

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
July 23, 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 Via Zoom
MACKENZIE CARLSON – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I
DON GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR

1. Call to order.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Calls the July 23, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Pledge led by: Ryan Schwebach– County Chairman

Invocation lead by: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner

3. Changes to the Agenda:

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: We have a few changes to the agenda. Item 9B It's a Special Meeting is how it's printed, it really was a regular meeting. Then item 14F, I asked to defer it because we're looking for some more information. I'm also asking to move discussion item 15A up, prior to public comment.

4. PROCLAMATION: None

5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS: None

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

A. PLANNING & ZONING: Review and Potential Reappointment of Danielle Johnston to the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board for a Second Term.

Don Goen- P&Z Director: Danielle has served one full term, and she's a member of good standing, she has been a positive addition to the Planning and Zoning Board and would appreciate her being appointed to a second term.

Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman: I'm assuming you're willing.

Danielle Johnston- P&Z Board Member: Yes, sir.

Don Goen- P&Z Director: There should have been a letter of interest right in the packet.

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

B. PLANNING & ZONING: Review and Potential Reappointment of Jess Segura to the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board for a First Term.

Don Goen- P&Z Director: Mr. Segura filled the remainder of Mr. Frost term. So, this is technically his appointment to his first term, and he's been thoughtful, attentive, paid attention, and showed good judgment. Once again, I'd appreciate him being appointed to the board for his first term.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Here's a thumbs up from you, Jess.

Kevin McCall -County Vice Chair: I would like to say I appreciate Jess's letter in his admittance that he came in slow, but he's learned it, and he feels like he's getting his feet wet more every day. So, I appreciate your willingness to serve and the fact that you're trying to learn the code and learn what a good planning and zoning board members looks like.

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

15. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. GRANTS: Presentation on the 2025 Summer Enrichment Intern Program

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Morning, Mister Chair, Commissioner McCall, Commissioner Jaramillo, constituents, fellow employees and honored guest. Thank you for coming here today. My name is Luke fields, I currently work with Torrance County Planning and Zoning, but I'm the former Grants Administrator for Torrance County. One of the programs that I was able to get started this year is a recurring program for the County. It's the summer experience Internship Program here at Torrance County. Several years ago, there was a quote from the president of UNM that talked about athletics being the front porch to the university.

I kind of feel like this intern program is the front porch for the County, something that everybody sees without going into what exactly the County is and what the County is doing. But we get a lot of good feedback from the Community on this program. Today I have Juanita and Jesusita, who worked at the Estancia Public Library. They will be doing a presentation on the program. What they've accomplished this year with our 39 interns, and later, we're going to have an intergovernmental agreement for us to finish out the remainder of this program that is currently going on for this part of the fiscal year. I'll have more information on what's going on with the program for next year when that action item comes up. So, I'd like to introduce Juanita and Jesusita.

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: Well, we're going to show you guys some photos of the kids at their workplaces, what we do and the goal of the program.

Jesusita- Torrance County Intern: The goal of the program is to work with interns, to coordinate work schedules, verify and sign students time sheets, skills, and evaluate intern performance review process with interns, periodically providing an environment free from all types of harassment. Support missions of PD and your organization, slash company, to enhance the health, safety and quality of life for all residents of the state of New Mexico.

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: Workshops; The goal of the workshops was to prepare and review weekly work habits and what it takes to step into the workforce. The program went every Monday to review and introduce healthy work habits and give real work advice and situations. These are photos of the interns outside here doing a little workshop. These are photos from the job sites. Then this is our Torrance County Internship Program by Juanita me and Jesusita. The Torrance County Internship Program helps build work experience and give students a chance to be a part of the Community. It benefits employees by teaching them real job skills, preparing them for their future in the workforce.

Readings from PowerPoint

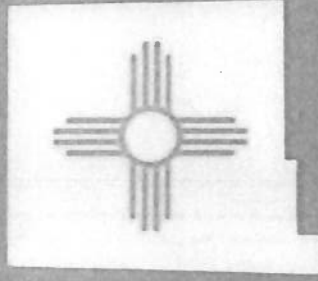
Jesusita- Torrance County Intern: Every Monday throughout the summer, our coordinators held meetings to teach us job skills that will help us in future careers. Some of these skills include good work habits, teamwork, building, problem solving, professionalism, communication and ethics in the workplace.

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: This is what we liked about the program. We benefited from joining this program because it gave us work experience, kept us busy during the summertime and had flexible hours for when we had to do things.

Jesusita- Torrance County Intern: Some ways we think this program could improve is by allowing more students to join and having more career exploration.

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: This is the end of our slideshow. Thank you for your time.

PowerPoint Attached



Torrance County Internship program

By: Juanita Zamora and Jesuscita Alderete

What the Torrance County Internship Program Does

The Torrance county internship program helps build work experience and gives students a chance to be a part of the community. It benefits employees by teaching them real job skills preparing them for their future in the workforce.

Skills Learnt from the Program

In our program we learned the following skills:

- Good work Habits
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Ethics in the workplace



What we liked about the Program

We benefited from joining this
program because it gave us work
experience, kept us busy during
summer and also had flexible
work hours flexible

Improvements

This program could improve by allowing more students to join and having more career exploration.



Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You don't get off that easily. I have a couple of questions for you. So, tell me, what grade are you all in?

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: We are going into our junior year.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Out of the 39 students, how did you guys choose, that you two got to present?

Juanita- Torrance County Intern: I don't know.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Well, you did a very wonderful job. Thank you. Just so you know, I as a Commissioner, we have to deal with a lot of stuff that's not fun. When we see these youth come in, when we see these programs come in, we see that feedback. It's one of the more joyous parts of this job. So, thank you very much for coming up and presenting. Thank you for your time.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I attended the Manzano land grant meeting on Sunday, and they were so impressed with the young lady that worked out there. I'm sorry I forgot her name, but she was so helpful. They got a lot of stuff done at the Manzana Land Grant building and throughout the area. So, they give you proof of what you do. Thank you. Thank you for your time. Have a good day.

Linda Gallegos- Chief Deputy County Assessor: I wanted to piggyback off that, because we had an exceptional young lady working as an intern in our office as well. Tomorrow is her last day, and I just want to say that there are a lot of fine young people that are getting into this intern program. I have to brag a little bit about Jasmine Acosta. She's also a student here in Estancia. She's a sophomore, and she did a lot of mundane tasks in our office things that we weren't normally able to get to on a regular daily, she didn't complain. She stayed on task. There was no looking at her cell phone, no having to remind her about her job, what she needed to do. She even entertained RAP, the Risk Awareness Program that we present in our office weekly. She was interested in that, and so I just wanted to introduce you all to this fine young citizen of our Community. We have just a little certificate for her, our appreciation for coming and doing a really good job in our office.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Thank you, Jasmine. I hope, hope we can see you again, maybe next year. Did you enjoy it? Was it a good time in the Assessor's office?

Jasmin- Torrance County Intern: Yes, Sir. I did.

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

Jesse Lopez- Veterans of Foreign Wars: Good morning, Torrance County Commissioners. I'm Jesse Lopez, with my co-member, Mike Means both members of the Veterans of Foreign War here in Moriarty, we represent Estancia Valley. Also with me today is Mr. Chad Hamilton. He's a father of a deceased veteran who lived in the area, grew up in the area and unfortunately passed away at Fort Parsons. We're here for an update on how we're looking on our petition for funding 100 names for a cost of \$20,000. Last time we were here, I provided an estimate invoice, of the company willing to do the engraving again. They're the company that Moriarty City initially contracted to get the names done. Well, they're more than capable of following suit, they are able to do the names in the same style and the same progress and adding the medallion to the service they participated in.

So, we're here on the update, I like to say that we're slightly disappointed, the three of us here have contacted the City Clerk of Moriarty to rejuvenate the Veterans Monument Wall Committee. We've contacted them numerous times, Chris Anaya and Steve Anaya and I, who were on the board, have not responded. I don't want to say anything negative, but normally, when you ask somebody for something, you get a response. We have not received any response from them. Today, we're going to be attending the Moriarty City Council meeting, and hope that maybe we get one on one, that we can rejuvenate this committee. We had the committee going, we did several good things, especially developing what allowed an individual to get on the monument wall.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Go ahead and continue. You were supposed to be in discussion. I screwed up on the agenda, so I stuck in here. So, you're getting more than two minutes. Please proceed.

Jesse Lopez- Veterans of Foreign Wars: I know in conversation before Commissioner Jaramillo had requested a list of names that we would be added to that monument wall, but without getting together with the City Committee there, we haven't been able to do that for you. Once we get this ball rolling again, get this committee rejuvenated. We can work on that and establish it. We're also not only petitioning the County, but we're also petitioning the City if they can provide funding for veterans names. Then we discussed earlier, it's not just for Moriarty veterans this is for the Estancia Valley. We're looking at as North as Stanley, and the South as Willard, and even crossed over to Mountainair. So, this is a large area that we're seeking assistance from, mainly Torrance County. But because the funding literally will come from Torrance County, we will be looking at Torrance County initially. Okay, so without due respect, once again, we ask for support and funding for engraving on the monument while they're in Moriarty for the veterans of the Estancia Valley.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, just to follow up on what you're saying. Hopefully here on item 14A we're going to be discussing doing a little bit of funding from the County. So, you can have some ammunition to take to the council meeting tonight.

Jesse Lopez- Veterans of Foreign Wars: We'll continue to march. Thank you very much for your attention now.

Ian Philabaum- Innovation Law Lab: Morning, Chairman, Commissioners and Community members. I'm Ian Philabaum with Innovation Law Lab. Earlier this month, we arranged a legal orientation and visit with dozens of people detained by ICE and CoreCivic at TCDF on July 10. When we got to the facility, staff told us that due to an internet outage, the security cameras and phones were not working. So, no one could be moved inside the facility, and we could wait, but we might not get to see anyone. They emphasized that the internet issue was a provider issue, and that there was nothing that they could do about it. We waited for over five hours in the lobby hoping that the Internet would be fixed and asked staff if there was any way to facilitate providing critical legal services. Alas, the Internet was not fixed before visitation hours ended, and we were not provided with another

option to meet with people. So, people in need of legal support did not receive it. CoreCivic's, lack of a backup plan means that they're unable to fulfil their contractual obligations.

The point that an issue stems from an outside contractor does not absolve CoreCivic and ICE of their responsibilities. The fact that an all-day internet outage means all day camera outage surfaces other dire concerns beyond legal access. If people are not able to move around the facility, what happens if somebody needs medical services? How does staff communicate with people in detention with no language interpretation? The cameras do not work, and staff cannot monitor all areas within the pods at all times. What happens if there is an emergency? Additionally, while waiting in the lobby that day, I saw with my own eyes in the restroom that human wastewater and sewage had come up from the drain on the floor. This recalled the frequent testimonies we've heard from people detained. The sewage flooding in the restroom was not cleaned up the entire time we were there waiting. These circumstances, yet again, compel us to ask how can this place be permitted to continue to operate in what other form of business is it acceptable to not provide the service contracted for the ongoing violations? Clear that Torrance County must end its contracts with CoreCivic and ICE without delay. Thank you very much.

Tiffany Wang- Innovation Law Lab: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners and Community members. I'm Tiffany Wang with Innovation Law Lab. This is a translation of a recording that my colleague will play momentarily from a family member of someone recently detained at TCDF. Quote, my name is Angela Gonzalez. I have a person, a family member, detained. Our lives were normal, but since he got there, one doesn't sleep. Here I have depression that I can't stand. I had to start taking medication. I don't sleep. My son has depression that he can't stand, knowing he's going through all the abuse there because they abused him verbally. They also took away his rights, not giving him medication, not taking him to a doctor from contagious bacteria. All of this and for us, this changed our lives, because where's the enforcement of human rights? Where's the authority? Who is responsible? No one takes responsibility. So, yes for us, this has changed our lives totally, including when we eat. Why? Because when you serve your plate for a meal, but you know that he's not going to eat, and he's a person with a disability and is sick, all of this has affected us a lot mentally. Now we're not the same

people, because what they do there is inhumane. It's all abuse, all rested. Everything makes you sick, it's torture, the dirty bathrooms, the food, even worms. It makes you sick. No one says anything. All that matters is the money, just the money. End quote, thank you.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: Commissioners, thank you for having me. I'm Roy McClellan. I'm a resident of the Melody Ranch subdivision here in Edgewood, New Mexico. Currently, Melody Ranch houses roughly about 78 houses in that subdivision. We have been without water for three months. The Melody Ranch Water Company that services our water wells has negligently and has not been able to maintain the water system. The well apparently, does not have the funds to be able to sustain and maintain and go forward with providing this water. Without having water, this has produced physical, mental, emotional and financial stress on all of the residents within that Community. With 78 houses, you average each house of having about five residents or five inhabitants, that's about roughly 400 individuals that this company services.

This water company continues to bill us and sends us bills for water and for services that we are not receiving. We have been in contact with the PRC. We have been in contact with the Attorney General's office. I have been in contact with Stephanie Lord, our State Representative and also Senator Thornton's Office, who are all aware of this. I have a petition that has been signed by roughly over 80 individuals who have signed petitions to see if we could get anything done and move on with this. I understand that this is a private company, but I've also researched a little bit of the New Mexico State Constitution and Statutes that there is a possibility to where eminent domain can be invoked on this water company, and the state being able to seize this water company and take over the company and bring it back up to up to par. We ask for your help.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Are you going to be here for the whole meeting, I will bring it back up under discussion.

Zoom

PJ Podesta- Innovation Law Lab: Morning, Chairman, Commissioners and Community members. I'm PJ Podesta with Innovation Law Lab. I'm about to play the recording from the family member of someone recently detained at TCDF following the translation that Tiffany read there.

Audio Played

8. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: National Night Out Event

Samantha O'Dell- Emergency Manager: Samantha O'Dell Emergency Manager, just wanted to provide some information about the National Night Out that we're going to be hosting on August 5TH. It'll be from 5pm to 8pm at the Torrance County fairgrounds, in conjunction with the Torrance County fair. There will be approximately 20 exhibitors, including state and local agencies. We'll have emergency vehicles, propane trucks, backhoe equipment, rodeo, multiple booths, mounted search and rescue with equipment, including a mule, multiple games with prizes. The Fair board is hosting a Gymkhana event at 6pm and Keith caters will be there selling food as well. So, it's going to be an exciting event that we have going here. We have some flyers as well, if anybody's interested, or if there's any questions.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of June 19, 2025, Special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

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: - Abstained:

MOTION CARRIED

B. COMMISSION: Request Approval of June 25, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

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: - Abstained:

MOTION CARRIED

C. COMMISSION: Request Approval of the July 09, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE: Request Approval of Payables with a Date Range 07/03/2025 to 07/16/2025.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve payables.

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

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

12. PUBLIC HEARING

A. FINANCE: Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to open public hearing.

Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Michael Garica – County Attorney: We have any witnesses, Mr. Chair.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Public, no.

Michael Garica – County Attorney: Anybody from the County staff.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, if I could just make one point in relation to this public hearing, generally speaking, you would have the public hearing and the approval of the budget simultaneously happening at the same time, given that the final budget hasn't been finalized yet, we had discussions with DFA, and so the intent was for this meeting to hold the public hearing to get any sort of Community or staff feedback, but the approval will likely have to come via a special meeting next week for the budget itself.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: We don't have a final budget ready yet, so we cannot approve it?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: The purpose of this would just be to obtain community feedback related to any budgetary items that people want the commission to consider.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to close public hearing.

Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do we need to set a date for that to approve the final budget?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: We are hoping by the end of this week, Mr. Chair, to know when that is. Obviously, we have to do a 72-hour posting. I think as far as the pending items are concerned, the tax account is in the process of being reconciled, and that is the final pending item. So, we're hoping by this Thursday or Friday, we will have an understanding of when that is ready, because once that information is available, it will impact the cash balances, and that still has to be entered into the system. So, we're hoping by the middle of next week.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: To get that available, then you plug it into the budget, and then we finalize it. You're going to highlight everything that was not as accurate as we thought. It was just where this Commission understands what we're dealing with.

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: I will. I did provide the Commission with the anticipated changes we have so far between interim and finals, but you guys can review those in advance. There may be a few other items. This is what I know of for sure.

13. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. FINANCE: Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025 - 28, A Resolution Authorizing a Year-End Budget Adjustment for the FY25 Budget.

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: Thank you. Chair, Commissioners, this will be again, a budget adjustment to the FY-25 so 2024-25 budget. Again, these are all necessary to close our budget and to close our FY-25 fiscal year. So, if you were to review schedule B, that would be the County breakdown of these adjustments, like last time, the majority of these are going to be to revenue accounts or to fiduciary accounts. So, the tax accounts that pass-through Torrance County into other School Districts, Municipalities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, those sorts of things. There were a few adjustments to expenditure, the majority of those being the grant funded salaries. So, we did a few adjustments that pertain to those. Then one of the road projects was a budget adjustment, but that was a grant funded project as well.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: What was the total added to the budget?

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: So, on schedule B, under the revenue policy, the adjustments to all the revenues. So, it was approximately what the schedule says, \$9.1 million, approximately. Like I said, the majority of those are going to be the fiduciary funds on the non-grant funded revenues. There were a few adjustments to property tax and gross receipts in those as well, which is good. So, that may affect that beginning cash balance that the Commission will see on the final budget as well. As far as those revenues for gross receipts, property tax,

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: This \$13,924,000 What's that?

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: Which schedule are you looking at?

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: The schedule A.

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: That is for the LGPMS breakdown. So that number is for the state reporting system. We have to keep two separate schedules, one for the state reporting system and one for our Tyler system. The schedule B is the one that opens our system.

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chairman: These salaries and overtime is that County wide?

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: So, the salaries and overtime, those ones were for a grant funded program for the Sheriff's Department. Specifically,

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chairman: We're going to be reimbursed later. Same with the Ewing Road project. The two that are highlighted.

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: Yes, sir.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-28

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

14. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

A. COMMISSION: Discussion and Potential Contribution to the City of Moriarty to Provide Financial or Other Support to the US Veterans Memorial Wall.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Mister Chair, Commissioner McCall, Commissioner Jaramillo, fellow employees, constituents and guests. My name is Luke fields, I work with Planning and Zoning in Torrance County here, and I am a former Grants Administrator, so I'll just give a little bit of an update on what I've been working on with this. So far, I've identified several grants that we can apply to. Last time I mentioned the Walmart spark grant, but there's also, through the VFW, a post assistance grant, which I'm going to work with the gentleman here from the VFW on applying for that, one. That one's only \$1,500 but it opens up in September. The problem with a lot of these grants is, just like the government, they don't move very quickly. So, there are several opportunities, in addition to the Walmart Spark Grant and the Post Assistance Grant, there's also the Mellon Foundation, which specializes in monument projects, and so that's invitation only.

So, I'm going to have to do some networking, try and get us an invitation to apply to that same thing with the Pritzker or Pritzker Military Foundation is by invitation only, and I'll be reaching out to them. I'm also working on my community-based organization, the Odd Fellows and the Rebecca's. I'm trying to identify veterans who were part of Mountainair or Moriarty when there used to be lodges in this county, to at least sponsor a couple of names. But I'm also going to reach out to the Rotary Masons, if the Odd Fellows donate, I can guilt the Masons into matching that at the very least. Then the Lions Club as well. They all have a history of supporting these types of projects. Also, I just found out about this. It's kind of a little like LEDA. There is a state program through historic preservation called certified local government. It's not very descriptive, but it's to support cultural affairs and historic preservation.

But if we apply to that program as a County or as a City of Moriarty, we can get funds through that program, just kind of like LEDA, it's only the big players that are part of that program. So, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Albuquerque, Dona Ana, I think we're pretty much a sure win if we go for it. But again, that's not immediate funding, but it's something that we could use to sustain the project throughout the years. I was not aware of the problems that they were having with the City of Moriarty. I did reach out to them. I was speaking to Jeanette who manages finance for the Clerk's Office, and I did send in a request to appear before their council to make a hard ask. Of course, after I found out what happens here today, I've also

reached out to Edgewood and sent a request to them as well. Because that was specifically, Mr. McCall requested what the other governmental buy in will be for this project.

So, I'm trying to figure that out. When I spoke to Jeanette, it's probably Moriarty that's going to maintain administration of the program, because we can contribute to Moriarty without anti donation issues. Other Municipalities could do the same, and of course, private individuals as well. But of course, we need the City of Moriarty to communicate with the VFW Post to make sure that that happens and to get that committee up and running again. So I'll go to the meeting tonight with the county manager's permission and see if we can get some more networking done on this and move it forward with that update. And of course, we have our representatives here from the VFW, but I know we discussed at the last meeting, discussing this time what the County contribution to the project could be, and so that's what we're hoping to discuss with you today. I'll stand for any questions.

Jesse Lopez- VFW Member: If I may I'd like to give you the copy of the form that we agreed to by the Veteran Monument Committee, it would allow the veteran to be considered, to have their name added to the monument.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: This is administered by the Veterans, not by the City?

Jesse Lopez- VFW Member: No, this is the City, but we were part of that Committee. The City has an overall say. But we did get together with Steve and Chris and I, and a couple of our member veterans, and agreed on this form on how an individual may be considered. So, it begins there, and these are the if he's a deceased member or still a living member, that's why I called a Veteran Monument.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: I also provided you with photos that I took the other day when I was passing through Moriarty, I stopped and took photos and examined the memorial. It's very nice. It's very beautiful right underneath the water tower. There's a nice grass area behind it as part of the park. I think there's even a religious shrine that's back there too. I thought I saw but the City of Moriarty, they're committed to maintaining the park in the future. That's part of their park system that they maintain, just as far as maintenance is concerned. I did discuss that with them this morning.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I must admit that I didn't know the wall existed, but I went to see it, and it's a very nice wall, and we need to put more names up there to honor our fallen soldiers.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Would you elaborate a little further on the possible grant funding that's like LEDA? Do we at the County Grant Administrator apply for that? Or is it just the Municipality in which the wall sits, because you made a comment that we need to get Moriarty involved. But can we do that without their permission?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Yes, across the board, we can do it ourselves. We can because as the County, we can develop the program and provide assistance to the City, but we should probably apply for the program for our own historic preservation as well. There's probably other areas that we can apply this program to, just like with LEDA. I haven't dug too far into it. I stumbled across it this morning when I was preparing for this presentation. Like I said, it seems like it's a big pot of money. Right now, it's kind of concentrated on the high-density areas, and it says on the web page that they would really like smaller entities to apply and receive funding. So, I think it's a good path forward for all Municipalities in the County for historic preservation, but specifically for this project, it is probably best if Moriarty did it, but if they don't, we can push it through as well. It does require, just like with LEDA, development of a plan and then also a passing of a resolution or ordinance. I think it's just a resolution by whatever entity is applying, whether it's the City of Moriarty or the Commission here.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I assume we'll get that information over to our new Grants Administer?

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: So, as it stands right now, can the County donate money to this?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, Commissioner Jaramillo, yes, and depends on how it's donated. But the property itself, the wall itself, is owned by the City of Moriarty. So, the County could provide a payment to the City of Moriarty to support whatever new initiatives take place with the wall, and that may include rehab work, adding new names, any of those types of things. But in that regard, it is a government-to-government transaction.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: So, we can? So, that we can't do that today, right?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, that's a yes. No, it's on the agenda.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: We can decide how much money we would consider.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Have you guys though about it?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, just to put this on the Commission's radar too, I know there was some discussion about, other government entities in the valley, potentially being a portion of the contribution, but not necessarily all of it. Another approach that we could take is putting together a letter of commitment, essentially stating, the County is willing to provide X amount under the conditions that other local governments, provide what they can afford. We can outline those parameters in the commitment letter. Then that way, if there is investment from, other organizations or governments, then that \$20,000 is fully funded, that is another approach to take.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I was thinking of something along those lines. What number were you guys thinking?

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I'm thinking \$5,000

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: About five to seven. So, I appreciate that you just gave that update, but the question I have is the \$20,000 needed upfront to even get started, or would \$5,000 get names on the wall?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: \$20,000 gives them a discount. They start piecemealing it, then it's going to be \$25,00-\$30,000.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: I would refer to the VFW and the father of one of our service members.

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: The \$20,000 just to finance one hundred names on the wall. The medallions, the name, and the time and the equipment that's going to take to do all this.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You have one hundred names already?

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: Yes, sir, Mr. Lopez, had a list of people that need to be on that wall, that are still alive and that have passed. We looked at the wall the other day. The last name was put on that wall was in like 1980. They built the monument, I talked to him. He said, It's \$400 a name plus the medallion. I told him we had one hundred names. So, he said, we will cut that in half to \$20,000. That's for the one hundred names that you do have. That includes medallions, all the labor in and out the door. They called us twice, one to get started on it. But again, nobody knows what money's coming in. So that's why we're sort of just trying to get the ball rolling.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I verify we do have one hundred names ready to go.

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: Mr. Lopez did go down to Worthy Memorial. He did give him an invoice statement that the \$20,000 does cover one hundred names, plus the medallions and everything else presented at that last meeting.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Misty, what funds would this come out of?

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: We have a few options. We could probably pull it out of the County infrastructure. Should we choose to do so, of course we have some flexibility.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What I was thinking on the numbers, I was thinking in my head is to do a guaranteed \$5,000 and up to \$8,000 so that different \$3,000 specifically for matching funds to one Town. So, if Moriarty comes up with \$1,500 and we throw another \$1,500 try to give a little incentive too.

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: Okay, so trying to spread it around so every County can contribute, and not just one, so all Counties can contribute.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What Commissioner McCall is saying is less guaranteed and more matching? I kind of like that. Keep in mind the goal here is one. I don't think the other Councils have really had a chance to discuss it. I did see an Estancia Councilwoman in here somewhere. I don't know if she stepped out. The point is, I would like to give you guys something to go to these Councils and match it, and then when you start getting commitments, we can come back to the table. I know there's private businesses that want to donate. I think we're going to

get a list together on that to simply contact them, get the commitments, get everything rounded up. Moriarty is a key they have got to administer it. It's on their property. So hopefully we can handle that tonight.

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: That's why we're going to the meeting tonight, that way when we're trying to get Estancia, Moriarty, and everybody on the same page. So, no one takes the brunt of all the money. More like Moriarty say, okay, we're going to donate five grand. The Commissioner says we'll donate five grand. It's a start. So, everybody understands that at the end, we need to come up with this amount, and when we get that amount, then the wall can be done.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What do you think of four and four? Four, guaranteed, four matching.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: That's good. Are you going to attend the meeting tonight? Any of you?

Chad Hamilton- Father of VFW Member: I did call them. I made sure that it was active tonight. Their meeting will start at 7:30PM at the Civic Center. The more people show up, the more chance that we have of getting something on it.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, I can get that letter drafted, especially if Luke's heading to the meeting tonight.

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

B. ANIMAL SERVICES: Request Approval of a Veterinary Services Agreement Between Torrance County and Western Trails Veterinary Hospital.

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: This is a contract that we have with Western Trials Veterinary Hospital for medical services for shelter animals.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: It's the same one you've been using just annual renewal. I assume you're happy with them.

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: We have been with them for 20 years, at least.

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

C. ANIMAL SERVICES: Request Approval of a Professional Services Agreement Between Torrance County and Krystle Hutsel, DVM for Veterinary Services for the Torrance County Animal Shelter.

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: We are required to have inspections of our facility yearly, and Crystal Hutzel Is the veterinarian that will provide those inspections for us. It is separate from the Veterinary Services Agreement, because it's a professional service.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: She is with the same organization, but it's just a separate scope.

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: Yes, Sir.

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

D. ANIMAL SERVICES: Request Approval of a Professional Services Agreement Between Torrance County and Kathleen West, RPh for Pharmaceutical Services for the Torrance County Animal Shelter.

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: This is for our pharmacy inspections. We are required to have quarterly inspections of the medications and drugs that we have at the shelter, and Kathleen West provides those for us currently.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I assume same individual you've been using?

Danette Langdon- County Animal Services: Yes, sir.

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

E. MANAGER: Request Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Torrance County and the Torrance County Fair Heritage Association for the Execution of the 2025 Torrance County Fair Junior Livestock Sale.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Thank you, Mister Chair. So, this is a new MOU to the County this year, as the Commission's aware of, the Torrance County Fair Heritage Association is a nonprofit that was put together specifically for the purpose of helping with the fair as well as the execution of the junior livestock sale. So, this MOU between the County and the Heritage Association would allow the County to provide a flat fee, of \$3,500, to the Heritage Association. For the purpose of executing the junior livestock sale for this year's fair. I think in terms of the nonprofit, there are a lot of other things that could be included in here, given kind of where we are in fair season and the timing of this, I think the sale was the most prudent item to get before the Commission. So, we did want to present this. This scope of the MOU only does cover the junior livestock sale, but there is room to expand on this in future years, also Amanda Lujan is here with the Heritage Association for pending questions and my understanding is Patrick Riley may be available online as well.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Who's on the board for this? I mean, who runs it?

Amanda Lujan- County Fair Heritage Association: So, the initial founding board is Haley Encinas, Kyra Encinas, Patrick Riley and myself. The way our bylaws and incorporation are written the Torrance County Fair Board Chair and Vice Chair service ex officio board members, so they'll always be that integration with the Fair Board.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, the other members, down the road how would that work? I'm just curious.

Amanda Lujan- County Fair Heritage Association: So, we do have bylaws, also state membership criteria, which is essentially living in Torrance County, and then there's a certain level of involvement you have to be. You have to attend during the year, as well as a membership fee. Right now, because we're still in our initial development phase where we will finalize the bylaws, and our annual meeting will be in April, and that's when we will finalize the bylaws, the new board members kind of officially start the organization.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Do you have a board of four?

Amanda Lujan- County Fair Heritage Association: We're going to have a board of five. Right now, we're just the initial incorporators, and eventually we do want to have a board of five members, right now we just haven't gotten that participation yet. I'm sure it will happen.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Right now, we're legal and operating. We're just with the founding board. That makes sense to me.

Amanda Lujan- County Fair Heritage Association: I wanted to ask a question about the MOU. It says it will remain in effect until June 15, 2025 should it be 2026.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: It should be Amanda. That is a good catch, and we can make that adjustment.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Does this replace the Fair Board that used to be.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: No, the purpose of this. Get the whole background. So, there used to be a nonprofit fair RAM that ran the fair. They did it through donations, and this was years and years ago. At some point the County

was asked, or the County said, I don't know the details. It doesn't matter. The county was asked to take over the fair. That's when we the County created a Fair Board.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: How long ago was that?

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: For at least 10 years.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I mean, it was prior to 2019, at that point, that's when we have the County appointed Fair Board. That's what you know, that's what you've been around. So, within that, the County had the Fair Board do the sale, but all that money goes through the County. So, then we started seeing some issues with financing. So now the County was involved in collecting money and dispersing checks. To be honest with you, when you look at a livestock sale, a junior livestock sale, a government entity is not best suited to deal with, and so that is the main driver for the County, saying, we would like a nonprofit, mainly to handle a fair that's what we have, or the sale, that's what we have here. But within that this also gives the Community an option to work with this nonprofit. Specifically for Torrance County, fair things, whether it's donating money, time, whatever the case may be, because of a nonprofit that can issue a tax-exempt form. Which is beneficial to the buyer or person donating. If somebody wants to come and throw some gravel in there, or put in new lights, or whatever. That can all be done and it's all taken care of. It's all tracked up and this gives them a lot more working freedom. It's kind of new to this fair, but a lot of other fairs where I've seen it, it's a very well-functioning system that blends public and private together.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: The regular board members agree with this?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yes, because they voted on this essentially. So, what I envision, and I don't think we have it on paper yet, but what I envision going forward is that the County says we want to have a County Fair, and this is what we want in the County Fair, and we don't want to have our fingers in all of it, but we want a livestock show. We want a sale kick, or whatever it is that goes along with County Fair. So, then we hired this company to put that County Fair on through direction from the Fair Board. So, the Fair Board is still answering the Commission, ensuring that our scope of work, what we're doing, making decisions, is going to be a blue banner, whatever all that stuff is for, cutting, cutting the livestock, making the classes, the sale, the Fair Board is still good, putting down a Fair Book, the rule book. Then, the nonprofit is

administering it and handling the finances. Does that make sense? Did I explain that okay?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: You did. Mister Chair, thank you. Commissioner Jaramillo, in other organizations, having that nonprofit really streamlines the process. There is a ton that goes into a fair as far as procuring and ordering and purchasing things. You have livestock, judges, hotel rooms, buckles, ribbons, feed-mans, shavings, you name it. The way it works in other organizations is, the nonprofit they have an MOU or a contract with the County, they identify what those quotes are. Then they invoice the County directly for all those services. So, rather than us opening forty different purchase orders and processing payments, which causes a delay. We cut one single payment to the nonprofit through our agreement they execute all those provisions of the fair. So, it does really take the government process out, but it does make the fairs ability to execute efficiently. It's a lot easier going through that process.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's the big hold up when you get to fair, something happens two days before the fair opens and money needs to be spent. It's not easy to get money through the account. This will have the ability to do that.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: I see those payments being made their way after the fair.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So that's the other thing, it's up to the entity. Most of the ones I've seen, if they have \$100,000 sale, when they get \$100,000 enough to cover it, they issue the checks, even if they haven't collected. So, if they have some money in reserves, or something like that, they have the ability to issue those checks. Then they worry about collections with the government, with the County, I think we did that one year, and then we were looking at them on a spreadsheet and said, no, this is not, we can't do this. That's the delay, because there is some issues with collection. But, you know, we can't, I don't want to take taxpayer dollars and pay off the livestock. So, we can't do that. This will fix a lot of that.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: So, I first wanted to say thank you to the Fair Board for being amenable to this. We had a meeting the three of us with the Fair Board, and we pretty much told them, this is how it will be, and the County will not facilitate another junior livestock sale. So, I appreciate the willingness for this, for this Fair Board, to put this together fairly quick. So, thank you for that. Just as everything else was said about the reasons for the nonprofit versus the County. I

don't think it's right for taxpayers like Commissioner Schwebach said to be covering junior livestock expenses, to a student or to an exhibitor that the buyer did not pay, so on and so forth, and not even that, but the resources it took within our own staff to put on the sale, to settle the sale, to cut the checks, and not only that, but to get a call as a Commissioner, that my student, my exhibitor, hasn't been paid. I'm just like, I don't know, and I can get to the bottom of it, but it's probably because your buyer hasn't paid yet. More than likely that is out of our hands, and I think it's cleaner, it's sharper, it looks better The Fair Board when they're frustrated that they can't get a PO cut for some ribbons for some belt buckles, they have a checkbook. They can do it at their own leisure on their timeline. This Commission will still stand behind the fair, and will still support the fair financially, but it's more or less a one-time check cut to this to this non-profit, or it would be the non-profit, right? So, I just appreciate the Fair Board for getting this set up, and I agree.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So how much does a County contribute to the fair?

Misty Witt- Deputy County Manager: So historically, the County has done cash transfers into the Fair Board of \$12,000 a year. We also historically upheld their fees for the sales of animals. So, that was kind of where that bucket of money was coming from, at their expense. So, \$12,000 from the County and then a collection of their fees from the buyers.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: So, would you explain the reason for the \$3,500 upfront and the fees that are collected from the exhibitors and how that may move forward? I think that's important.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: I think part of the reason for this initial fee setup of the \$3,500 is as, Amanda mentioned and discussed in this meeting. The nonprofit is sort of just starting up, brand new organization, brand new bank account. But we wanted to ensure that through this initial process, both through fee collection and with this one-time payment, that they have the ability to have a little bit of liquidity in their account to address needs they may have moving forward. So, that was a big impetus to make sure that it was valid, because you do have things. That's a beautiful part of having a nonprofit is, if they need something next week, right before the fair they have at least a little bit of money to address that, at least until they get through this first fair process. Then of course, there's fundraisers, things along the lines that a nonprofit can do overtime to raise their own revenue. But this, the intent of this was to ensure that they had at least some financial wiggle room to address emergent needs.

Amanda Lujan- County Fair Heritage Association: I don't know how detailed you want, but I believe we just purchased show works, which is the software that manages, Haley, Kyra and Patrick are more knowledgeable about all of that. I'm doing more of the admin stuff.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Commission, I think it's important to know that the funds that we're giving today are barefoot.

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

F. MANAGER: Request Approval of the Task Order 2 Proposal Provided by Bohannon Huston for the McIntosh Water Rights Evaluation Increasing Total Compensation by \$26,285.00 to Complete the Project.

Deferred

G. DISPATCH: Request Approval of a Grant Agreement Between Torrance County and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division in the Amount of \$431,110 for the FY26 Enhanced 911 Act Grant Program.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: I'll handle this presentation, Mr. Chair. So, before you today is an approval of a grant agreement. This is a recurring and annual grant agreement from the state to dispatch through the enhanced 911 act. Essentially what this grant does on an annual basis, it provides funding to dispatch to address its PSAP program and 911 related services for the County. It also has some provisions there that allow for the reimbursements of travel training as well as their GIS software and hardware. But this year's particular grant was \$431,110 but this does tie into the dispatches operating budget for this fiscal year. So, essentially, you can view this as a grant that subsidizes dispatches operations at the state level.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: What dictates that amount that \$431,110.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, Commissioner. McCall, my understanding of it is, essentially, there's, it's a block grant capacity. The state legislature allocates a certain amount of money, and then, depending on how much money that is, that funding gets divided up between all of the dispatch centers in the state.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: It ends on June 30, 2026.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: That's correct, Commissioner, just one year. Next year there will be another similar grant for the dispatch program. I don't know if the Chief had anything to add there.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I just wanted to ask, because I'm not familiar with this grant, and I haven't spoken with the dispatch director about it, does that have any funds available for any type of process, for the radios and things that we're looking at?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: I'm not 100% sure, Chief, given that it has probably some standard provisions for normal operations, I don't know if it would be project specific, but we can certainly check with the state to see if that's allowable.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: It's a lot to do in one year, right? In this agreement.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: So, a lot of the software systems, they have their GIS recurring costs, they're all contractual, and so a lot of this money is already tied up in contracts that are existing right now.

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

H. FIRE: Request Authorization to Re-Appropriate \$8,636.50 in County Infrastructure Funding Originally Appropriated for the Purchase

Ambulances for the Torrance County Fire Department, to Advanced Communications for an Emergency Response Lighting Package.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Chair, Commission, this is just trying to go around a little bit of the money from the cost savings we had from the \$315,000 that you allocated for our two rescues. Those two rescues came in \$262,000 my lighting package I need to get away from using hand gestures and yelling at people to get out of my way when I run from responding to calls. It's not working very well. There was not a lighting package put on my vehicle. So, this money would be moved over to put some lights, the sirens are already on there.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: But your vehicle doesn't have any flashing lights?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I don't know they put together a package for a siren, and there's a siren in there. I've got all those things, but people aren't really seeing it. So that's what we'd like to do. We still have, ultimately, some cost savings. We need to put some radios on that new rescue and some striping and stuff, and then everything will be done, but I think we'll still be under \$315,000 that you allocated.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Let's talk about those numbers really quick. We allocated \$315,000 for a new rescue or two and it, came in at what price? Got it for \$262,000 and its brand new.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I missed that one. I thought we missed the boat on the new one.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: They're pushing out to 2027, 2028.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I totally missed that memo.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: It's been an ongoing process, but the check has been already cut for the new ambulance.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, you're saying its ready to deploy? I misunderstood. I thought we had one from Valencia, right? I thought we were on a wait list for the second.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: It came in a lot faster than we thought it was at the tail end of production.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: The other one that you're going to put the unit on top of a new chassis?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: That's the new recipe that we have. We found out that that Valencia County rescue that we have, we can do the same, the same as this exchanger recapping as that chassis goes back.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: We've got those two and the new one.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Yeah, we don't need another one right now. We're going to be golden for a while.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: This new rescue is brand that we can just box with the new chassis.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yeah, we're rocking and rolling.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Yeah, we're still going to get the med radio, the other radio, into that rescue and then just some striping. We were going to paint it. They wanted a nice package. But we just don't have time for that when you get out and service. So, we're just going to put some striping on it, call it rescue 15, and be good with it. Then that \$8,600 allow me to get what I need.

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

- I. **GRANTS:** Request Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Torrance County and the State of New Mexico Public Education Department (IGA#26-924001-20) to Provide Up to \$64,000.00 for the 2025 Summer Enrichment Internship Program.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Mr. Chair, Commissioner McCall, Commissioner Jaramillo, everybody else. So, right here, The SEIP program, which is what you heard the presentation earlier, is a little odd in that it occurs in June and July each year, but that straddles the fiscal year. So, what we just finished up in June was actually the completion of the 2024 program, and now we're starting the first part of the 2025 program, at least fiscally. But the summer program this summer is an eight-week program. It's just four weeks in June, four weeks in July. So unfortunately, I'm already spending this money, but it's already been awarded to us as well. This is just the formality of signing the agreement so that they can issue us a purchase order and I can request reimbursement for the expenditure that we're experiencing this month. This amount is less than it has been in the past. Normally it's \$100,000 but what happened is that we still had \$46,000 left over from last year, from the \$100,000 for that that I just requested, \$41,000 in reimbursement from the expenses for June of this year, next year.

What they did is they took the \$100,000 and they said, well, you have \$46,000 to use. So, let's give you \$64,000 to finish off the program for 2025 so that's what's going to happen with that. \$64,000 that's really just for July 2025 in the next summer program, the public Education Department is going to pivot a little bit. They're actually going to try and find one contractor, and it's going to be an Educational Cooperative, most likely out of Ruidoso, that will manage this program for the entire state on a multi-year basis, and the Counties and Municipalities will be subcontractors. It just seems like it's going to clear out a lot of the red tape, because even Misty and I were kind of panicking in May, trying to get this program going, we had to withdraw support of the National Park Service because they needed 30 days to conduct background investigations, but we didn't have the funding secured in the 30 days before that, so this will allow us to start the process in March or April. Again, there's just a lot of different things that are really going to improve with this also, as the interns mentioned, and the Community mentions, everybody would kind of like to see our participation in this program grow. We used to be the biggest participant in the state. Dona Anna passed us, but we have 39 and we have the willingness in the County to move this up to 50, 60, or 70 interns next year. The grant will also provide reimbursement if we need to hire administrative support on a temporary basis to handle onboarding, background investigations, and that whole process as well. So, the whole thing is going to get a lot better, and we can basically take the program wherever we want to go. But right now, we're just asking for approval of the \$64,000 so we can finish off this year and request reimbursement for expenditures. I will now stand for questions.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So, if there's an increase in participants? Will that \$100,000 go up to meet those participants?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Yes, we will do a budget adjustment request with the state, and they will award us a larger amount if we tell them that we are shooting for a larger percentage. I'll also mention that this year, we had more participation from students in the northern part of the County than we've ever had before. So, my coordinators, I think they're, they're out, but they would like to work on expanding into more businesses in the northern part of the County so that we can support those interns. But also, just as you know, I'd really like to involve the National Park Service next year. That's just a great internship opportunity for the students, and also the Salinas Pueblo Admissions they need our help.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So how do the students get notified at school?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: So, Commissioners, if we're able to start earlier next year, we're going to be able to do about able to do a better job. But our coordinators, for the most part, come from the schools that participate in the program, and so they kind of just disseminate the information directly to the students at the educational institutions.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: That includes Mountainair.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Yes, with Mountainair, we actually had some assistance from Mountainair Dispatch that they posted the opening, and they actually do that for any opportunities for youth in the area, and they did a really good job. But we'd like to increase our outreach earlier, so that we can reach more students. Business and more businesses.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We had 39 this year?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: 41, finishing with 39.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I assume we asked for 40 or 41.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Well, we had the \$100,000 allotment, and that's I was able to fit the 40 into it. So just kind of

worked out. But again, if we want to shoot for higher, we can start that whole process now.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: But it's just a request for an increase in funds. Then you try to plug in what you think you will need per student. It sounds like you met the needs, if not had the potential of exceeding those needs this year.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: We definitely met the needs this year, and just by timing, we might have missed out on a few opportunities. But again, with more available time next year, we should be able to support a larger program, and PED is 100% behind us, because I think there's 46,000 students in the state that qualify for this program. Right now, we're running about 2,600 that would qualify or would be eligible. That's basically how many 14 through 18-year-olds we have. We have about 2,600 participating. PED at one point had that up to about 4000 I think, but they'd like to see that number get up to 10,000 or more. The legislature basically, they haven't quite given them a blank check, but basically, they have full support that if they can grow the program, the legislature will support it.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Of our 39 this summer or 40 this summer. How many worked for the County versus private?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Well, I think you heard testimony at a different meeting that I think we had, 10 working up in Manzano, kind of in a private capacity. I think we had, I really don't, I'm guessing, I think we had about 8 or 10 working for the County, and then several others, kind of spaced out with Bethel and other organizations in the libraries. So, I would say probably about a quarter we're working for the County directly.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: I was so impressed, especially with the interns that work for Arley. She's a tough lady, and she put them to hard work here in the building, and just actually everywhere, all the students that I saw working were doing such a great job, and I've gotten just tons of accolades about all. So like I said, this is just a fantastic program for the County. I mean directly for the Administrative Offices but for the private individuals, it's hard to hire a student in a private business for just a few weeks But this is a way that we can assist those organizations with doing that. I know that there have been several job offers actually made to students who are graduating this year to work for those businesses in the future.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Did any of our students work for any of our Municipalities within our County?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: Yes, I think I can definitely count the libraries amongst that. So, we had some at Moriarty Public Library, Estancia Public Library. Then I believe we had a couple working with the Civic Center in Moriarty as well.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Chief, this is something I would really like for maybe you to get involved next year, is to get some of these students.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: I'm sorry I forgot Chief Smith, the Sheriff's Office, Animal Services, so maybe it was more like 12. So, 1/3 work through the County. I had coordinators to handle most of the stuff for me.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I would like those numbers in the future just to where we have a handle because it also ties it helps with economic that helps with development, that sort of thing.

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: One of the things we were really looking at is we would like these kids to be either volunteers or work professionally for these departments, for the Sheriff's Office. We would like them to come back as CSAs. There's no downside to any part of this, really. It's just something we need to be doing.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: What about the Road Department? Did you have any?

Luke Fields- Planning and Zoning; former Grants Administrator: They had some.

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

15. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. GRANTS: Presentation on the 2025 Summer Enrichment Intern Program.
Moved before public comment.

B. FIRE: Discussion on the Consolidation of the Torrance County Fire Districts.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: So, I really think we're to the point where we go one direction or another. I want to give you guys as much quality information as I can. I just spoke with a Fire Marshal, Randy Barela, on Monday, asking his advice. What do you think? Because we're really breaking it down to whether we do a one consolidation, one whole department, or we break it up into two regions, North region, and the South region. I was surprised, but Mr. Barela, State Fire Marshal, said his suggestion for us, the condition we're in, would be a regional separation, to have a North and a South. The process now basically is we break down the mapping if you guys approve it, and that's the direction you want to go. We break down the mapping into the different districts. Where we make the delineation line, we make a resolution, and we move forward, the volunteers will be somewhat separated. They are still going to be able to respond County wide, but it will be some type of they'll be directly supervised by a Northern Battalion, and then the Southern Battalion will have another Chief over them, a Volunteer Chief for those, those pay per call members of the department.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What is his reasoning for the two versus one?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Because he really does see, and Commissioner Jaramillo and I have talked quite a bit about it. He does see how much we have to do, how much work we have to do on the Southern end. I met with the Encino Chief. I didn't realize that until I met with the Mayor and the Chief down there in Encino, that was under you, Commissioner Schwebach, but we had a conversation there. They're very interested in coming into consolidation as well, a whole bunch of concepts. But that's where we're at right now. Where do we do the two regions? Do we do the one, we need to move forward that will lock us in for that year period that I was talking about? Then it all falls on to us to do all the training, make sure we have all of our ducks in a row to have that ISO evaluation. I spoke with an individual, his name is Johnny Barros, who is going to do our evaluation, and I will be very tied to him throughout this year process to come out and help us. What do we need here? What apparatus makes sense to move here? So, I'm really confident

we can get some good numbers. After the year, the training is going full blast. We've got another firefighter, one and fire two classes coming over for our paid staff members and some of the volunteers the paper staff members. So, I think we've got some of the people that are already up to 150 hours of their 240 hours they need annually for training. So, we're going to be good with training. That's such a big component to that good number for your ISO rating.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So where do you see the boundary? Would it be like District One, District Two, Northern, District Three would be the southern. Or is there a more?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: So, the districts still somewhat remain the same. I would like to expand those lines a little bit. I don't really like for example, District One, that's all the way down in Duran for 30 people. I don't know how much sense that makes to keep a paid station up there when we're 15-17, miles away from Encino, that has a better building, that we could have people staffed in there, and maybe have a sub t. So, there's some nuances, like that Indian Hills expanding that district to a little bit over District Five. But those are all conversations that I'd like to have with you guys, too, on the mapping and especially the County Manager.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: You're saying District One, District Two would be the northern part of this?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: No, it wouldn't be broken down by the political districts that you guys represent. It would be the six Fire Districts. How do we modify those to make a little bit more sense impact? The district here expand it a little bit too. To give a little bit more response area for this district, if that makes sense, because, like, two's is pretty small.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Will you merge them, like, if we need more fire and rescue here, we don't have the ability to do that. Can they come over from the Northern District.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Every volunteer will still be a County-wide resource, and will be deployable to the Southern end, another Northern end, wherever our event that we're having is actually happening. But as far as the ISOs are concerned, there will be two regions that will have two different ISO evaluation numbers, if that makes sense.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So, our job is to pick up those ISO numbers in the Southern District.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: In the Southern end, in collaborating with the County Manager, have some good ideas to try and bring up the paper call members down on the Southern end. We are actively interviewing for the positions for the paid staff. We've got the approval from the State Fire Marshal, to allow us to put paid staff 24/7 in the Willard station, which will be a good footprint down there, to assist with Mountainair and Estancia sliding up that 41 corridor. Then if we do get Encino, which the Mayor and the Fire Chief both said they're interested in doing, that will give us a good, solid base over on that 285 that doesn't have a whole bunch of calls.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So, what is the difference in what we're doing now versus separating the two? Is it to protect the ISO ratings in the Northern end.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Actually, for both, because in your district in Duran, if we do not consolidate right now, that will be dropped to a 10. Indian Hills is looking to be dropped to a 10, because there just hasn't been any interaction from activity from the volunteers. I just went to a fire down there, a wildfire off the 54 there was nobody from Duran that responded. We had our solid core of volunteers and paid per call staff that are up in District Three and District Five, and they responded and helped with that call.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: So, we have bad ISO ratings on all.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: All over. It's not just this district.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, I'll bring up one of the conversations you and I had, and the Chief was asking me, you know, what do you think? What direction do you want to go? The kind of conclusion I came up with was one, no matter what ISO, ratings are going to drop, okay? Two, I look at this more of as a management tool within our fire, and that's what I encourage the chief to do. How are you going to manage both these districts, or one district? What makes more sense? Because overall, we're going to our goal is to raise ISO clear across the board. So that boils back to management funds which and so I'm assuming, when you're telling us about North and South, you've evaluated the management potential of it?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Yes, and it works better. The individuals are all ready. I haven't gotten the tap yet, because I want to wait for this whole thing to happen, but I've got my choices.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Then the last thing is the timing of it, because we have a year before the next ISO rating. So, do we need to do it now? Would it be beneficial to wait a couple months to make it official, to start the clock?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I got in and basically a month and a half after I was being called by ISO telling me that we were regressing to attend in District Two. I've held them off. So, I think it's something that we need to make a decision, next Commission meeting, because I think we can save those Two Districts, Duran and Indian Hills, from regressing all the way to a 10 and let's just get moving. I mean, it's time. We're doing it. We're doing the training. Everything's already moving. I mean, there's no time like the present. In my opinion that's what we need to do.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's what I needed to hear. With that being said, I'm all for the Two Districts. Then we're going to be approving the map, what it looks like and all that sort of stuff. In my opinion, I think when we start drawing these lines, we need to look have it more so at management and serviceability, rather than gerrymandering for ISO. I think that needs to be at the forefront of creating these lines.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: We'll approve it at the next meeting.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yeah, this is just discussion. We need to see a map. We need to see a resolution.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: You've talked about Indian Hills, Duran and ISO's. What do the rest of the Districts look like?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: So, District Five up here in Moriarty they are at three or five. McIntosh is a five. Right now, Indian Hills is a 6/6x. I believe Duran is eight, if I remember correctly. I didn't write those down, but I can get those numbers for you.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: I would like to see the movements of ISOs work for the good and for the bad.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: There will be, not right now. What we're doing is just locking in the number that we have. So, the constituents in Indian Hills aren't being just hammered with an insurance on the insurance rate. We'll have the year then, that falls onto us. We'll have a year to get everything moving, and we're on it already. It's already moving.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: The other question I have, and you made a comment that they're trying to do this statewide. What does this mean for us financially? If we're going from six or seven districts.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: If Encino comes in that that might bring in another.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: But currently we have seven districts.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: We have six and one admin.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: If you take six, and the Fire Funds, and you take them down to two, what kind of hit does the County take financially.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I asked that question three different times, because I wasn't getting the same answer. So let me tell you, because I was confused on that too. We will still have six, possibly seven, if Encino comes into the mix, Districts that will still get fire funding for each individual district based on their ISO, right? So, your ISO is 10. You get \$32,000 a year. Your ISO 1 you bring in \$120,000 a year. I'm paraphrasing those numbers. Don't quote me on those, but those are kind of specific ballparks where you're at and everywhere in between, sliding scale up and down. As you get in the middle, they get less. You get more and more. When you get down to those lower numbers that you're going to recoup from the Fire Funds. But those will remain the same.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: The highest rating we have right now is five. The best rating, is five. In reality, what are we going to aim for?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: Reality, we're going to aim for one. I think there's 320, Fire Departments in the nation that have that ISO rating of one. If you want to get down to those numbers, that comes down to excessive manpower. I mean, a lot like three or four. I think we can probably do a lot of good in a three or four range. Three or four is a realistic number per County in two years. I mean, as

you know, you have 10 years, and you have unlimited bonds, unlimited budget, unlimited people, unlimited water sources, then you can drop it.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: So, you were with me at the Manzano Land Grant meeting, and they're seriously thinking about putting the helipad out, and you talk to that man that's organizing. I wasn't in that conversation. So, is that going to help the ISO any?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I think it's going to be a beneficial thing for that Community. But it doesn't have anything to do with ISO rating.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: So, I hear from you again, it shouldn't hurt us too bad with funding.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: It shouldn't, you'll decrease your grants. I pulled all the grants with Deputy Chief Sanchez. Over the three years, I think it was \$370,000 brought in. We can make that up from lowering these numbers from ten. They are getting \$20,000 a year, we can lower those to five or four. Then we're getting the \$90,000 range for our Fire Funds. The grants aren't guaranteed. The Fire Funds are.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Yeah, those things are a very valid point. Well, I think you have direction then North and South.

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: I'll be in contact with you guys. I'll show you the actual maps that we come up with.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Does the State Fire Marshal have a say on the line?

Gary Smith- County Fire Chief: No, but I will have to go over it with him. In the next two weeks, I'll have to go up and talk to him, show him exactly what we're doing, show him how we're going to break it down. They will want some, I don't think much, influence over it, but they'll just want confirmation on what we're doing.

C. COMMISSION: Discussion of Tajique Property for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority Transfer Station.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chair, Commissioners. I just wanted to provide a bit of an update in terms of where we stand with central negotiations on a new site location for the transfer station into Tajique. So, I ended up reaching out to the Land Grant and asked a few questions. I provided them with a copy of the actual schematics that were provided by the Solid Waste Authority for what their preferred site size would be. Really the questions that went back to the Land Grant were, this is. I think it would be beneficial as far as size. What would we be looking at for a monthly rent payment at the new site? How would we deal with the upgrades, and what would the consideration for the release term be? My understanding is that I went to the Land Grant board about a week ago, and I did get a response. So right now, based off the size from what I was told by the Land Grant, they would keep rent at \$400 a month for the new site location, and the term that they did indicate would be subject to negotiation. But another piece of information that came back from the Land Grant was that they would not be responsible for any site upgrades necessary to the new site, with the new four-acre site, where potentially this would be moved to So, so that's kind of where we stand., I think there's still some more discussions to be had there, potentially. But in addition, I also looked at these other options. We send purchases, yes, and there should be a packet on your table, Mr. Chair, that kind of covers some of those locations, all those things. If you look at the initial picture, just to give the board some perspective on option one, that is where the new site location would be. So, it's going to be on 55 just south of the town of Tajique.

As far as looking at other lease options, we did check around in the area, I have not found anything yet. As far as raw land that would be available to lease. So, the third option we looked at purchasing. There is a subdivision off highway 55 just east of town that has multiple lots available for sale, generally in size range. They are 10 acres plus or minus. This has the same zoning as the new proposed site into so in either way you look, you would need a permit to put up the transfer station, but it's not prohibited. The price point on these lots for sale ranges between \$22,000 and \$35,000. But the one thing through Commissioner Jaramillo, she's been aiding in this process too. In this particular development with the ten-acre lots that's highlighted under Option three, there are Restrictive Covenants in place that would prohibit a transfer station at this location. So that's the kind of work we've done.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: I spoke to Maurice Shafari. He's the owner of the subdivision. He was all for it, and then he came back and said, "We can't do that because of the covenants."

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, that one's off?

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: That one's off, and he had one outside the subdivision, they're still selling lots, and the realtor said it would just deter people from lots if they had a transfer station there. So that's out too.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm not real keen on leasing land that we have to improve for somebody else.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: That is a concern Mr. Chair, I don't know, maybe Mike has an opinion on it too. Again, it's not land that we own but making land improvements to that.

Michael Garcia- County Attorney: No, Mr. Chair I don't have anything to add. I mean, I think that's concern, because if you put in the improvements, then you're going to stay with the land usually.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: What kind of improvements are we talking about because it's just raw land, and whatever they're bringing in, the transfer station will just bring in their equipment.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: They got to build up a road. You have got to have fences, you got to have electricity, potentially, not necessarily. You have to have all that infrastructure in there, and it's money out. I'm not keen on leasing.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: It falls under anti donation at that point. Would it not?

Michael Garcia- County Attorney: It's a question. I don't know. I don't think it necessarily would, because there's consideration back and forth, use of the land and exchange of rent money. But yeah, it could add another complicating factor to it.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Land Grants aren't an official entity as being a land grant.

Michael Garcia- County Attorney: There are government entities.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: We would fund the land. At the Land Grant with dues.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Well, I got to be honest here, here's where I'm just a little bucked and I don't know the history of we have a transfer station up there, and we had land that we put it on. We, being the County, that land was given back to the Land Grant, and now the Land Grant is charging us to put up a collection station for the trash, primarily from their residents. So now they want us to lease and upgrade another piece of land for their services, if their government, I feel that there needs to be a little bit of give here, donation some sort, you know, if we're talking about Land Grant, they want the services up there. When I say that entire amount of Community, they want the services up there. If they're willing to do a long-term lease on the land, we put the upgrades in there for next to no cost, then I'm more willing to do it. But right now, if we're dumping money in there, we're going to be buying the land to where we have say so over. It's just we've already been burned once, and we got the cost of moving that equipment, the cost we put up in that infrastructure. We will go to another lease. It's a matter of time before we can move together.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: How long is the term?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: The term is variable. We haven't got a solid turnback from them. They said that was sort of subject to negotiation.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: What terms would you like?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The terms get the money down when I'm looking at a 40-year term, if we're dumping money on it, I want access to that land for 40 years. I don't want somebody to come in here and say, we're changing the zoning. So now we're going to kick you out. Now we have got to move it again. We have a solution. I mean, we have a working situation that we plant. Did we put money in years ago? That money just didn't come from that area. It came from this entire County. This entire County has to put in more money for that area. I'm not opposed to doing it. It's just that I want to do it right this time.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: But at the time when the County did have the money, I think the residents of Taijque did not want the transition. They are smack in the middle of a Community Center where there's kids going to be playing in the playground. They opposed it then, but we went ahead and put the transfer station.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That was our, Community Center, our property.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: It's a nice center, and it's a beautiful place, but to have a transfer station in it.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I can't argue that, so, work with us. I'm much more inclined on a long lease next to a nothing lease. If it's grant land, money, we don't need that whole property, I'm much more amenable to making it cleaner, neater, more hidden and more presentable to the community. But if I'm paying rent on it, it's going to be bare bones. That's how I view this.

D. TREASURER: Fiscal Year 2025 Closeout

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with status update on the office's progress regarding the bank reconciliation and give context on some of the challenges we've encountered along the way in the bank reconciliation progress and challenges. As of today, we are very close to completing reconciliation for the fiscal year. The main operating account is approximately about 90% complete, and we are actively resolving the remaining discrepancies with the assistance of our contracted Auditor. The tax account is also in progress, with a few journal entries currently being reversed and corrected by myself, the Deputy Treasurer and our Treasury Controller. Our delay in completing the reconciliation stems from a combination of legacy issues, staff transition and have the complexity of transition transactions that were not previously categorized or posted accurately. When I took office in October of 2023, I was informed that I would receive training from the predecessor, who had just transitioned into the Deputy County Manager. However, due to the demands of our new position. She had limited capacity to train me fully. She continued to manage the year end close out and bank reconciliations herself. Upon her retirement, my team and I inherited the responsibilities without having received full training on several core processes.

Since then, my Deputy and I have had to learn hands-on experience we've received. We've reached out to our affiliate agencies and relied on our auditor for guidance. We've made meaningful progress. However, some underlying issues only became apparent as we were starting to dive deeper into the months reconciliation. For example, when I began the July 2024 bank reconciliation, I discovered it had already been partially started, but we weren't able to close it due to discrepancies related to electronic fund transfer EMTs for the P card with Bank of America, after consulting with my predecessor, I was informed that these amounts were not fully reconciled. I made adjustments to match the correct

amounts as closely as possible, and per guidance from our Tyler technologies, we completed the journal entry that offset the remaining balance of \$10.30 that entry was reviewed and approved by the Finance Director Misty Witt and we were able to officially close July as we moved into August, additional issues emerged, particularly with automatic drafts for obligations such as PERA the IRS payments amounts were not always aligned with the general ledger. I asked the auditor to review these discrepancies, and together, we identified a pattern of reoccurring mismatches across multiple months.

These issues stem from voided checks, payroll corrections and transactions posted into incorrect line items, as well as some department errors which have since been resolved. In the tax account there were many transactions they were originally posted to the main operating account. We are actively working to correct these postings, and we are making progress by ourselves, my Deputy and my Treasure Controller. So, moving forward, I want to assure you that my team and I will take full response. We take these responsibilities very seriously. We are committed to ensuring full accuracy and accountability as we finalize that this goal here is close out while with a learning curve. While this learning curve as it's been very steep, we are taking this opportunity to build permanent knowledge, correct the past mistakes, and implement internal process and improvements. We are now refining our internal controls, delegation practices and monthly workflows to ensure timely and accurate reconciliation. Going forward, these changes will help us meet our future deadlines with greater consistency and confidence. I appreciate your patience and your continued support as we work to strengthen the operations of the Treasurer's Office. Any questions?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, I think the first question, and managers told me we will have it reconciled in time to present. Yes. Okay, my next question is, my understanding is there are several months that were not reconciled going back. So, you're trying to do a whole year or something.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: A whole year, we actually had Tyler back out until we had to delete August and July to start from the beginning.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, I have to ask the question, why so late in the term to get it corrected? Why? Why was this not brought up prior with all these issues that I just heard whether it be training, whether it be with Tyler, why was this not brought to the Managers or Commission attention earlier than a deadline.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: We just tried the best that we could.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Did you ask for help? Who's going to help us?

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Well, to answer that question, who's going to help? I think it's obvious that this Commission went ahead and got a third party to come in and help you.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You could ask the question also. I mean, the reality is, the Treasurer runs that office, not the Manager, and it's a Treasurer's duty to take care of this, make us aware when something and it doesn't happen. I'm asking, Where's the reassurances that we're not going to get in this bind again?

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: I'm giving it to you guys. It's not going to happen again. We had no idea how the program even operated with bank rec, no one showed us. None of our staff was trained.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What other training is available? Does the County, the Treasurer's Office, not offer training.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: I don't think anybody in the County offers any training.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Coalition of Counties, state Treasurer's Office?

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: We've reached out to Sandoval County, and they've done some significant help with us.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, the entire issue has been with Tyler. Yes, it's working with Tyler. Okay, and so that is a County issue. Working with Tyler. Is Tyler on the phone now, as in the sense of their answer, and that's not a two-way delay when you call the answer. Is that correct? They don't need to work on that. Do we pay them annually? We do? Okay. I expect service out of it, and I don't know who I need to talk to, but I want some answers. I am sick and tired of hearing the same excuses repeatedly that Tyler has caused this problem.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: We work with two different Tyler programs. We have Tyler Eagle and Tyler Incode. They don't talk to each other,

and between both of them, it's ridiculous to get any kind of answer. Half the time we wait two to three weeks before our ticket even gets answered.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I'm glad we're getting it on track now. I got to be honest, I find it very alarming that it went that many months without being reconciled and no further action was taken until the very end. You know, which is the deadline, which as a Commission, I'm sitting here saying the information I was given, if it's not reconciled, is it accurate information I'm dealing there's my understanding is, there's going to be a few other things that we have to change. But when we start talking about compromising our final budget because our Treasurer's Office is not in compliance. That's a big issue. I think you know that it was a shock to me when I learned this back in December, I guarantee this Commission would have done everything it could to get what you needed.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: I've actually reached out to you. I've called your cell phone numerous times, and it goes straight to voicemail, and your voicemail is full. I've tried to reach out to you, and I've also tried to reach Linda myself.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: You never came into the Commission meeting and said I'd like to meet with you. I apologize if I missed that, actually cleared my voicemail on a weekly basis. So, yeah, it gets filled very quickly. I can be contacted. I'm not dodging your call.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: When we talked, it was early on, when you were going to other Counties to train, and you were at their Counties for how many weeks at one time.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: We've had it. We look like we're going to be fully staffed now.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, when you get in with this, this new stuff, let's get the training done. I mean, I actually talked to Jordan and Misty we talked, we are open to looking at it new ideas, just because you were never trained, or this is how we always done it. I think if you look at this Commission, there's a lot of stuff we're changing. A lot of stuff we're doing different. We're open to that, but it requires you to bring the ideas to us. Please do it. I want that office to be successful.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: My Deputy has been out on maternity leave, and then I've had two to three people out at one time. So, it's been very rough.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I get it, we all got to deal with it. We have deadlines, and that's what I'm saying. There's other avenues to fill those gaps. When you foresee this coming, lean on our staff, on our management. I mean, the County is providing the staff, and there are other things that we can use, but if we don't know about it, we can't do anything about it. I appreciate you coming up here too, and I appreciate that it's on track. I do believe we will get it on track and stay on track.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I appreciate the affirmation that it won't happen again, but I think this Commission is owed a monthly report in coming to a Commission meeting and getting us up to speed, and this month is reconciled. But I think we, as Board of Finance, are owed that. I mean I hope your word is correct, but we need some updates and some communication at a Commission meeting to make sure that we're not getting behind again. That we can get a final budget after a public hearing, which today we weren't able to do.

Kathryn Hernandez- County Treasurer: I think we have the auditor online. He wants to say anything.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: For me, I needed to hear from our Treasurer. I appreciate that. So, I'm satisfied.

E. MANAGER REPORT'S

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I only have a couple items for this month's manager's report. There is a letter on the desk up there for all of you. I did want to make you aware that we received a protest letter in relation to our application to the Office of the State Engineer for the water rights that were purchased from Mr. Larson, part of the reason that the Bohannon and Houston agreement was deferred earlier today is that that agreement, this protest and sort of where EMWT and that project is right now overlap. So, for the next meeting, we want to kind of have a comprehensive discussion of, where EMWT is with the project, as well as Bohannon and Houston's contract, and this protest in a little more detail to talk about processes, procedures and what we're going to do. But essentially, this protest letter was provided by Santos and Leanne Tapia, and it

really covered a couple areas of concern, one of which is that the application lacked some information in it, specifically the section township and range of where the new well is going to be placed.

A secondary concern was that the landowner and the water rights holder were listed in there, of course, Torrance County and Mr. Larson, and EMWT, as the operator of the system, was not listed as part of the application. That was another issue that was cited by Ms. Tapia. Lastly, there was just some concerns regarding the current well that was cited on the application, which is Mr. Larson's irrigation well, and that transferring that right to a deeper, higher capacity well could increase drawdown effects in neighboring wells. We met with Bohannon and Houston and Mr. Larson earlier this week and had a discussion about the best ways to sort this out. We will be reaching out to EMWT, Mr. Larson and myself, to Miss Fauci as part of the process we can attempt and should attempt to try to resolve this protest. So, this does not get to a hearing in Santa Fe and so we will be making efforts within the next week or so to get that done. So, I did want to provide the commission that update but also let them know that there will be a more formalized presentation with Bohannon and Houston and EMWT at the next meeting.

F. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

1) Commissioner Schwebach, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, I would like to address a few things. Firstly, state law says when you're changing certain permits with a well in in changing to consumptive use requires a public comment period notification, and so it's a public opportunity to protest. That's what we have here. They're saying on tap there's some questions I have, we're going to protest that. That's our avenue to actually make sure everything's on and out. The other thing is, so have we been contacted by the State Engineer's Office. Yeah, no, Mister Trump, just set up the hearing date. When it happens is they'll contact us and they say, hey, we have a protest. So now we need to go into a hearing. They're also going to say that if we can address these individuals, they have the opportunity, if we can address their concerns prior to the hearing. So, in essence, this does slow down the permitting process, but it does answer some questions, and so I would like us to reach out and explain some of these.

Firstly, it is not in EMWT's name, because Torrance County residents, through the decision of this Commission, is buying the water rights, and so water rights will stay in the County's name. This gives us the ability to release and or sell these water rights to EMWT. The intention is to lease them to EMWT for the system. With that being said, we're not going to purchase water rights that can't be converted. We're not going to close the deal until it can be converted. The only way to do that is through the landowner to apply for the application. So essentially, we're buying consumptive use water rights. We're not buying irrigation. Okay? There's a big difference. That's why it's worded the way it is. At that point the closing will take place, ownership and names will take place. Then there will be new documentation once EMWT is in place. To lease this water to how to consumptive rate, to address, I can't answer. You know, a low producing Well, well, we don't know if it's a low producing Well, what we're buying is water rights. We're buying licensed water rights. We're converting them to consumptive use in that there is x amount of water that can be diverted. Simple way of saying it. If you can divert one hundred acres of water and convert it to consumptive use, you can only divert fifty acres of water. So, it doesn't matter what it was producing. If you're not pumping as much water, nothing stopping from the owner to pump that full allotment now to do whatever he sees, other than sell it right and grow a crop with it. So, I wanted to bring that up to where people understand, I do not have an explanation on why, why the legal description isn't out there.

We're looking at the new Well, because the new Well, the existing Well is not suitable for consumptive use, and that's the reason behind drilling a new Well to make sure it is designed and engineered correctly to go into a public water system. That's the purpose of the new Well. The intent is that it's not going to be very far from the existing well, because that is a valid concern. Is this new Well? How does it affect existing water rights owners around them? So that is a valid question. That's where the models come in from. The State Engineer, they start saying, this is what we're going to divert here. These are well known, but we're going to retire from this. We'll, put this Well so odds are it's not going to change the cone of depression. I felt it necessary to bring this up, because I feel a lot of individuals don't understand the water rights and the process and all of this, and that's why I wanted to discuss this. We need to reach out to Leanne and discuss this to see if she wants to pull it, if she's satisfied with a question she has, because that is the purpose of it. You know, at the end of the day,

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: How far is this new Well, that we're going to dig, or from the one that we initially had?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I don't know if that's finalized yet.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: That's my understanding. Mr. Chair, there were some potential options that would also require easements and land acquisition on Mr. Larson's current property. But that hasn't been definitively decided as to what the best location is.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is this application to convert it to consumptive use. That's what this application, this permit that is being protest, is to convert it to consumptive use from irrigation. So, before what we're looking to use that water for, before any of that happens, we have to make sure an engineer is going to convert it.

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: So, in the future, when EMWT continues with their process of creating a corridor of from Willard to Moriarty, I guess are we going to be buying the water rights all along. We aren't married to anything, so we just bought these water rights. But in the future, as we progress with this quarter, EMWT is going to buy their own water rights, presumably.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I don't know if it does. Be honest, if it's in I can't point to it exceptionally. It was there in EMWT members, if you're listening to this audience, I think that is a very crucial point in your bylaws. So, it's not there, I would like to highlight it may be tied into your mission statement, because listening to constituents time and time again, that is the biggest concern about this, this water system. That's not the intent from the founding; the intent was to take wet water to where you have two-fold. I mean, just imagine you got one farmer who has a circle he sells that water consumption of half. He's going to get depressed. He's not sucking that water out, not nearly as much. So, his neighbor's wells recover better. So, you're getting two bangs for your buck when you strategically put this, I'm going down a rabbit hole now.

2) Commissioner McCall, District 1

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Well, Chairman, I think you did a great job explaining, to the public water rights and how they work, but the intention of this Commission was to address the issue that we hear time and time again, is that the water, they're trying to do something to take the water out of the valley, and this Commission's intention was that this County would own the water rights and lease them to EMWT, just as Chairman alluded to, we do not want the water to leave the

County, and this is one way in protecting it. Why would Torrance County buy water rights and send them outside of Torrance County? So, to address that, that is part of the reason. I was kind of the one that said, you know what, why can't the County own the water rights, lease it to them? I think it kind of settles the issue, the elephant in the room, about selling water outside of the valley. So, we all thought of that. That was a good idea, and we went down that road. So that is why Torrance County owns these water rights, is to get EMWT started. It's a concept really still at this point, as though we're starting to get a system now that I think they do their own, they needed all the help they could get, and that was one way the County could help and address the issue of water leaving the valley.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: At the end of the day this County, EMWT, our goal, is to deliver quality water to residents in Torrance County at a reasonable price. When I say reasonable cost of production, it's not for profit. When you look at the water planning committee and what they did years ago, one of the driving, I mean, one of the biggest things was to implement a water system, because you have all these residential wells, which, by the way, you can go get a permit and drill a well on your land, and there aren't going to deny it. You may or may not get water. Do you have the ability to drill it? Any licensed water rights? We don't have that ability. To do that, you have to put a permit just like this right here. They don't let us just drill a well. They have to look at it. They have to look at how it affects the neighbors, what you're doing with it, your point of diversion, the purpose behind it. So, it is not as simple as going down to the State Engineer's office and getting a permit.

Everybody knows what it costs to drill a well. Imagine if you have a one-time hookup here for less money than what it costs to drill that well, and then you're looking at the entire valley to put water in there to make sure your home has water, versus what you do right there. In that one area, McIntosh, is suffering because there's wells drilled all over it and it's depleted. That's why everybody's hauling water there. Again, a rabbit hole. I'm done. Let's reach out. Let's visit them if they're welcome to call me if they want to. I mean, I feel a lot of this could be answered with just some questions, but it's their right, and they're exercising their right. So, we'll wait.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Those communications are in process. Mr. Chair. the last thing I just want to bring up for the manager's report is, I did want to take a moment to give some kudos to County staff. You know, with the flooding and the issue that have happened in Ruidoso, there was a coordinated effort here at the County to compile donations and deliver those down to the flood victims. We

got a trailer full of supplies, food, pet food, toiletries, water, a ton of stuff. Staff went out of their way to sort of coordinate that. Melissa did a good job. The Clerk's Office was clearly critical in that process, but we did take it down into Torrance County Trailer to sort of show that Torrance County, is in support of those down there. Really that was a great effort at the staff level. So, I wanted to take a moment to give them those kudos and say thank you.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Thank you to everybody involved. Thank you. I did not know that.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: As Roy, got up this morning and talked about Melody Ranch Manager. You've been, kind of leading that charge on that. Would you mind giving us an update on what you know on the Melody Ranch Water System?

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: I certainly can. So, we've been in communications with a number of different parties regarding what's going on at Melody Ranch, that includes a number of different residents at the facility, Representative Lord at the State Level, as well as the PRC and the owner. There's been a couple conversations with the owner, as I understand it, the issue the underlying issue lies in the water table, and that potentially a new well does need to be drilled to address this. Now, I have different communications from different people. You know, ownerships kind of gives me one perspective. I think residents and I spent quite a bit of time out there talking to County Line Feed about what's going on. You know, they think maybe that's not the case. It is very difficult to navigate a situation like this with partial information. private waters, because it is a private water system, right? Even though it was a public water system, very similar to the issue that happened with the Estancia and the potential shortage there, we had a Town, the County, the rural water authority engineers, the system's largest consumer.

I mean, we met daily, sometimes multiple times a day, for weeks, to try to navigate that issue, because information, in that sense, is critical, and everybody does need to be on the same page about what the underlying issues are to, sort of bring a resolution to the table. So that was the last piece of information that we provided. We did reach out to ownership to try to have a discussion with them and some regional water authorities to discuss how a partnership or change in ownership or something like that might look specifically, because they are a private organization, it's very hard to get state or public financing if the balance sheet can't support digging a new well. There's a number of other water

organizations that are quasi-public that could obtain, state funding to address this issue in the long term. There's a lot of factors that play there. Can they identify money to do it? What does the infrastructure of the system look like? But, from the County's perspective, given that it was a private water company, we did want to explore options, and even if our role was just to try to coordinate those conversations, to find a long-term resolution. We did want to play that role, because you do have the emergent needs of the Community right now which are dire, but until there's a long-term resolution on, how do you upgrade this system? How do you dig a new Well if you need to, and how do you get long term operation that's sustainable and provides long term maintenance, then this problem is just going to linger. You could put a band aid on the situation, but, but you're not providing a long-term fix for the constituents.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: On the grand scheme of things, the County, we can have a supportive role at this time. There's not a whole lot we can do.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: You can assure the citizens of Melody Ranch that we are talking actively. I don't want to get into the specifics of maybe some contracts and some things, but we are working behind the scenes. As Chairman said, there's a limited amount we can do, but thank you to Jordan, what he has been doing, and Sam for that point at the Emergency Manager's Office, getting the tanker in there from Albuquerque Water Authority.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Is that a tanker still there?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I've been resident there for about 30 years now. The water tanker is still there, currently present, from my understanding of talking with the individuals at County Line Feed that where the tanker is located, the City of Albuquerque pro bono, brought that tanker out there for us, and under the understanding that they're supposed to periodically refill that tank as needed. But from what I've understood is that the City of Albuquerque Water Authority only has four tankers available, and under Emergency Management, what's going on. They may have to deploy those tankers down there for that situation as well. Where does that leave us? That leaves us with either one tanker or with no water again.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I did visit with the owner, and this had been a couple weeks ago, and she told me they had some well drillers out there. They're looking at fixing, yeah, it looks like they need to drill new well. But at the

time I talked to her, they were still gathering information. I haven't talked to her since then but it sounded like that was the direction it was going.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: Well, I can actually personally witness and say that we have little visibility of that water company being present out there at all on site. They've come out once. Once in a while, they'll go out, maybe check the meters, or they'll go to the pump house, where the Well is physically located. It's actually about a mile, almost a mile from the actual holding tank for the tank. With the rules of physics, you're actually pumping water uphill trying to pump that. So right now, they're saying that, while they turn the Well pump on, it's only pumping about four gallons a minute, and that is not going to sustain a 60,000-gallon tank to fill that tank up.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: The question is whether or not it's the Well on its ability to give up the water, or the pump itself.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: From my understanding, is that the pump that they had was an inadequate pump, and they were supposed to pull it out, and send it off for repair. The quote that I'm getting from the water company is that they sent it off. How long ago? That was at least a month ago, month and a half, and they said, from their understanding, they're saying that it was going to take two months for repair. That's just for the pump itself we've been given.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, again, I got to say here, as a County one, we can't do anything as a County. We have County residents there, just like between the individual goes down, we can't do anything about, but we can facilitate. So, my suggestion one, and when I get to water systems and the legality of it, I don't know. I do know they have to go through the PRC. I do know that somewhere there is a contract that there is a guarantee that this water system in good standing has X-number of residents, X-amount of water has all of these variables. It's clear they're not in good standing. So, I'm going to have to look at legal advice for these residents on the direction to go. I mean, PRC has been notified. I don't know how hard they can be pushed. I don't know if the County can notify them to see where they are on the PRC side. I don't know what point we can get more real-time demand and accurate information, because two months for repair is not true unless they don't have the money.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: That's what I've been told as well, is that this current water company is bankrupt. They don't have the funds, and they don't have the bill. I can't answer that one, but from what they have told us that

they don't have the funds available and that they're bankrupt, that's their words. By now, like I said, we're kind of fighting the clock. I'm hoping they don't end up filing bankruptcy and then becoming under the protection of the bankruptcy court. Right now, I've gotten in contact with an attorney. I've just got their information yesterday. I'm going to contact them today to try to file, see if we can initiate a class action lawsuit with them. But if they file bankruptcy, then I'm pretty sure they're under the protection of the bankruptcy court.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I suspect there's more Intuit depending on how it's tied to the PRC.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I do know that from looking at the PRC reports and the response, the complaints and the response from the water company, they have been providing false information to the PRC, and we have, have a history of that, and documentation of that, that they have been providing false information. We were just notified earlier, this past Friday, we now have to boil our water. They gave a and how they notified us was that they provided a little piece of paper, and they put it on the cluster mailboxes down at the end of our road. Then they put a little piece of paper, on the chain link fence by the well house. Then they put, I believe, one on the tanker truck at the County Line Store.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Who posted that?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: The Melody Ranch Water Company posted that.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: There is a little bit of water coming up.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: They just turned our water on to a gravity feed, and they just opened it up to where we have water from 8am to 8pm but with the gravity feed. having 78 houses, or whatever, everyone turns their faucet on that goes to a trickle, not even a trickle, just a drop. It will not fill the toilet. The washing machines, we can't even do our washing machines because it'll throw out an error because there's not enough water pressure to run the washing machine.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: What's everybody doing? What are the residents doing?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: Personally, what I've done, I went out, purchased a 275, gallon bulk water storage, filled that up and have it on the trailer behind my house as a backup. But whenever we do get water, we're actually going to windmill or these other places and purchasing water, good, clean drinking, drinkable water to where we can use water for showers. I have an igloo ice chest that I fill up with water, I drop in an immersion heater so I can warm up the water. I bought a camping shower pump or camping shower off Amazon, and we place that in there in order for us to be able to take a shower.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: You made the comment, they're still charging you.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: They are still charging us. I've got my bills here that they've charged us. Even two months ago, they said, I used on average of 1400 gallons of water that jumped the next month to 7600 gallons worth of water. I don't know how that's even possible when the water is not even turned on.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Well, the whole thing, if the system's not pressured up properly, those flow meters are extremely inaccurate.

Michael Garcia- County Attorney: Mr. Chair, just real briefly? I'm not sure of anything that Torrance County can do directly with the PRC, but I do have some ideas. Now. I could talk afterwards. I'd rather talk offline.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I think as far as the County is concerned, as one, we'd be acutely aware of the situation there, and bad aid where we can go through an emergency office, which we're doing. But then I think PRC is the next, avenue, and I agree, I don't want to speak with that.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: How long has this been going on?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: It's been three months now without water it started back in December. Where we gradually had low water pressure, it would fluctuate. Then back in May is when they actually shut our water off without notice. We just got up and the water was turned off. The only way we were getting any type of notification, or any type of communication is we have to call in and hope that they've updated their voice on their voice machine. That's the only way we're getting any type of notification on any type of schedule. They would turn our water on from 6:30AM to 7:30PM they did that two weeks ago. They did

that for about two weeks and that was with pressure. But sometimes they would say, oh, we're going to turn the water on at nine and then they don't even follow their own schedule. They won't turn it on until maybe 10:30AM or 11:00AM.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Do privately owned systems, have anybody that checks on their systems?

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: They have water operators.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: But the state that regularly comes in?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: Unfortunately, in our subdivision, we do not own the water right. Melody Ranch Water Company owns the entire water rights for that subdivision, so I couldn't even drill a well if I wanted to. They wouldn't release the water rights for us.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Have you even attempted to get a permit?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I've tried. When I first moved out there, I was going to and they told me that Melody Ranch Water completely owns water rights, and we were unable to drill a well.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: How big is your lot?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I have a one-acre lot.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: A resident of the state of New Mexico has the right to go after water. They have the right to drill a Well for domestic use, unless there's a covenant or something within the deeded land that you bought saying you cannot drill a Well out there. The flip side to that is that, if it's a water system, what they're saying is, these lots, these homes, we don't want Wells drilled on there, because we have a functioning water system. If their saying, no, you're not going to build because if you get over five homes on the same well, it becomes a system. So, you have guidelines for safe drinking water.

But coming to find out, they don't pay attention to volumes much. The state didn't come and say, you guys aren't pumping enough water. That's up to the operator. When they build these systems, the majority of them are saying, we have the ability to pump 1,000 gallons a minute. So, with those numbers, when they're first introduced, is what says how many homes, how many residents they can put there.

The reality is none of them are even close to that kind of production, because it hasn't been updated. When you start looking at state funding, that's what the states looking at. They are looking at the reality.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: 30 years ago, when I first moved out there. I mean that system was able to be adequate for the number of residents that we had out there, but they didn't take account for growth. We have numerous houses that have been moved into there since then, and more residents have moved in, and it just depleted the system and attacked the system.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: So, we need to wrap this up. I think we're going to have a conversation. So you are here as an individual, or have you guys formally come together with a lawsuit that you represent?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I'm here as an individual right now, other residents were wanting to attend. A couple of them weren't able to for health reasons. They weren't able to get here today. But we're right now, I've been in touch with Stephanie Lord, our State Representative, been working with her quite closely, and she's provided me with an Attorney to contact. I've been reaching out to several Attorneys. There's a couple of them that, because of their caseload, weren't able to take on this case. But, she just recently gave me another contact with an Attorney that's handling the whole Campbell Ranch issue as well.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: I've spoken with Stephanie on multiple occasions about this issue. It keeps coming back to her and I both saying, It's private. We're both on our government side of things, where our hands are tied as a collective body. I would like to collaborate, in the case of the Albuquerque Water Authority, to take this tanker. Do we have any options? I wanted to get to the bottom of that before we dismiss or move on off this topic.

Samantha O'Dell- Emergency Manager: So, we do have the ability to take bottled water out to individuals. We have about two pellets right now, a little over two pellets. So that's only going to go so far. What we have done is identified some elderly individuals that were unable to haul their water from the tanker, and I have taken water to them. So, we've kind of discussed it on a case-by-case basis. I mean, that's a shorter band aid than the tanker is as well I can reach out to the Drinking Water Bureau and see if they can provide information about any other tankers that potentially would be available. I can tell you that when I talked to them previously, it was several months ago about another incident. They said that they only had six

drivers for the entire state. There were some private entities that could help, but somebody has to pay for those.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Do we have tankers in our Fire Departments?

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Not potable?

Samantha O'Dell- Emergency Manager: So, my concern is it has to be potable water, and there has to be testing of the tanker of the water. It's every, I think it's every 48 hours I may have the time frame off, there's continuous testing that has to be done with it. It's not as simple as bringing the water and leaving the water there. So as the County, we don't really have the ability to get the potable water there. I can reach out and see if there's other sources that we can potentially tap into. But I know that in the entire state, it's limited. We're talking about potable water.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: Mr. Chairman, I did check with the Chief on that front too. You know, a couple of the Fire Districts have Wells, again, that's not potable water. But even using the tenders as a basis for water transport, even if you had potable water after putting it in that tanker, it's no longer potable.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: Are the citizens using the tanker?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: We are on a regular basis, daily. We go up there regularly and filling up our water. The water companies even accused the County the Fire Department saying that they have gone out and stolen water. Right now, they said the boil alert is because of the flow rate of our Well, and they're afraid that bacteria is going to develop in the water. It was on the news, Channel 13 did an update, and you could see one of the residents, she filled a pot of water from the sink in her kitchen. You can just see a film, a sludge film across the top, of the water.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: We could, reach out to the Mayor of Moriarty. I think he'd be more than willing to maybe help, with their tanks just down the road from you, just trying to collectively think about what we could do to help.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I've even suggested that with the water company, PRC, to see if they could reach out to do that. I mean, they're right

down the road. They brought out four tanker trucks I think it was last Thursday to fill the 60,000-gallon tank, at the end of our road. But the owner only filled it up to 14,000 gallons. She wouldn't let them fill it full completely.

Linda Jaramillo- County Commissioner: Why?

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: That is the million-dollar question right there. I don't know why.

Kevin McCall- County Vice-Chair: So, I agree we need to move on, let the citizens know this discussion we're trying to the best of our ability, and I appreciate you coming out and being able to have this discussion. We hear you.

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: Like I said, if the possibility of either the State or somebody be able to step in and invoke intimate domain, onto the water company. Be able to take control of that, then they'll be eligible for any type of funding or grants or whatever that's available to them. Get it up to code, get us water. Then maybe sell it off so that the entity can recover.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: I don't know. I think that's where the Attorney might start asking some questions. This is a private business that built it, so that business has to relinquish its property one way or another, right? The question is whether or not the state, because they're through the PRC, force their hand. Can they force their hand to say you are out of compliance because you're not delivering a utility, and force them to put the money into it, loan them the money, something like that. I don't know. Those are all questions that I would encourage you and your fellow residents to get together and find the proper knowledge to push them and not the one-on-one stuff. Collectively, you're going to be much more effective than individuals,

Roy McClellan- Torrance County Resident: I do have a response from the PRC that has advised Melody Ranch Water Company that they gave them a deadline of, last Friday, to be able to produce a plan. An actual, detailed plan of how they're going to impact us, or they're going to replace legal action.

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: That's their words from PRC. I think it would be prudent if we could just contact the PRC on our end and make sure everything's adding up. Make sure they know the County's looking at it. I think that it may be beneficial.

3) Commissioner Jaramillo, District 3

Linda Jaramillo-County Commissioner: Last Thursday, I traveled the roads in our district with our Road Superintendent, Leonard Lujan. We were out there for about six hours. Leonard explained to me, as we traveled the processes used to maintain all County Roads. I've lived here all my life and traveled many of our County Roads, but I never realized the extent of the roads which are off the beaten track. I'd like to assure those who call me that I will contact Leonard on any road issues, and Leonard is very good about responding to any calls that I make to him. I gained respect for those who work in our Road Department and the enormous task that they have in maintaining our County Roads, I want everybody to just be patient, because they have lots and lots and lots of roads that they have to deal with. We were out there, we were around the round top, and a storm hit. I mean, it was a bad rain for and in that little while the road was kind of messed up.

So, you can see how bad rain can just destroy a road, but they just can't go out immediately, because they have to let it dry and do all these things. But I give kudos to our Road Department for what they do, and it's just a lot of roads to maintain. I will ask everybody to be patient. On Friday, I attended the County Extension Office Meet and Greet at the Fairgrounds. It was impressive, it was so impressive and informative. I met people from state agencies who work closely with our local Extension Office. The Extension Office has so much to offer our youth and adults who wish to participate in their many classes. I was most impressed with the kids who were there to show their projects and their art, and they were so respectful and so polite. I was so impressed with those kids I would like to take classes or whatever is available with the Extension Office myself, the Extension Office is doing a fantastic job. I wish more people knew about what they have to offer. On Sunday, I attended the Manzano Land Grant meeting, and asked our Fire Chief Gary Smith, to attend as well, because they were going to discuss a helipad, and I wanted him to see how that would affect them, taking people up to that area. It's kind of rough right now, but I think with time, they can get it going. There is another helipad in Mountainair, and I talked to the Mayor of Mountainair, and he's going to take me out there on a tour. Then the Fire Chief called me also, and he said he'd give me some information on that. I've answered a lot of calls and emails. I tried to respond to everybody that I could and get back to them.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

17. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioner's Meeting:

August 13, 2025 at 9:00AM

18. SIGNING OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

19. ADJOURNED.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to adjourn.

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

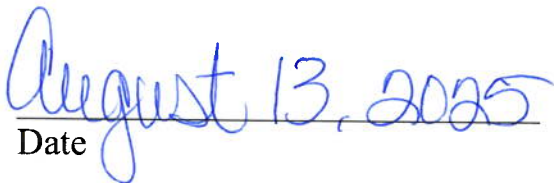
The meeting adjourned at 12:28PM



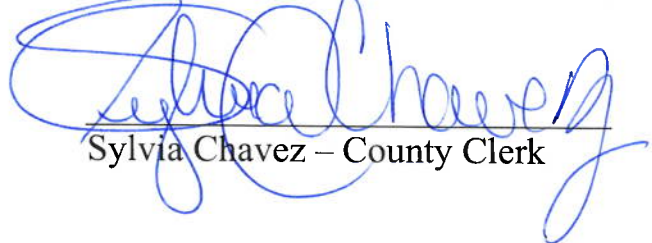
Ryan Schwebach – Chairman



Mackenzie Carlson – Admin Assistant



Date



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

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