u> Kevin McCall—County Vice-Chairman

<u>Invocation lead by</u>: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner

3. Changes to the Agenda:

<u>J. Jordan Barela- County Manager:</u> Agenda Item 13A misstatement should be \$13,674.59 and item 14A deferred.

- 4. PROCLAMATION: None
- 5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:

a) Torrance County Employee of the Quarter for Q4-2024

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm actually happy to say that we had quite a bit of nominations and involvement from staff this go round for employee of the quarter. The one individual who was nominated multiple times and had more nominations than any other employee, I've had direct experience working with him. He really does go above and beyond, as far as assisting other departments and other staff members. That is our very own, Don Goen, who's here doing the tech side of this, outside of the Planning and Zoning.

Don Goen- Planning and Zoning Director: I try to take care of everything that comes my way and to be as much assistance to other people as I can. I make sure that I got all the I's dotted and the T's crossed. I appreciate the sentiment. Thank you.

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None

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

Charlene Guffey- Resident: I have a few issues on some projects that have not been completed, and the money has been there to do this. First, Duran water system not done, over two to three years now. Money is there, why hasn't it been done? Second, the Indian Hills Fire Department, again, two to three years not done. Money is there. Why? Also, this Commission has said, once done, 24/7 live-in, firefighters will be there. Money is again there, not done. Why? The last thing I want to talk about is the fairgrounds. This one's been five to six years, still not done. Money has been there. Why? Why'd you guys buy this property if this was not going to be used. At the last meeting Commissioner Schwebach, you said to Marcy that you don't micromanage, but that is exactly what has been going on since you both have taken those chairs. When you micromanage, you have created low morality, unnecessary tension, workplace harassment and hostility, anxiety, and lack of progress. Also, when you have Commissioners who put comments like this out in the paper, I'm going to read these two comments that are in quotes. One is from Commissioner McCall. This was on January 9th of this year, "This Commissions has been struggling with what to do and how to do it, and that's on everything Planning and Zoning, water, Cabanis projects." Commissioner Schwebach, this is your quote "This county is declining in population and job

availability. If we don't address it, there's no point in having the county." When the people of Torrance County hear this, I see this is my opinion. I see so much turnover, no progress, and to me, this means no confidence.

*Comments by Zoom

Pamala Maitreva-I have a question about whether or not the commissioners know anything about what's happening with EMWT. I haven't been able to get ahold of them. They don't respond. They have no record of the minutes on their website. All they have is a PDF with the agenda. It's been months now. I was just wondering what's happening with those people. No Zoom link. What's up with no Zoom link? I know Commissioner Jaramillo went to the meeting and asked him to get on it, and they said they would, but nothing's happening. So, does the commission know anything about this?

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I don't have any current updates.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I don't either

Pamala Maitreya-Resident: Is somebody going to look into this?

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: We will.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I can attend the meeting again.

PJ Podesta- Innovation Law Lab: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners, and community members. I'm PJ Podesta with Innovation Law Lab. This is a recent recording from a person who is seeking asylum and formally detained by ICE and Core Civic in the Torrance County Detention Facility. My colleague will next read the translation. (Played Spanish audio) Thank you.

<u>Ian Philabaum - Innovation Law Lab:</u> Good morning, Commissioners and community members. I am Ian Philabaum with Innovation Law Lab, and I'm going

to read the translation of the recording you just heard from a person formally detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility. "The treatment here in Torrance is very, very bad. They treat me badly. When I had a stroke, they sent me to a solitary room in medical here in Torrance. They locked me up for three days. They took my clothes. I took three pills for my headache, because I was depressed, I didn't know anything about my family, and they put me in solitary. They separated me from her, my partner. They separated me from her in El Paso. They deported her back to Via Hermosa, and they sent me here to Torrance. It wasn't the psychologist who put me in solitary, but the guards here themselves. I got sick. I got the flu, and I felt very bad. Very bad because I couldn't talk to my family or anything like that. Yes, because I thought a lot about my mother, like my mother had a stroke and a heart attack too, and so I think about her a lot. Also, about my son, who is Colombian. He is just five years old. I haven't heard from them in four months now. I don't know how they are doing. What conditions they are in. They call me, I call them, and they are suffering from hunger. My son is underweight only because we are separated. They are abusing people." Thank you.

8. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

a) ASSESSOR: Update on House Bill 47/Senate Bill 192 (Veteran's Exemption Bills)

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, and general public. My name is Jesse Lucero, I'm Torrance County assessor. I just wanted to give you guys an update on House Bill 47 and Senate Bill 192. So, for those of you that are not aware of this, these two pieces of legislation were passed as Constitutional Amendment in the 2024 election. Basically, what these two pieces of legislation are doing for the veterans in the state of New Mexico is increasing the \$4,000 Veteran certificate to \$10,000. The second piece of legislation was to create a percentage disability exemption. Which will take effect in 2026. So, the reason I'm up here first of all, let me say thank you to all the voters of New Mexico who voted for all Veterans for this increase. I'm a Veteran. Don Goen is a Veteran, and so I'll say the same thing that I've said a couple of times already. We certainly thank you for showing concern for your Veterans. But the flip side of that coin is what I'm interested in talking about as your County Assessor. So, long story short, I'm going to go through some bullet points, in the

world of assessment, anytime you create a classification of a taxpayer, somebody's got to pick it up. So, the burden never goes away. The County's operating budget is the county's operating budget which comes from property taxes. How we get there, has many different ways of looking at property taxes, about 60 to 65% of your operating budget. So, as I'm going through this little narrative, I guess, for lack of a better word, I want voters to know. I just want to get on my soapbox, Mr. Chair, just for a second and say it's really important for all of us, voters in the state of New Mexico, to really pay attention to what we're voting for. This is not a political thing. This is just why we all have to think about what we're voting for. Once again, as a Veteran, I appreciate everything people do for Veterans, but I also have family members who are not Veterans, and the impacts as I'm going through this are going to affect those family members, like many of your family members. So, it's important that our politicians don't just say we were in a meeting. My Chief Deputy and I and our Madam Treasurer and others were in these meetings in Santa Fe. Then a former legislator says you don't go against Veterans if you want a political career. But you know what, as residents of New Mexico, we all have to think about what makes sense for New Mexico. Not just buzz words. I'm off my soapbox.

Mr. Chair. Before I get started, I wanted to share just a few fun facts that my Chief Deputy found for me this morning. Since we have a short agenda this morning, Mr. Chair, I'm going to take up a few minutes. In 1869, the voters imposed the property tax to rescue the state from impending bankruptcy. Benefit max if you're interested in tax. In 1872, the State of Mexico dated the tax to provide free public education. In 1932 20 mill operating limit and the 1/3 valuation ratio was brought in. I'm going to talk in just a minute, a little bit about Mills, and not to bore everybody to tears, but we'll get into that in just a little bit. In 1973 our current property tax code was inactive. Giving 20 mill operating levy limit to the state, and it was broken down like this. So, Counties can tax up to 11.8 mills, 7.65 mills are for Municipalities and the remainder of 7.65 is for the remainder of the County and point five most to of the school. In 1979, your control was first inactive. In 2000, limited residential assessment increased by 3%. Some of you might also know this legislation as tax lightning. Now, the state statute allows the number of dedicated and capital levies, if approved by the voters, for School buildings and technology, County and Municipal capital outlay and higher education, operating and debt levies, and special levies for Soil and Water Conservation districts. And so here are the two bills. The first bill, House Bill 47, is taking a veteran exemption from a \$4,000 veteran certificate valuation to \$10,000. So, what does that mean? So, I don't have any problem using myself as an example. So right now, here in the county, I have my \$4,000 veteran exemption on file. So, a quick tutorial on how to

estimate your property tax. You're going to take the total value which you'll be receiving your notice of value. Look at your notice of value. When you look at your notice of value, you're going to have a total value on your property, your home, and your land. Then you're going to look, am I receiving a head of family exemption? Am I a 65 or older disabled person who has a limitation on a freeze and am I a veteran? So, all of those may apply, or some or none may apply. When you take your total valuation. Then you start subtracting all these exemptions you get. So, your head of family is a \$2,000 veteran exemption. So, \$100,000 take \$2,000 away. I'm a veteran of taxable value. You get your value divided by 1/3 and then we start deducting these values. So, in my case, and I use myself as an example, with the \$4,000 Veteran exemption, moving to a \$10,000 veteran exemption. Thank you, Torrance County. I will no longer be paying property taxes. So, thank you to all the voters. Okay, so that's just a very minude example, that's not the one that concerns me as much as the percentage of disability exemption.

So, currently, in a property tax code, if you are a 100% disabled veteran, you can be exempt from taxation up to five acres. I'm just gonna use Commissioner McCall, let's just say your resident and your property and you're 100% disabled veteran, we could exempt your home, your outbuildings, not the entertainment part, but your home, the outbuildings, up to five acres. As a 100% disabled veteran, you don't pay zero property tax. Okay? The new legislation that has been approved by the voters and is going through the halls of the legislature is now they're going to make it incremental. Now we're going to start at 20%. I get a reduction of 20%, and it goes incrementally back up to 100%. Problem number one, we don't know how many incremental disabled veterans we have. We know how many 100% disabled veterans we have. So that's my first problem. My second problem is that these two certificates can be stacked. So now this is said I'm a 20% disabled veteran, and I'm receiving my \$4,000, which is now to \$10,000. Now I have the benefit of both, so we don't know what this is going to do to operating budgets across the county. The first thing this does is reduce the net taxable value of veteran-owned properties, which I just gave a real, basic example of reducing the veteran property tax liability on how their properties are valued. This mechanism creates several complications in analyzing the effect and implementation of these exemptions. Yield control, maybe some or many of you have heard of yield control. Yield control adjusts the operation tax rates to offset revenue loss or gain from outsized changes to the aggregate property taxable values. In other words, yield control is a given factor. They use that factor to not over-inflate budgets or to deflate budgets. This factor is supposed to help maintain operating budgets.

The next thing that is a big concern is anybody listening on Zoom anybody in this room. It's important that our Schools know and even our Counties and Cities, because this is going to affect everybody. It will decreased their portion because of the veteran exemptions and the state. Many Schools and Municipalities issue debt periodically rather than every two years, which could create challenges in servicing debt. So just for the general public, I'll receive an email from the bond Council, whether it's the County's bond Council or the School's bond Council. They want to know where your top 10 taxpayers in the country will be affected, because these revenues are now going to become uncertain. Large increases in exemptions, as well as public efforts by veteran groups and VA may lead to more claims. How many of you have a family member or know somebody who served, and they want nothing from the government. They don't want to take advantage of the building exemption, for whatever reason, they are antigovernment. Well, let's think about it from this perspective. Now, there's a reason, right? If it's going to reduce my overall tax liability, then it maybe behooves me to want these certificates. Which I was entitled to in the first place. But because I'm mad at the government and I hate them, I'm not going to do it. Consider if you don't know what those implications could look like.

The Tax and Revenue Department analyzed the impact of both exemptions to Counties. But it did not include additional impacts to special districts, including Municipalities and School Districts. They found an important impact, of 1 million to 1.1 2 million into Counties post year control. They identified seven counties, including Torrance County, that do not have a sufficient tax base nor remaining mills that may be imposed to offset the loss of tax base and revenue from the expanding veterans exemptions through year control. Another seven Counties were identified to have just a sufficient tax base to cover it. However, this effect will vary depending on how willing and able local administrations are utilizing the remaining operating rate millage authority or growth in the remaining tax base if it's sufficient. Special tax districts, higher education institutions, hospitals do not have the advantage of your control and may experience a direct reduction in the revenues from the new Veteran exemptions. These exemptions are estimated to shift the operating mill rate property tax burden to non-veterans in the state through your control. In other words, folks, I like to come up here every year and pat myself on the back and tell the County how our tax rate has gone down. Which means less property tax, which is not really anything I do, but I have an amazing staff. I can say that this time around. Just in talking with Linda and thinking about this process. I think our hardest hit taxing authority is going to be our Soil and Water districts. I don't think so much anybody else, but for sure, I think it's going to impact our and Soil Water districts. The exemption is indexed for inflation,

while the head of family exemption is not. The value of property tax savings provided to homeowners by the head of family exemption will diminish over time, as the \$10,000 veteran exemption will only increase. Due to the consumer price index. This year, it started out at 10,000 while as the years progressed. Here's what's going to happen? It's going to keep increasing? To follow the consumer price index. Bonds at the State levels, School bonds, County and Municipal bonds, are all sold with covenants that their underlying jurisdiction will take no actions comparing the ability of the jurisdiction to make all bond service payments timely. Many School districts, Municipalities and Counties issue bonds periodically. It may not be possible to adjust debt levies to cover losses from these new exemptions, especially in the first year or two.

Provisions of this bill are mandatory because the Constitution amendments are not self-executing. What that means is that to go to the legislature, and that's what really started this push for us to come out to the public. We need the Governor to sign this bill. The people of New Mexico already voted it, but now it has to the halls of the legislature. It's already passed the House. We believe it's waiting to be assigned to the two committees on the Senate side. It's being heard this morning. and we anticipate that the Governor will sign it. The other concern we have, on top of many. Is if the Governor chooses to hold that piece of legislation, does not sign by the end of the session, it potentially could delay the notice of values being mailed. It could potentially delay the protest period. It could potentially delay the tax role. It could potentially delay all these other key points that we as the County Assessor's office have to maintain. We operate on a critical calendar, and these dates are not movable dates. These are hard dates. There's a lot of implications that we just don't know. As we continue to have weekly meetings in our affiliate. Santa Fe has no idea how to implement this. The VA has no idea how to implement this. Once again, folks, I think it's just critical that we all as taxpayers pay attention to what we are voting for. Veterans, I speak on all Veterans of Torrance County. Thank you. But I also have family members that are elderly and on a fixed income that although this may not affect me, it's certainly going to affect them. Everybody in this room and listening knows somebody like that. So, I don't have answers. I don't know how many incremental disabled Veterans we have. We have no idea of knowing. My Chief Deputy has said this in the last couple of open sessions that that we've had. The only thing we consider with confidence and share with the public is, that we know that the new certificate right that's going from \$4,000 to \$10,000 the only thing we could definitively say to this audience, is that that certificate is going to be pink. What a great disappointment, right to come before the public, and that's all I got. I got nothing. I can't tell you what the impact would be. We've given County Manager Barela some numbers, and this is based on the

information we have. But it's impossible. In our Department Head meeting we had, I shared this with all the Department Deads, and if I contact the VA today, they will say their number will be different than the number of Veterans that we have certificates on. So, in closing, Mr. Chair, I just think it's important for all of us, as the public and voters, to pay attention to what you're voting for. I mean, once again, we certainly appreciate it, but with the implications I will continue to keep this Commission up to date and our County Managers, as I get information. Unfortunately, I don't have any to report today. The purpose of this meeting was just to inform our public. Most importantly, our public to reach out to the Governor's office to get this piece of legislation signed as it was already voted on and approved by the voters of New Mexico. I stand for questions. I don't know if I can answer any, but I certainly stand for questions.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I'd like to make a few comments. Okay, so I ran the 2024 General Election, and this was on the ballot, and let me read the question, or the amendment to all of you. Proposing an amendment to Article eight, section 15 of the Constitution of New Mexico to extend a property tax exemption currently allowed for 100% disabled Veterans and their widows and widower to veterans with less than 100% disability and their widow and widows, and basing the amount of the exemption on a veterans federal disability rating? So that was the question. So that question is very open. So, anybody reading that question would say, yes, we want to help veterans. We didn't. Nobody listens, and nobody thinks the whole thing through. We want to help our veterans in Torrance County, 5,745 voters voted for this. That's 85%. The ones that voted against it were 1014 voters. That's 15%. I don't know what the numbers were statewide. So, my question to you is, how did this question cause the exemption for disabled veterans from 100% that are 100% disabled veterans from 4,000 to 10,000. Was that already in the makings before this question?

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, Commissioner, the 100% disabled veteran disabled exemption and the \$4,000 veteran exemption has been implemented since the property tax code was created in 1970.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> When did it increase to 10? Now, this doesn't say that. The question doesn't say that. But where did it increase from 4 to 10? According to this question?

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo House Bill 47 I understand what you're saying, regarding the \$4,000 to \$10,000 veteran exemption. I think that's a fair question. I don't have that answer for you on the

ballot itself, or did it specifically state that the veteran exemption would move from a \$4,000 veteran exemption to a \$10,000.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> It's okay because I want veterans to have the exemption. But this question does not address that. I read the bill, and it does say that in 2024 it'll be this, and in other continuing years, it'll increase. So that was already in place, right?

Linda Gallegos- Deputy County Assessor: This legislation went through the session last year. So, when it got to go through the committees, it was already \$4000 to \$10,000. So, they determined that they didn't want to make that decision, basically. If they voted it down, then they would be going against the veterans. If they enacted it during the session, then they would be throwing away the burden on the remaining taxpayers. So, they didn't want to do that. So, they said, "let's just send it to the voters and let the voters decide. But that terminology was already in place when it went to the voters. The 4 to 10 actually started last year, even year before last, it just came to fruition in the election. Now to put it into law, it has to go through the legislative process this year. We have information that the that it'll probably be signed like Jesse said. We're hoping that it's signed sooner rather than later, because it will impact this year's notices of value. But for the disabled Veteran portion, or the percentage disabled Veteran portion that's in House Bill 42 that will not be enacted until 2026. There's that emergency clause for the \$4000 to \$10,000 to be implemented this year, which means, like within the next couple of weeks we need to have that signed so we can move on with our processes.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> So, they use the voters to push their agenda. So, you did have an attachment D, I don't know where these figures came from, but you have 113 100% disabled veterans in Torrance according to Attachment D

Linda Gallegos- Deputy County Assessor: Is that in the fiscal impact report?

<u>Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner:</u> Yes, so we already know that they are going to be affected the 100% we just don't know the percentage. So, we have 279 Veterans with less than 100% that was in the in attachment in the range of 70 to 90% Veterans we have 144 Veterans in Torrance. The rest are in between.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, the document that you're making reference to was provided by Veterans Administration to the Legislative Council.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Do we know the number?

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: I disagree, and here's why as I stated just a few minutes ago in our office, I could go to the filing cabinet, and I can look at how many 100% disabled Veterans we have. I can contact Santa Fe, and they would disagree with that. So, I can also go back to my filing and tell you that right now what we have. I'm just ballparking about 520 veterans like myself who just received the \$4,000 Veteran exemption, and I could contact Santa Fe, and I'm almost going to guarantee you Santa Fe is going to disagree with that number. I'd also like to just make a clarification for Commissioner Jaramillo, so the 100% disabled Veteran has already been enacted. So, right now we do have, I think it's a little bit over 200 and I know that document says 113 which is false. So, we have a little bit over 200 100% disabled Veterans. Ones that we currently have right now, pay zero property tax on their property, up to five acres. So that would mean any structures that they have on that property. Any structures that they put on that property in the future will still remain zero property tax on those properties.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I'm all for helping our Veterans and the voters have spoken. So, we just have to deal with it. I don't know about anybody else, but if our Veterans have given their lives for our freedom and for service to us. I'm willing to pay the taxes that are necessary. I voted for this.

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo. I don't disagree with that. I have several family members, and as I'm sure, many people in this audience and listening, all of us have a story of a loved one who has served. Some who have not come back, some who have come back and you don't even know who they are. We all have those people. It's just important that the voters know what they're voting for. It's not just to pull at the heartstrings and voters because the impact is real. The problem is we have no idea how to give Manager Barela a forecast evaluation. So, when we come to you in June or April and give our annual report, I cannot stand up here with no uncertainty and tell you that the values that I'm giving you are going to be 100% because I have no idea what they are. I can tell you what we're going to have at that moment. So, at that moment, it's going to be a snapshot of value, whatever that is, as we're compiling it. But I can't, without no uncertainty, tell you and even next year. Once this gets enacted, the problem is that the Veterans Administration, there are a lot of folks that are percentage disabled I have two brothers who are percentage disabled Veterans. But what about guys like me who never decided to go through the process? My concern is not the people that we know. Our percentage disabled because then,

once the formalities are taken care of, they receive a certificate, and they follow the same process. What about all the guys and gals like me who never have gone back to the VA for any type of services. I'm not a young man anymore, my shoulders hurt. And, you know, I can start going to the VA and saying, hey, man, my PTSD is kicking in from 30 years ago, and I can prove it.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: It's a hard process to go through.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> It's a hard process. But is it possible and the implications are just so unknown.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> So, this might cause other disabled Veterans to come forward and claim. Do you agree with the 70 to 90% of disabled Veterans that are in our County, according to the amendment.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, Commissioner the VA provided that particular document. The problem is, we don't know how many of those disabled Veterans are here because they haven't come to our office and said, Hey, by the way, I'm a 30% disabled Veteran. We don't have a mechanism until this legislation to be able to enact that in our system.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Yeah, so it's up to the disabled Veteran to come to you and claim that.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, that would be correct.

Linda Gallegos- Deputy Assessor: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo just to expand a little bit on your question regarding the Veterans. A couple of weeks ago, I was in Santa Fe for the Tax and Rev committee meeting there were representatives there from the VA. I spoke with them after the meeting, and they agreed that our numbers don't match, and they agree that that they don't have all the necessary information they need, but they're working on compiling it.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Where did they get these numbers?

<u>Linda Gallegos- Deputy Assessor:</u> Some of those numbers are from a few years ago. I'm not sure if it's titled there, but I think it may have been 2022 /2023

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Well, there could be more than.

Linda Gallegos- Deputy Assessor: They recognize that there will be more for 2024 and moving forward. But it's a work in progress, and so, like Assessor Lucero said, we don't know what's going to happen with the percentage going back to \$4000 to \$10,000 those are hard numbers. We can quantify based on what we have the accounts that we have flagged for those veterans that they are currently receiving for. We can run the numbers, and we have run the numbers. So, that we can actually say at this point what the decrease in the tax dollars are going to be based on that particular portion of the legislation. I provided that information to you at the last meeting. The concern is for next year, 2026 when the percentage disabled is enacted, the variable that's going to be involved there. We won't know until a Veteran presents his pink certificate, as to what the percentage disabled disability rating is when he presents that certificate, we don't know. Then you go into the stacking mechanism again, too. The 1/3 taxable value reduces that by 20%, then take off your head of family. Which is \$2000 take off your \$10,000 reducing it even further, and there may not be any tax liability at all once that stack goes through. So that's another variable that we have to be concerned about as well.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> I don't understand why they would jump from four to ten. Why not do it in smaller increments instead of going that high right away?

Linda Gallegos- Deputy Assessor: I think the sponsor at the time was Representative Alcombe. May he rest in peace because he passed away in November. I think he just said, "Let's go for \$10,000, and if it goes through great and if it, no one objects to it, then good for the Veterans. In my tenure as the affiliate Chair, and Jesse as the Vice Chair, going to Santa Fe, I never once heard anybody disagree with the amount.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> They didn't see the overall picture of what it was going to do to us.

<u>Lind Gallegos- Deputy Assessor:</u> As usual, as with tax lightning, there are unintended consequences, and that's what we're dealing with.

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Mr. Chair, I would just like to make one final comment that in our affiliate meetings as we continue to discuss this now there's grumbling about, why aren't we offering some sort of tax reduction for our EMS First Responders. What's the next classification? So, as we continue to create classifications in the property tax code, one goodwill won't see the intended

consequence, right? So, once again, just my final thought is it's really just important that we all pay attention to what we're voting for.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: So, with that comment, what you just said, I agree, but what she just read and what is good. It just opened the book to allow them to go down the halls of legislature, of the legislation, they could do whatever they want.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Yes, Mr. Chair, I too, voted for this amendment. Obviously, they have self-interest. But I, too, did not look at the time when we read these different questions on the ballot, and we really don't. Perhaps some do, but I didn't really consider.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: How would you know? Because it was very vague, right? It was silent about what implications it was going to have. That's the problem I have, and you're right. You got to be careful what you vote for. But all it did was just opened the book to allow them to now pass it through the two chambers and then onto the third chamber. So that's, I guess, in a way, I think that's pretty slimy. It's pretty low that the voters voted for it. Now we get to take our golden road and do whatever we see.

Linda Gallegos- Deputy Assessor: Currently, it's being heard it's only been assigned to two committees in the Senate. Now it's already passed the house, so it's being heard at nine o'clock this morning. So, I'm not sure if they've even talked about it yet on the agenda, but there's only one other assigned Senate committee. So, if there's another, if there's a third one that it has to go through. We're pushing the deadline back even further. I know that they understand that there is an emergency on this and the need to push it through first to accommodate our critical calendar, but it's not for certain. So, I agree with you. They can do what they want, and if the Governor chooses not to sign off on it, then it's a mute point for this year.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: It can go to the Senate, and they can amend the bill. I mean, they could amend it from four to six, and then it's gotta go back to the house. But I'm hearing that they want it to pass, and they're going to fast-track it.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, I don't foresee them making any changes. It's just another cap in our politician's hat.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: A few other questions. So, why stack the two? I mean, because you gave your scenario, and you said, from four to ten. Jesse Lucero pays zero property tax. So what? What is their MO in passing this portion and then let's go grab another bite of this other apple that I'm guessing I'm asking a question. You may not be able to answer that, but why? If this one is that good and it's going to diminish the taxes 100%, why do we need to go over here and do another one?

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, before I answer that question. The part I may have not intentionally failed to share, but let's say, for example, again, I'm a 100% disabled Veteran, and I own multiple properties. I can use my 100% disabled veteran on my primary residence, and now I can take my \$10,000 veteran exemption and I can apply it to any other property.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Can you do that? Even if you don't live on the property.

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Yes, you can.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: As long as you're the owner

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, as long as I own the property, I can use that certificate to reduce my tax liability.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> What if you have two veterans in the same household?

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, That is a very good question. So now, as my Chief Deputy has stated, now you're not just stacking the 100% and your regular \$4000. if both people in the household are 100% disabled, now it has doubled.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> That's in the law? Is it really spelled out in the law?

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Yes, each is spelled out in the property tax code. Each Veteran is entitled to that exemption, regardless of your marital status or your partnership status. You are still entitled to those exemptions as a Veteran. So, for example, my son and my daughter-in-law are both military, so, neither one of them are disabled, but now each one of them will be able to apply that \$10,000 value to

their home in Los Lunas. So now that particular household after you do the 1/3, they get added more than \$20,000 in value to reduce from your bottom-line tax liability. Then, if they both choose, because they have both been deployed if they choose to go try to get some percentage disability rating. Let's just say, for the sake of this example, that's what they do. Both come back with 30% disability rating in 2026 they're now going to be able to get a reduction of 60% in their property tax and another \$20,000 on top of that.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I don't mean to go down a rabbit hole, but how many disabled Veteran are we going to see acquiring property, being on a deed?

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor</u>: Mr. Chair, I believe there's so many unintended consequences and that's why I've asked to allow me to take the time to explain this. That's why it's really just important that we all are paying attention to what we're voting on. Whatever it is we're voting on, or whomever we're voting for. It's just important. Because this was a great piece of legislation, how it was delivered, not so great now.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: But how would you ever know what you're voting for? I mean, that's the problem I have. You say, be careful what you vote for.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> We had booklets, Sylvia, that explained the amendments, but did it explain this one? I don't even remember. I'd have to look at it.

Sylvia Chavez- County Clerk: I honestly don't remember.

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: I mean, I know a little bit about the legislative process, just because I was the vice chair. So, when we start getting legislation, we look at the fiscal impact reports. You know, those come down a little bit with a little bit more meat when it's going to the general public for votes. It would be nice to see something like that. I mean, I don't know in the election world how that works, or anything of that nature. More information would certainly help folks to really be able to ponder and look at what makes sense to them.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> We have no part in creating those questions.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Any other Questions?

<u>Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair:</u> I know it's a mixed bag, and if I do act like I don't appreciate Veterans. I do. Just on the back of others, as you have explained, it's frustrating.

<u>Jesse Lucero- County Assessor:</u> Mr. Chair, as a Veteran and the family of Veterans, I too, appreciate the service, but still. I mean, appreciation can only go so far in these tough times.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> I guess they should have done it slower, the increment slower, not just jump from 4 to 10.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Sounds like the state's getting as bad as the feds. We have to pass the bill to see what's in it. It sounds exactly what we're going to be up against. Pass it first then we'll see what the implications are later.

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: That might be the case, Mr. Chair

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Wow

Jesse Lucero- County Assessor: Thank you

b) CLERK- Department Update- Voter Purge

Sylvia Chavez- County Clerk: Morning commissioners staff that are present in the audience and as well as Zoom. Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk, my update today is just to inform you that I will be convening the Board of Registrations now in March. For those of you who are not familiar with this, this is a process that we do every two years. We get a list from the Secretary of State's office for people that have received notices that have been returned for a not valid residential address. So, I received the list from the Secretary of State's office, and we have 138 voters that are on this list. I have done some research, I have looked that they have returned mail, such as their voter ID cards, some of them in the northern part of the county, when we split precincts, those precinct change letters came back that's flagged on their files as well as the Secretary of State's office sends out, 45 days prior to an election to inform the voters that there is an election. Those also have been returned. I was a little, taken back by the list. It may not seem like a whole lot of people, but 138 voters is a lot for us, but I can only imagine the bigger Counties.

But I went in doing my research to make sure that these people were validly on this list. You have people that were on that list that registered in like 2004 and never have voted. So, to say that this is going to help clean up my voter rolls, I will definitely agree that these people do need to be what we would call purged from the voter rolls.

Right now, currently we have 10,707 registered voters in Torrance County, but of that, only 9730 are actually active voters, so you have about 1000 voters that are just out there registering for whatever reason but never actively ensuring their right to vote. So, this is definitely a process that is necessary in the Clerk's Office just so that we can clear our voter rolls. Because if you ever had the opportunity to be in our voter rolls, you would see that we have filing cabinets that are pretty thick with a lot of voters. So, this is definitely something that is necessary. Just FYI, I will be coming before you in June to have the boarD reappointed by resolution. The voter Board of Registrations is currently filled by Michelle Jones, Gayle Jones and Sandra Ness. I made contact with them just to make sure that they were going to be available, and all three of them are. I will ask them, whenever we have this meeting on March 11 at 10am in the Early Vote room if they want to be reappointed. So, if anybody would like to be present, it is a public meeting. I will be posting an agenda. So that is all I have. Thank you.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Thanks for the update

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of February 12, 2025, Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Sylvia Chavez- County Clerk: I do have a quick correction, Miss Brockerman before the meeting, let me know that her name was misspelled. I have since had Genell correct that, so I will make sure that's corrected in the minutes that are approved.

Action Taken:

<u>Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair:</u> Motion to approve minutes with correction. <u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Seconds the motion.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE: Request approval of payables.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chairman: Motion to approve payables.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

- 11. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:
 None
- 12. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION: None
- 13. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

A. ROADS: Request Approval to Pay Invoice to HF Sinclair in the Amount of \$13,674.59 for 5,280lbs of Asphalt Material for the Cooperative Agreement Chip Seal Project.

Leonard Lujan- Road Superintendent: This is the invoice that came in after the fact. So, this was when we approved the roads last year for our chips projects we had put in for two-tenths of Willow Lake. Then I was asked if we could go past the residence because I was only going to go to the cemetery. We did a whole mile, so we needed to order more material for it. But when we got all our billing, we had two bills that came in that were almost identical. So, I contacted them, and they said, well, one's a credit. We took that one paid off, closed off our projects. Then after that, another bill came in for the same amount that was out of Artesia, not out of Albuquerque. So, we have the funding to pay for it. It's just that we got to get it paid for. It was used to finish that road for the extra mile, which we were asked to do. So, we did.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: When you went from two-tenths of a mile to a full mile, did you have the money to do that?

<u>Leonard Lujan-Road Superintendent:</u> When I asked for our cooperative money from the County at that time, we asked for money, and they asked if we would finish that road off. So, we use some of that money.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach

- County Chairman: - Absent: Kevin McCall - County Vice Chairman: - Yes

B. FINANCE: Request Approval of an Unauthorized Purchase to Cintas in the Amount of \$121.00 for Sheriff's Department Eyewash Station.

Joanna Romero- Assistant Finance Director: Actually, it's not an unauthorized purchase. It's a subscription that we have that Finance is taking over because we do all the contracts. So, this one was a prior year payment that just was missed in May, we missed it on the final payments for last year.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

C. GRANTS/DWI: Request Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Torrance County Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Program and the Town Mountainair Police Department for DWI Enforcement Activities.

Luke Fields- Grants Administrator: Morning, Mr. Chair, Madam Commissioner. My name is Luke Fields. I'm the new Grants Administrator for Torrance County. First of all, I would like to thank the County for this opportunity to serve in this capacity. I really do appreciate the opportunity, and I look forward to serving the County in this way.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Welcome

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Welcome

<u>Luke Fields- Grants Administrator:</u> Mister Chair, Madam Commissioner, the MOU that's before us is for the current fiscal year. It is for a \$4,000 reimbursement to the Mountainair police department for running additional DWI patrols and enforcement up to \$4,000 in overtime, which they can request as reimbursement from the County. I guess that's about it. I'll stand for questions

<u>Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair:</u> Similar to the one we did for our Sheriff's Department. Correct? Just this is just in addition to and then there was more grant money that is available. Or are we taking this away from our Sheriff's Department?

<u>Luke Fields- Grants Administrator:</u> I believe this was requested separately, but I'll defer to the County Manager.

<u>Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager:</u> On this particular one, there is grant funds available for our Sheriff's Department, as well as there. We're not robbing one to pay the other. The grant funds cover both.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I guess the reason I'm asking, would the Sheriff's Department like to have had this \$4,000. I'm okay with it. I want to make sure that we're fully getting behind the Sheriff's Department and their needs.

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: I can't answer that for the Sheriff.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Come forward, Sheriff, and let me know in the future. If this is something you want to take ahold of.

<u>Sheriff Frazee:</u> Good morning, Sheriff Frazee, Commissioner's Jaramillo and McCall. This \$4,000 grant that you're talking about here is above and beyond what we're getting. It's not affecting us at all, so I'm not in objection at all.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Are you maxed out on the grant we're getting you for DWI?

Reecie Eckard- Administrator Sheriff's Department: We are not maxed out. We have funding available for us.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: So, I think we'll move forward with the way it is. But in the future, would you like to have more funding for overtime, for your Deputies? I mean, I know Mountainair is within the County, I understand that, but

I'm just asking you're County wide and could we have a bigger impact if you are requesting more.

Sheriff Frazee: I will never turn down money. But I would tell you now, currently, we're understaffed, and we probably couldn't use it anyway this year. Thank you.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

14. DISCUSSION

A. Manager: Deferred

B. Manager Report:

Jordan Barela- County Manager: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for this month's report. I did want to provide some legislative updates. There's a number of bills that we're following through the legislature right now, some that have a direct impact on Torrance County. Some that have a secondary impact that may affect alternative energy projects. The one I did want to bring to the board's attention today is specifically the bill, which is Senate Bill 152, that this Commission provided support for. As originally drafted, that bill would have allowed Counties to petition the Cannabis Control Division for a two-year moratorium on the issuance of New Cannabis licenses in our jurisdiction. Now, I will be up in Santa Fe this afternoon. This bill cleared the first committee had quite a bit of support and no opposition. So, it is set to be heard at the Senate Judiciary Committee today at 1:30 PM. But I was also made aware today that there will be a potential amendment to that bill that would substantially change the language. I was notified that, by Senator Stefanics, and the proposed amendment would pretty much strike all the language out of the original bill. Essentially what it would do is allow or require the University of New Mexico Economic and Business Bureau to do an annual analysis to identify, that are there issues in the cannabis market. Is it oversaturated? Is there more supply than demand? That report would go to the Cannabis Control division, which would then have the discretion to issue 180-day moratorium. Which really if the intent of the bill is to go down that route and that language stands. It takes Counties out of the process. I know it was a big drive of this Commission, and why that support

was there. It allowed some level of local involvement and discretion. So, I don't know whether or not that amendment is going to be definitive or if that's just a proposal. But I should have more information this afternoon after we get back from Santa Fe and I'm able to have a discussion with the sponsor, Senator Stefanics.

C. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1. Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: I have a little more to add to that. So, I was the expert witness for Senator Stefanics when this bill was heard in that first committee, and as the County Manager spoke, it was seven zero in favor of. I'm getting on an airplane this afternoon, that's why you're going up this afternoon. But I can tell you from a Commissioner's side of things, if they strike the fact that the County has no longer say. I think our resolution that we passed needs to be then pulled back and pulled off, if that is truly the amendment. I think New Mexico Counties was in favor, with us on that. I think they too need to be asked. I think they will be pulling back their support for that bill. I don't know what it's going to do. I guess that's an unknown until it's amended, and it comes out of Senate Judiciary today. But it'll have to go back to whatever committee it was in if it's amended. So, this one looks like it may be dead on arrival. When they start amending bills with 28 days left, and we haven't even been to the house yet, you can probably count, it's going to die. I was hoping this one was fast tracking going well. But it's seeing a hiccup. Which they always do in the Senate Judiciary, that's where bills go to get amended or die.

<u>Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner:</u> So, since Commissioner McCall or Schwebach can't go, I'd like to go with you and witness all of this and maybe speak if I can. Not if I can, I want to.

Kevin MaCall- County Vice-Chair: I just think it's important that we, as a County, we passed a resolution as it was written, and if they start deviating from that I think it's safe to say that the County could, I mean, we're not taking a vote today. It's a discussion item, but we are no longer in favor. Depending on what it does, but I want to leave the discretion up to y'all to see what does it give the County any enforcement or not enforcement, but say, any petitioning to the CCD.

<u>J. Jordan Barela- County Manager:</u> Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo. I mean, I think part of the discussion that we may be able to have today in open session is

in relation to that amendment and to address some of those concerns. To fully state that, you know, part of the support was the County's involvement in the process. If Counties are completely precluded from that process whatsoever. Then I think it does call into question the level of support because we would not. As it's currently drafted, be involved in any way, shape, or form in the process.

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Who are they to determine the impact, right? Shouldn't we be the ones to determine all of them?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo. I mean, I think that that is a good point, right? My understanding from the board's direction on this previously is, the local impact that sometimes these operations have on Torrance County. If it is a statewide initiative, UNM is looking at market analysis from across the state. It may not be a localized decision. So, you may have some Counties that are still dealing disproportionately with some of the negative ramifications of some of these projects. Holistically, when you look at the state, you know supply and demand are appropriate. There may not be any recommendations for changes. So, yeah, I mean, I think it does change the overall intent of what that initial bill tried to receive. That was local governments making local determinations based on local conditions

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: I wanted to set the stage a little bit. As I said at that table, they heard the bill, Manager Barela got on, he was under the weather that day, or he would have been with me as another expert witness. But he brought up the fact that every eye on that committee, eyebrows lifted. Do you realize that in Torrance County, for every license that we currently hold. That's one license for 421 folks. The committee just shook their head. At that point, I knew we were going to get a unanimous pass. So, folks of Torrance County, for every 421 Torrance County citizens, there is a grow retail license of some sort in Torrance County. So that is why we are trying to get legislation to do a two-year pause. So, bringing to that, also Jordan and I went up the first Friday of the session and met with all our Representatives, except for one. But I've had about a 45-minute conversation with him, Senator Thornton. Since then, I feel really good about capital outlay. Things went well. I kind of updated on the last Commission meeting that they were really relieved when you walk in and say, we want one ask and one ask only, and that's the County Administration building. So, I've talked to two or three legislators since then. I think Capital Outlay requests are due this week, and I feel good. I feel good with where we're at with the County and the relationship we have with our four Representatives, two Senators, and two state House of Reps.

<u>Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner:</u> I contacted Liz and Representative Lord. I sent an email to the Lieutenant Governor, Howie Morales. He's a good friend of mine from way back when he was a County Clerk. So, I sent them a request also. I haven't received anything bad, but how do you approach the governor's office?

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: Jordan and I did. We went to the fourth floor and sat on the couch and talked to her Capital Outlay Administrator. We're getting indications that the Governor may get behind this project as well. But what we're hearing from phone calls between Senators and the Governor's office. So, I feel really good, so we'll see.

2. Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman: Absent

3. Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner, District 3

Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: I attended the Manzano land grant meeting. I'm an heir of the Manzano land grant. My grandmother, Maria Reyes Alderete Luna was born and raised in Punta De Agua. So, they have a special place in my heart. The newly appointed president is Lenora Romero. Jason Quintana took a job with the state. So, he's no longer the president. I took a ride. I just took it upon myself to ride the roads around Mountainair. The ones that go up to the Forest Service, they all look good. Some don't look good, but it's as good. But I know you're very busy and you have a lot of roads to take care of. I attended the LEPC local Preparedness Committee meeting yesterday. It was very informative, and they're just getting themselves organized. They have presentations from the state LEPC and a representative from the forest service. I just wanted to bring one more thing up because there was a lesson for me as a Commissioner. So, I got a call from a gentleman who's 87 years old. He had just had hip surgery, and he called my phone because he thought it was, Commissioner Schropp. He had just gotten home from having rehab, and his pump wouldn't work. They got up at four o'clock in the morning and realized that maybe they had had an outage, but they didn't have water. So, I guess Sam, in the past, would go out there and just help people out. So, I called Misty. She referred me to the Sheriff, to all these different agencies in our County, and I learned a major lesson that we can't help everybody because it's a liability to everybody and lesson learned. Now, I know how to answer these calls, but I couldn't stand it. So, I remember when you told me to put

your boots on, strap them up, and go do it. So, I put my boots on, and I was determined to go out there and climb down six feet to press the button. He wouldn't answer my call. So, I got out there, and his wife, 83 years old, came to open the gate. It was so sweet. So, they let me in. They said they had found a friend, which now I know that you can find other people to do that, but I got to know them. They're great people, and it was a lesson all around for me as a Commissioner. There was a guy that came in and climbed down the ladder and pressed the button, and it was just a reset. It was just a reset. I'd done that before when I lived on a ranch, but not six feet under, but I was willing to do it if I had to. So, lesson learned, and I appreciate all the departments that stood their ground and said, "Hey you follow procedure" and I appreciate that all of you who said, "No, Linda, we can't do that."

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: COMMISSION: Discussion on Limited Personnel Matters (Potential Appointment of Interim Torrance County Fire Chief) Pursuant to NMSA § 1978 10-15-1(H)(2).

Action Taken:

<u>Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner:</u> Motion to go into executive session. <u>Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair:</u> Seconds the motion.

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

Entered executive session at 10:27 AM

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion to return from executive session Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

Pall Call Vote: Linda Jaramilla County Commissioner: Vasa Basa Salvasha

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

Returned from executive session at 11:33 AM

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: We only discussed limited personnel matters potential, appointing an interim fire chief at Torrance County pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H)(2) and no other matters were discussed. So, in executive session, we discussed make the County Manager interim fire chief effective March 4 of 2025.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

- 16. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting: March 12, 2025, at 9:00 AM.
- 17. Signing of Official Documents.
- 18. Adjourn.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Motion Adjourn

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

approved minutes

ckenzie Carlson- Admin Assistant

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Kevin McCall-Vice-Chairman

3-12-25 Date

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