

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
August 27, 2025
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

J. JORDAN BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER
MISTY WITT – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY
SYLVIA CHAVEZ – COUNTY CLERK
GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III
DONALD GOEN – PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR

1. **Call the Meeting to order.**

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Calls the August 27, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

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

Invocation led by: Kevin McCall – County Commissioner

3. **Changes to the Agenda:**

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: None

4. **PROCLAMATION:** None

5. **AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS:** None

6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None

A. PLANNING AND ZONING: Request the Reappointment of Rhonda King for a Second Term as a Torrance County Representative to the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee.

Rhonda King: It's a real honor to be here with you today. I have lots of fond memories of Torrance County when I represented this area in the legislature. I can remember attending the swearing-in of the Commission and other elected officials when my daughter Ashley was just about six weeks old. I came down with my father and daughter. Former Judge Jones swore me in that day, and now it's hard to believe that my daughter's going to be turning 21 in a few weeks. Time goes by quickly, but Torrance County is certainly special to me. I hold a lot of very fond memories of representing this area. I want to thank all of you, and I appreciate the opportunity to be considered to be reappointed to the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee. With my background of growing up here and also representing this area in the legislature for 14 years and then being part of the farming and ranching community, I hope I can bring a perspective that will help the committee move forward in its mission, its goals that it has. Thank you today for allowing me to have the honor of your consideration to be reappointed.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to reappoint Rhonda King.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

Lucy Lawarnce, Resident: It's entitled, "Bring it back and create anew." The County Fair should be fun. Attendance is way down, as we all know. Let's bring it back. Marketing is a major concern. I have done due diligence in that area. This is an example of what can be done and the information that can be put out. (held up a

poster). If you'd like to look at it closer, it is available. I would require access to information about past participants to entice them to return. However, there needs to be attractions. Livestock is wonderful, but there needs to be music, a dance for all concerned, even a DJ to get those feet tapping, interviews for winners of the exhibit hall, and even a dinner of some kind. People need to be acknowledged for their efforts, perhaps with stories about something creative that happened with their artwork. This can be done with an announcement in the schools, a short paragraph upon entry, and bios on some of the animals. Have a calling contest on cows and chickens, and pigs. Make one of those photo-op cutouts. Shoot the rubber ducky with a squirt gun and a water pond, or a Duck Race. Have an open mic. Bring in local musicians. I have found that if you pay them for food and gas, they'll come, pony rides for kids, corn hole, hula hoops, how to train your bunny for a litter box in the house, and a kissing booth. Bring in a carnival dunk tank, butcher paper with crayons for whoever can be creative, and be occupied in gunfights with foam balls, or laser tag. Learn cursive, or their signature. For those who do want to learn, learn to play poker with pinto beans and make little chicken hats for the winners. All of this, I believe, can be done by disseminating information through County and state radio, newspapers, and other media. The marketing person I have in mind can reach out throughout the County via email.

Tracey Master, Resident: Thank you to the Commission and County Manager for taking seriously the concerns involving Valencia Shelter Services and times when they have failed to assist our Torrance County victims of domestic violence. I saw the press release on Facebook yesterday, indicating that the contract had concluded, but that they would still be here for Torrance County residents. Interestingly, the first time VSS mentions Torrance County on Facebook is to say the contract is concluded. It's kind of like a bad relationship where she knows he's going to break up with her, so she breaks up with him first. Apparently, you can pretend he didn't know the Commission was already working on this and then spin a press release to say anything you want. I don't know where things stand currently for this, but I can say that through my own experiences, I never heard a complaint about the responsiveness of the DV program when it was operated in-house. Specifically, I would call an officer who told me that when the Jarah was here, everything went smoothly. You may want to consider the possibility of bringing her back and having things in-house with appropriate funding. Additionally, there are several former trained and dedicated VSS employees who might want to

continue trying to make a difference in our community. I appreciate you looking at the different options and being willing to do whatever. It takes time to provide needed services, and I still stand by to help. Thank you.

***Comments by Zoom**

Tiffany Wong, Innovation Law Lab: Played audio in Spanish.

Arial Prado, Innovation Law Lab: I'll read a translation of the recording that my colleague played. My name is Axel Alberto Carrillo Moreno. I'm a 22-year-old Salvadoran. Since my youth, I've always had dreams and goals. I've aspired to achieve through school and through church. My parents are pastors, and I've always been raised in the church. As part of that, I also studied music. I'm a musician, and I know how to play quite a few instruments, and as time went by, my Country denied me all those opportunities, through injustice, through racism, through abuse. That is the reason that I had to leave behind my dreams in my Country, looking for a new opportunity. I came to the United States, where everything was going well. For a while. I lived with my family, who live here, with my Uncle, Aunt, Cousins, and everything was going well. I started studying English to renew my dreams, which I had left in El Salvador. Everything was going well until the laws changed. I was detained by ICE agents, and in a very unfair way, I am currently being held at the Torrance County Detention Center. The guards discriminate against us. They treat us badly. The accommodations are very bad. The facilities are very bad, the water, I don't know what, but one feels like it's not good for your body when you drink it. The food doesn't sustain you at all. A lot of us detained here suffer from illnesses, and so we just pray to God that one day this will end and remain only a nightmare. Thank you for your time.

8. Department updates and Communication:

A. EMWT: Project Update

Bobby Ortiz, EMWT Regional Water: Amy May, one of our Board Members, and Donzel Worthington from Bohannon-Huston are here with me. We appreciate

the opportunity to give you an update on this project. These projects are finally getting traction.

Donzel Worthington, Bohannon-Huston: I'm pleased to be associated with the EMWT regional water. This was a presentation we did at the New Mexico Infrastructure Finance conference a few months ago. The Estancia Basin was declared in 1950; there have been a couple of expansions since then. It makes up a fairly large basin, 2400 square miles, a closed groundwater basin. Through those years, because of threats and concerns about water quality, there have been organizations, such as the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee, the Estancia Basin Resource Association, EMW gas water division, and later, the EMWT Regional Water Association is the entity that's organized regionalization in conjunction with the Communities in the basin that are part of the EMWT organization. One of the reasons the State Engineer was concerned with this was because there was concern about depleting water. This was as of 2013: 5000 domestic, 1100 irrigation, 19 municipal.

Years ago, the EPWC concerns prohibited severe evaporation of water, protecting existing water rights, promoting sustainability, comprehensive programs, safe, high-quality water, and water management by a localized source. The timeline of what's going on for a while. It was originally in 2007 that the first PDR was done, and you'll see the timelines. It's had funding through Senator Bingaman, before the downturn of 2008, when the money went away, and since then, USDA has provided funding for it. Since that time, there have been three preliminary engineering ports completed, approved by the state, along with the long-range master plan and environmental reports, two of them approved by the state for this project and the long-range master plan. That all culminates in the most recent years with the New Mexico Water Trust Board funding. The biggest point of concern today is that in FY23, the association made an application to the New Mexico Water Trust Board for design and construction of the McIntosh port project, which is a public water system serving the unincorporated community of McIntosh here in Torrance County. That area has been underserved and has had failing water wells and water levels. The EMWT received a 100% grant of \$491,050 in the FY 23 funding cycle, which was actually FY 2024 before it was closed. That was a 100% grant for design purposes, with instructions by the Water Trust Board to get the design done. Then come back to the Water Trust Board for construction. As part of an application, the Water Trust Board requires some local match and some investment as far as a local match or participation of other funds. As part of that at that time for that FY 23 application, Torrance County came to the table with some support for that project in the form of an American Projects Fund application grant

money, a 100% grant on that end, which they were able to utilize for part of this, and one reason is that the Water Trust Board funds are not allowed for the acquisition and ownership of water rights, just for the water systems. Torrance County, with 100% grant funds, came to the table, and since then, has put together the acquisition of water rights for the project, which the Torrance County owns, and has purchased those and put them in place. It's being reviewed right now by the OSE would tend to do approval and to close that condition for that in and that also includes the funds to complete the rest of the design for the McIntosh project.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: What was the amount that the County gave?

Donzel Worthington, Bohannon-Huston: Approximately \$981,155. The most recent FY 25 Water Trust Board Foundation was for construction funds only, as the Water Trust Board had advised EMWT to come back to the table for \$14 million for construction funds to complete the work that was done with the previous awards for design and the grants through the County for water acquisition, water rights, and phase two design. That application has been approved in its initial application, it's in the process of closing now, and the award that's been awarded, that's being closed, looking at the final application, is \$14 million request through the Water Trust Board, at 90% grant. The three funding allowances so far that have been either awarded or are in the process of being awarded for this project. The first two were under a percent grant. The last one is a 90% grant. Of this entire project, less than 10% is money that would require debt service for repayment. In the bylaws of EMWT, when Incorporated, it has been updated since then and has been based on the concept that the work, if completed and happens, would have to be based on there being competitive rates for the users in that area to subsidize to pay for this through a subsidy on that end. At this point, it appears that's on track to make that happen. We are looking forward to finishing up the third. 60% plans are complete and will be invoiced in one or two weeks and are completed as well. They are anticipated to be completed before the end of the calendar year. The calendar year and the Water Trust Board have given us an extension through March of next year to complete this and keep the project moving, and be ready to go to bid. In which case, they anticipate the construction funds to be available by year's end as well. We can move right to the construction of the full project and the implementation of it at that point. We're ongoing with EMWT to continue to have meetings to address concerns or questions that people have.

The generalized layout of the system changed slightly. This was out of the preliminary engineering, but the tank location had moved a little bit of the well, if it's supported, which is a pipeline from the Willard area to Moriarty area, the 41 corridor that could convey water for the various water users to provide, to move water as needed when someone's out of water, for instance, when Estancia was struggling with water here lately. In that case, you could move water sold or leased through that pipeline. We had a meeting on this last week with a new organization through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and they expressed that they liked this project and would really like to see some participation in it at a 90% grant, which suddenly makes it very viable at that point. If that's something that is wanted. The last estimate on that one is approximately \$30 million. It's gone up since that, although in the last six months, we're seeing a little bit of stabilization in our bid cost. We're hitting some bids pretty well, having some contractors come in under our bids and awarding some a little more competitive bids than we've seen for two or three years now, which is positive.

Bobby Ortiz, EMWT Regional Water: In this particular phase of the project, we may or may not be able to get funding for the full corridor, but we can develop a phased approach to it and knock off chunks of the time and eventually connect these communities for some redundancy in the water system. That's the goal.

Donzel Worthington, Bohannon-Huston: We meet this week with the Drinking Water Bureau's new division that's in the recent regionalization money. They do have 90% grant money available, and they like pipeline-connected projects, and this could be phased as funds are available to keep it affordable. Most people who look at this have wanted to look at the regionalization activities. That's been one reason that the Community and the area have gotten so much grant money; it's happened that we have ongoing issues. Unsolicited queries for people wanting to sell water rights. There's a surprising number of people who contact and do that. Private water systems like EMWT have been approached by PRC in recent weeks and months to look at possibly helping them out to take care of some of their concerning water systems in the area. They could be a milestone to help them make those happen. We've had unsolicited requests to take over ownership and operations of existing private water systems. EMWT has recently acquired, and the process to acquire another local water system that has had challenges. We'll be looking at additional funding through the Water Trust Board to implement improvements for those systems, if they are acquired. Local, established private systems are in the process of purchase by EMWT, or, in some cases, gifting, because there's no one prepared to operate or run those systems. There are the local established private systems, or negotiation for conveyance. There's been a lot of

interest in this regionalization. We get more calls and several meetings with the PRC and people in the state who are asking if the EMWT might be in place to help assist some of these underserved or systems that are failing or struggling. There are excerpts from the set of plans from a while back. The plans are much more advanced, and we still anticipate our deadline with the Water Trust Board is to be out for bid by March 2026. We anticipate making that before the end of the year, and that would be to move forward with a bid for the full project. Work with phase one, phase two, and have the system and operation, ideally, if everything stays in place and works perfectly. Late 2026, early 2027 is when it should be complete in the operation.

Bobby Ortiz, EMWT Regional Water: EMWT has acquired Homestead Estates north of where we are already in the business now. We're selling water. We're still working through the hoops of the PRC on that; they're working with us, trying to get that conveyed over EMWT 100% on the PRC side of the regulatory side. We are reading the meters. We're managing it. We're operating the system. We've got a water operator working with us. Ed Cardenas is helping us out as well. We are also getting ready to close on the Sunset Acres subdivision, Northwest of Moriarty. The first agreements are in place; now we're getting the attorneys together to get the closing scheduled and get all that completed. We have been approached by EMWT with the PRC in regards to Melody Ranch. We all know what the situation they're in there. I've been speaking with Jordan Barela here at the County, we've been working together, setting up meetings and getting some discussion going. We had a Board Meeting last night, and everybody agreed that we can start doing some due diligence on that to see if it's something that we want to take on. It seems like a good fit for us. I've spoken with the folks from Melody Ranch, and they're amenable to donating the system and the water rights. We understand the situation, and we need to get water there, whether by drilling a new well or a pipeline to another well. We need to take a step back, make sure we understand what the system is comprised of. We've had Bohannon-Huston do some tech memos for us on other Homestead Estates and Sunset Acres that we go in and we pothole, and we look at the conditions of the lines. We try and get a good understanding of what type of valves they use, make sure they're zoned correctly, so we can isolate problems if we have them. We want to look at the tank condition, etc. We would also like to see if the well may be able to be drilled deeper, and we can utilize that for the interim. We're looking for some money to take to do that due diligence at this point. The discussion is moving forward.

One of my daily chores today is to get a hold of the PRC and let them know that we are interested, and we're going to move forward with some due diligence on

that and see what we can do to help. This is not going to be an overnight solution. If we do decide to move down that road would have to go through the acquisition component of it, which is not too difficult; we've done it in the past. We have some templates in place. We'll need to work with the state agencies or the federal agencies to try and get funding for that. However, we're going to get water to that system. It's not going to be a one-month solution, maybe six months. I can't give you a timeline, but we're pushing as hard as we can.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: The reality is that Melody Ranch has been without water for six months. It's been a long time. Is there any way that we can speed that up? I agree with due diligence. But if due diligence comes out, yes, this is something EMWT wants to acquire. What do we have in place? Do we have to wait for a monthly board meeting? Do we have an operator that can move forward within parameters? What does that look like?

Bobby Ortiz, EMWT Regional Water: We can call special meetings; we have to advertise correctly. We do plan on expediting this as much as possible. The reason I put the big timeline out there is that on the grant side of things, we're working with whatever entity we're going to apply to. The state can give us a commitment, we're going to give you this grant. They'll get a grant. They'll do this well, they'll say, "Well, you can apply for that grant, and hopefully you get it". I would figure, under the circumstances, they would get some political push to help push that through, but that takes time. One way the County could help would be to potentially fund some help in some way, and then, with the thought that once we get the monies in place. That's a gamble on the County's part, because we don't know if we're going to be awarded any grants at this point.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I think that's something that needs to be talked about. EMWT was modeled after EMW Gas, which is a nonprofit. What makes us unique is that you're bound to the cost of production. Just like the County can't put in a negative budget. You can't put in a negative budget, but you can't retain profits either; you're limited. Rates could be evolving once more customers, in theory. That's what happens with EMW Gas. They expand it and the cost, and the list goes on and on. That's a huge advantage. You also have access to low-interest loans from PRC, from USDA, and from different entities that a private entity would not have access to. Is that correct?

Bobby Ortiz, EMWT Regional Water: Not PRC. I don't think the PRC is a grant, but any state or federal agency, yes. The grant that we got from the Water Trust Board is a point two and five percent, quarter percent; they do have very

low-interest loans. In working with the PRC and Med, they've given me a list of state agencies that I believe would try and help out as much as possible and get us the financing of money in place. It takes time to do that. If we decide to move forward with this, we can work with the County and potentially come up with a solution to get the funding up front. Once we get that funded from a different source, we will pay back the County. That may be an option for Melody Ranch. Between Donzel and me and the other board members, we put a lot of time into this. This has been a long time coming, but we're getting some traction, and we appreciate all the support we've gotten from your board and you all.

B. PMS: Annual Program Update

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: We're here to provide an annual update for the Senior Program. In FY 25, we served 40,710 meals between home-delivered and congregate. We're still struggling a little bit to get clients back into the centers following COVID. They got attached to the grab-and-go pick up their meals, but we're continuing to work on strategies to get them back in the door. Any help you can give us to share that information, we would certainly appreciate. In your packet. You have a copy of our financial statement, which is also something that we provide to AAA. Greg is my Financial Manager, is here to answer any questions that you might have about the document.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Currently, we don't pay anything for janitorial; we're not doing the service ourselves.

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: At the time, we entered into the initial contract for the janitorial services, which was probably six years ago. The County staff was doing it, but there was only one person, and so it was really tough for that person to make it fully around to all the sites. We entered into the agreement initially, and what we do is we just pay one of our staff a couple of extra hours a week to do the deep cleaning at the centers.

Mountainair is our largest participant. They probably get anywhere from 25 to 35 a day. Estancia is very up and down. They can be as low as four, up to 15 or 20. Moriarty is a little more stagnant because we haven't had a full staff. We're open fewer hours, but I would say it's probably on average 15-18 hours a day. It's a congregate setting that gets one meal a day. Home-delivered get a hot meal, and then on the weekends, they get two additional meals for the weekend if they need

their daily recommended nutrition. We've done a couple of split routes. This was something that was implemented maybe two weeks ago. That's when Lisa started doing those routes, because there are not enough hours in the day and time in our delivery window. This is every day, but we ensure they have a meal every day.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: You are intercepting all of our long-term and aging funding. This \$40,000 is an addition to that to provide the services that you need.

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: In all transparency and as a good partner in the County. PMS is looking at all of our contracts, because we currently contract in three Counties, Torrance, McKinley, and Catron. We notified AAA that mid-year, we're going to have to do a review to see where we're at, because we can't continue to lose dollars, and we appreciate and it's on the agenda. A while later, the \$30,000 that Commission has approved for this year to help offset some of the costs, but some very basic information that I want you to be aware of is that our funding back in FY16 was about \$389,000, which is what we received from AAA. 10 years later, we received \$438,000, in 10 years, where we've increased meals by almost 2000, we've had a \$40,000 increase from AAA. We would request that we continue to be strong partners, that you advocate at the state level for Aging and Long-term services funding, because it's not enough. There are a lot of programs across the state that are closing because they don't have the funding. We're glad that we have the PMS umbrella to help subsidize some of this. In the hard economic times, PMS is also struggling at the clinic level. Our cost of doing business has gone up. Our reimbursement rates have stayed the same. I wanted to let you know that we will be reviewing the year of our contract and whether we will renew that contract with AAA. We hope we can continue to work and find other, other ways to help subsidize the program, because if this program doesn't fit into the PMS mission, I don't know what does, and so I implore you to talk to anybody.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: What is the shortfall projected?

Greg Smith, Financial Manager: The actual income statement this past year that ended June 30 was one of the better years that there's been fiscally in as close as PMS has been to the black as possible, and that shortfall is still \$7,600.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: That includes the \$30,000 that the County gave last year?

Greg Smith, Financial Manager: No, sir, we did not receive \$30,000 from the County. As Angie mentioned, the difference we were cut in budget this year versus what we received last year by AAA federal dollars is essential in remaining. The same, but the state dollars, which are House Bill 2, changed drastically. We also received \$40,000 from Senator Stefanics's GRO money. We had understood initially that that was going to be \$40,000 over two years, but we received notice mid-year, January this year, that it all had to be expended this year. That brought that dollar amount closer to that zero budget, which we look for, but we don't have that this year coming. We are losing approximately \$80,000 from last year to this year, and that is before we finish our budget, because our budget year is the calendar year. We're right in the middle of doing our budgets for our FY26 coming up, and the initial shortfall is \$80,000, but I believe it's going to grow from that. For example, insurance is going to go up 7% and within that, the big thing that we don't add into our budget because AAA asks us not to put it in. These are our indirect costs. Our indirect costs are approximately 10% to 12% of the total expense. The total expense is going to be close to \$600,000; we can add about another close to \$60,000 on top of that. I won't know that until everything's approved towards the end of this year, the calendar year. That's when the reevaluation was done.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: The \$80,000 shortfall includes operational and cost of goods, total \$80,000 shortfall?

Greg Smith, Financial Manager: That's correct. Torrance County only.

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: We had a full-time lobbyist; he just retired. We have not hired yet; he's still a friend of PMS, and he will talk to anybody who will listen. Larry Martinez was with PMS for many years, and he lobbied, and he will continue to do so. We all have good relationships. We communicate and send them updates and information. We invite them to come to the programs. Senator Stefanics is probably the closest relationship we have, because she's been involved in this County.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: As I'm there, I will advocate.

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: We appreciate the partnership with the County.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Your budget starts first of the year, you'll have final budgets by to end of this quarter?

Angela Coburn, PMS Coordinator: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We need to have another conversation in November, where we can be prepped on what that final budget looks like, and get it to the legislation. Get with Misty, make sure we have those numbers in front of us.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I'm concerned about this program.

Greg Smith, Financial Manager: We will finalize our budgets for calendar year 2026, mid to late October. All that reporting will be available mid to late November.

C. DWI: Annual Program Update

Myra Luna, County DWI Program Coordinator: I started working in my position on February 10 of this year. In the first four and a half months, I completed over 20 trainings related to my job and how to enter information into the systems that the Compliance Officer uses to enter offender information. I've attended several meetings, monthly, such as the Criminal Justice Coordinator Council meeting, Estancia Valley Youth and Family Council, Teen Court, Partnership for Healthy Torrance County, DWI grant council meeting in Santa Fe, and DWI court. I've organized two DWI court planning council meetings; the next public meeting is September 4, in Moriarty. I attended the Community Alcohol Prevention Summit in Albuquerque and DWI Day in Santa Fe. I've gone to over 20 businesses in Moriarty, Estancia, Willard, and Mountainair to provide posters, brochures, coasters, and other items with DWI prevention information and to advertise a Smart Choice ride van. Then I've attended 12 Community events. There have been school events, Estancia High School Reach Day, Mountainair High School prom, and Mountainair School District field day. At these events, we had tables where we provided free information, brochures, and promotional items like pencils, frisbees, etc.

In FY25, we've spent money to advertise a smart choice van ride on Radio 102.1, and we've had ads in the Independent newspaper. There's a new billboard on I-40 behind Arby's restaurant. We partnered with Law Enforcement for FY25 to pay overtime for DWI-related checkpoints, patrols, etc. We spent approximately \$22,235 on that over the last couple of months. I have been assisting the Misdemeanor Compliance Department during their vacancy. FY25, our grant was

\$100,000, \$58,215.52 was awarded in a special application as a result of FY24 reverted monies. Our distribution was \$102,682. Our distribution for FY26 will be about \$200 less. Our grant has been reduced to \$96,000. Most of the money used in FY25 was spent in the fourth quarter. I try to utilize our money as much as possible, and we ended up returning \$69,622. Most of that money was for Smart Choice van overtime, \$7,570, \$10,000 for out-of-state travel. I'm trying to learn the job. \$26,000 in contractual services. \$22,295 in employee benefits.

Our goals for FY26 are definitely to expend as much money as possible and to ensure that monies for treatment are spent for offenders, as treatment greatly helps reduce recidivism. I have a meeting next week with Chaplain Gary from Torrance County Detention Facility to set up classes there with an evidence-based curriculum for inmates who are there because of DWI or DWI-related offenses. A lot of them are domestic violence-related and start NAA meetings at the facility. I worked there for six years. I know that can be something that can work. We are attempting to find and purchase a Smart Choice van. The one we have has over 229,000 miles. The lights are going on, and the inside is in very poor condition. Ruben took the van for a diagnostic, and we're going to work on getting quotes for repairs. In the meantime, for FY25, we had approximately 43 riders; so far, for FY26, we have had 24 riders. Ridership is up. I think the advertising and getting the word out are helping.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the August 13, 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. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **FINANCE:** Request approval of payables with date range August 07, 2025, to August 20, 2025.

Action Taken:

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Motion to approve payables.

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

11. TORRANCE COUNTY BOARD OF FINANCE

- A. **TREASURER:** Treasurer's Board of Finance Report and FY25 Bank Reconciliation Update

Kathyrn Hernandez, County Treasurer: For July, all accounts are current and reconciled with the bank. Except for the Main Account and the Tax Account. The Main Account reconciliation is approximately 99% complete. The only thing remaining that we have is that it involves two deposits that Finance entered, which are under the online items. It's caused the deposits to post on my credit during the end-of-day closeout. I have already discussed this with Misty; however, neither she nor I has been able to resolve the correction. I currently have about 20 open tickets with Tyler, and I've stressed the urgency of this matter through multiple follow-ups and emails. We have not received any resolution. On the Tax Account, I have Franchesca, Carol, Sharaya, and myself working diligently to complete the reconciliation as quickly as possible. Have a large item from the prior fiscal year that we've not properly posted out, and we are currently working with both the bank and our folks to ensure balances are accurate and aligned. This is a priority, and significant progress has been made with it. This afternoon, at 4:30, we have a meeting with the Auditor, Justin, and Misty. That concludes my update. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We're almost done with last year's?

Kathyrn Hernandez, County Treasurer: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: How are we doing on this year's?

Kathyrn Hernandez, County Treasurer: We can't reconcile till the others are done. The system only allows one year at a time, but it's not going to be an issue. Probably going to take me two days to get it done. Justin will show us how to upload the numbers.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Where does this put us with the state and our budget?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: Thus far, we have not submitted the FY 25 Q4 reporting, nor the FY26 final budget. I have been transparent with DFA. I let them know that it's not getting submitted by the deadline. Obviously, the deadline has passed. We have, however, received three follow-up letters from the DFA thus far inquiring about the submission of both of those items.

Kathyrn Hernandez, County Treasurer: If we reverse anything in the system, it can mess up more than we anticipate. That's why we need Tyler to make sure we do it accurately.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: We have spoken with a few different technical support people about these two transactions that Madam Treasurer is referring to. They have given us some partial solutions, but it doesn't fix the whole problem. They told us how to do journal entries, but it doesn't fix the invoicing side. We're trying to get with Tyler to get both sides of that program. We fix one side, we have to fix the other, and that is where we're having the whole depth is, getting both of those sides of the program to match.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Until that's fixed, you can't reconcile anything, now?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: On the main account, she cannot close reconciliation until those two transactions are done on the Tax Account, which is independent of those; they can continue to work on and reconcile in the meantime, which is the bigger task at hand right now.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: On the three letters we've gotten from the DFA, are there any consequences?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: We haven't yet; however, the most recent inquiry they sent was from their Department Head. It is escalating rather quickly. I

assume, now that the top of the DFA is involved, we will probably start to see a little bit more.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: What can we anticipate?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: That's to be determined. I know one of the biggest impacts, especially with DFA, was not to release future funding. That could be one consequence, funding from the state if we don't get our final budgets, and obviously, audit findings are another consequence that it's going to happen. It'll also put us in a bad light. There are a lot of funding entities for grants that call the DFA for references on Counties, and as long as we are not current, they will not provide a good reference for even outside funding sources outside of the state. It'll really start affecting the incoming funds. If we don't get this reconciled.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We're thinking maybe after this meeting today, you're going to get your answers?

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: I hope I'm going to continue on them. I go on to the chat on Tyler and watch all day for a response.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Have you looked at a different way to close it out? If we get a glitch on a computer, is there any other way to do it?

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: We can try it. We can do the reversal on it.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: We did reach out to the local Tyler team. They have a Tyler tech team in Albuquerque. However, they told us they're not assigned to our account, and they can't help us. We have tried to escalate with Tyler. We just kind of get the run around on that.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I think we need to look at an alternative way of filing it, and we need to put Tyler responsible of it. If we can talk to the DFA, we're talking about two entries. Surely we can figure that out on hand in the ledger in front of a piece of paper and an affidavit, can we not?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I think at this point, we have an option to either reverse them or do a journal entry; it would probably mess up the accounts

receivable side of the outstanding invoice. I think the worst-case scenario on that would probably be an audit finding.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Is that better than possibly not receiving funds?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I would say yes. I think we're looking at about \$4,000 between the two transactions.

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: I can go to the office and probably do a reversal now.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Reversal, what does that mean?

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: Reverse it out of the system and try to push it to the current location. Because it was closed out with the end-of-day process, with the staff. When the deposit was brought into the office, it combined the entire end of the day, and the numbers might not balance.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: The consequences of that accurate reconciliation on dates, which would be the audit finding. If we document that we knowingly do this, we backed it out. These are the correct dates. It's no different than procurement, and the dates missed the closing date, and it comes before the Commission. We approve it. Can we not just do something like that? We know what's there. We have a system that is not allowing us to do this. It is ridiculous. If we need to bring it before here and have the Commission sign off on it, saying we're aware of it, I don't know. There's got to be a way.

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: Have a comment regarding Tyler. Interestingly, the Treasurer's Office can't get the support from Tyler. I'm surprised that they're not getting the support from Tyler that they need on the financial side, because certainly, as far as the Assessor's Office goes, we have that support. We have contact people, and whenever we have an issue, a ticket is turned in, or a phone call is made, and they assist us. I find it interesting that on the finance side that Tyler isn't assisting and they're not returning phone calls or providing the support that they're being paid to give us. I know who our contacts are. I don't know if they're the same contacts for the Treasurer's Office or not, and Misty is saying no, but, interestingly, we have the same software, but different support systems, one that assists.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Are you aware of all these tickets? Are you in the middle of this in the Manager's Office?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I do not see the ticket submitted on behalf of other departments. Madam Treasurer has let us know that when she submits tickets, she's working with Tyler and putting in tickets, and then making calls.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I'm going to want to bring the Manager's Office in on this. It's nothing personal. We need to get this fixed. Whether it's with Tyler, whether it's with the office, I need verification that these tickets are going through, that there are no calls coming back, that the emails are going through, and some answers.

B. FINANCE: Finance Department Board of Finance Report

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: You are now receiving monthly updates with the Board of Finance from the Treasurer's Office. I felt it may be appropriate and proposed to the board to provide a finance update monthly. This is an evolving report. Please give me your feedback. Tell me if you want more information or less information. What we've started with this month is a budget versus actual synopsis for July. As the reconciliations get caught up. We will plan to add revenues, budget versus actual, to the monthly reports as well. On page one of your packet, I tried to put together a summary for the General Fund, Road Fund, Fire Administration, Emergency Management, County infrastructure, and Dispatch. I tried to give you a summary of most of our meat and potatoes for the operating expenses and personnel expenses, excluding Special Funds. I wanted to open up the transparency for the Commission for the public and staff about where we are as far as expenditures in the budget. For example, in the General Fund, I included the personnel expenses. We've used approximately 10% of the personnel expense budget. Then, Operating Expenses, we spent about 12% of our Operating Expenses out of the General Fund. Each one of those categories you'll see on page one is the same sort of formula, just so that you all can see where we stand on pages two and three. I gave you the breakdown, including special funds, in case you wanted to review those as the Commission. Of course, most of those special funds are going to be grant-funded, or they're going to be things like the Clerk's fund that can only be spent on certain items for the Clerk. They're not part of our General Operating Budget, but that is provided if you would like to see that. Lastly, I provided an Account Summary breakdown, so that will show you by IGL, by department,

where we're at, as far as the expenditures budgeted versus the actual amounts thus far for July. As time goes on, if the Commission can tell me if this would be of interest to you. I do plan on providing presentations, probably not monthly, but every about cash flow projections, especially for investment, the main decisions, and investment committees, etc. I'll start providing cash flow projections. I also want to do projections as far as overall budget, revenue, expenditures, and where we're at, percentage-wise. I think that'll help in budgeting decisions going on, to get that actual dollar for spending 80% of our budget and zero goes on, whatever that looks like. I would like to start doing some trend analysis from the economic side of things as to where our GRTs are coming from. What industries are they coming from? I'm going to take a little deeper dive into that and try to do some GRT trend analysis for the Commission.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I think that's a great idea, especially for me, learning the budget, and instead of waiting till the end, when we have to approve the budget, we can be familiar all the way through. I appreciate this.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I like it, it will help.

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

13. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION: None

14. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

A. MANAGER: Request Approval of Task Order No. 2 for Bohannon-Huston for the McIntosh Water Rights Evaluation, Amending Bohannon-Huston's Scope of Work, and Reallocating Existing Appropriations to Additional Services Related to the Acquisition of Water Rights.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: Donzel Worthington is here with BHI, who can answer questions. BHI has provided the County with task order two, which essentially amends the scope of work for the initial project, phase two project of

the EMWT project that they've been working on, and the purpose of this amendment is to change the scope to add additional work related to the acquisition of the water rights. That additional scope of work would include meetings with the OSC, with the project owner, looking at potential hydrological studies and land acquisition to acquire property for the well from Mr. Larson, as well as additional work related to the protest and help the County navigate that process. In total, the change in scope would amount to about \$26,285, which is not new money for the project. That's just reallocating money that's already been appropriated to different functions related to the project.

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. FINANCE: Request Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement Between Torrance County and Presbyterian Medical Services, Allocating \$10,000.00 in Janitorial Services Funding and \$30,000.00 in Food Services Funding for FY26.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I want to point out the changes for transparency for the public. The last paragraph on page one has changed. It changed from what it said. PMS has agreed to provide all necessary meals and delivery for Senior Citizen Centers for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the amount of \$30,000. That verbiage was changed to say for the period of July 2025 through June 2026, or until the \$30,000 is fully expended, whichever comes first. Similar language was included on page two, item three, to add that in there, whichever comes first of \$30,000 being fully expended, or for FY 26. That was a request of the PMS legal team.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I don't like that first page where they can stop services after \$30,000 is expended; that could leave our citizens high and dry. Could it not?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: It could. The initial agreement said that after the \$30,000 was expended, PMS would be liable to cover those additional

expenses. As PMS presented, they don't have the funds to cover the additional expenses, which is why they requested the change to the agreement.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I assume they'll be diligent with money, but nothing says they have to. That could be months, weeks, that our citizens, our elderly citizens, go without eating. You have to sign a contract that says you will go from this calendar to this date to this date with the services.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I agree with where you're coming from, because what this essentially says is there's no guarantee there. Taking this \$30,000 budgeting out throughout the year, there are just no options for I get what they're saying; they may or may not be out of funds. It doesn't mean we just throw \$30,000 at it and we have no services. It's tough to do when you don't see the full projection they're getting close to.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Another troublesome thing is that they were here, and they left.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I want more discussions on this. PMS has done a good job. I think they are short on cash, like everybody else. I alluded to this when I was visiting with them. I don't know the entire funding mechanisms, and I don't have the confidence that this is all we've got. I feel like they're looking at the County to fill in the gaps, which may be the only option, but I need to feel comfortable enough that all other options have been exhausted, and I don't have those answers. In the verbiage of this, they could essentially spend our \$30,000 in two months, and services cut for the remainder of it. We have no control over those funds. If they spend the \$30,000 after they spend their funds on a budget that we look at, then they give us, and we say our \$30,000 is going to cover the last two months of the year, we can look at that. We can look at bringing it down, as long as they're up to \$30,000 on a monthly payment, as long as they're providing services. We need some verbiage in there to stretch that out. I also want to talk to AAA and all the other players.

Michael I. Garcia, County Attorney: One thought is maybe to have the expenditures every month, so that it doesn't get all spent at once. We could maybe put some wording in the contract.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: The other thing, if they come up with funding and they're willing to do a 12-month contract, and that might change once they finish their budget, that's their preliminary projections. The verbiage of the

contract does hinge on their budget and what those services look like, because if they're \$80,000 short, what does that mean? I think we need those answers before we sign a contract.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: In terms of my discussions with PMS, that is a variable. I think there's still a lot of unknowns in terms of the final funding that they're going to get and how to approach it. Based on initial conversations, they indicated to me they'd probably be two months short of funding at their current operations. But what that means, practically, was still kind of up in the air as well. Do you stop services for two months? Do you cut back services throughout the course of the year to ensure that you're functioning for a full 12 months? What are those services, and what does that look like? I think they were still trying to work out some of those items internally.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Motion to defer till we have more information.

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. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/MANAGER: Request Ratification of the State Homeland Security Grant Program Application in the Amount of \$155,000.00 for: (1) Law Enforcement Training, Travel Expenses and Overtime Costs, (2) Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (3) Mobile Radio Accessories, (4) Generators, and (5) Base Radio Systems.

Samantha O'Dell, County Emergency Manager: The reason we're requesting ratification on this application is that this grant was released from the state on a Friday afternoon with a deadline of Wednesday. We went ahead and submitted it with the Manager's approval, and then I brought it in before you for ratification. There is a breakdown of what amounts are per item. The way it's broken down, total \$155,000, with \$10,000 is law enforcement training, training, travel expenses is \$15,000, training overtime is \$25,000, the unmanned aircraft system is \$20,000, mobile radio accessories is \$30,000, generators is the \$25,000 base station radios is \$30,000 and this grant is for two years, and there is no match. We don't know what

we will get from this grant; these numbers are based on meeting with the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. ASSESSOR: Request Approval of an Unauthorized Purchase in the Amount of \$95.70 to Rich Ford for an Oil Change and Vehicle Service.

Geno Jones, Assessor Office Manager: This is an isolated incident where the unit was picked up from our fleet, and it was done without a PO. Today I'm requesting permission to pay that PO.

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. ROADS: Request Authorization to Reclassify One Full-Time Roads Laborer Position into Two Part-Time Roads Laborer Positions Utilizing the Current Allocated Budget Authority.

Leonard Lujan, County Road Superintendent: A couple of years ago, we opened that Labor position. Trying to get Labor to come into work in our department. Nobody wants to apply for a Labor position. We have a Labor issue in the way we wrote it out because they're not allowed to run equipment. They are there to help us do other stuff. We have two areas, Cedarvale and Cedarville. I think that in them areas, I could utilize a part-time position, especially the Encino area, rather than having a full-time position, having somebody to have to drive from here all the way over there every single day. I think there's not enough traffic

out there. It's mainly ranchers, a couple of people who call us. We know them really well. The roads have to be done. Years ago, I did have a part-time job out there. It worked really good, but he passed away on us, and there's just nobody out there that wants to work. We're thinking, if we converted part-time positions, maybe we can find somebody, or we can find somebody from here who has a job that wants to work a few hours. We can train them on a machine, and they could run and take care of the mariners, which I could bring my guy that I have in the Cedarville area closer to us, that would be more on the roads where we have all the public running on the roads, because seemingly they want us to be maintaining the roads a lot more than we and keep up with them. I think this would be better. All we're doing is just changing the name from labor to part-time.

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

Leonard Lujan, County Road Superintendent: An update on East Martinez. I'm getting emails on it. The state and we are looking into whether there is a state road number. They are saying there is no number and are not going to maintain it anymore; it's going to be County Road. They want us to look to see if we can find out who owns it, because they can't find out who owns East Martinez from 41 all the way to 203. They just paved it two years ago, and they found out that it does not have a state road number.

F. SHERIFF: Request Approval of a Cost of Care Agreement Between Torrance County and Bernalillo County for the Detention of Youth Arrestees and/or Detainees at the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: We have been presented with a Cost of Care Agreement with Bernalillo County for juveniles who need to be placed in custody, who are arrested in Torrance. Bernalillo is the closest facility to us. In the last couple of years, juvenile correctional facilities across the state were shut down. I believe the Sheriff can speak to the frequency with which juveniles are detained

either for criminal charges or by the state for protective custody reasons. This agreement will allow us access to the facility in Bernalillo County, should we have to detain a juvenile, and would outline the cost associated, the daily bed rate for those juveniles held in custody at that facility. We currently have an agreement with Bernalillo County, but that agreement has expired. The MOU is indefinite.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: How many nights have we paid Bernalillo County to hold them for juvenile?

Reecie Eckard, County Sheriff Executive Assistant: I haven't paid for one bill in a year; it's not common, and we do need to have something in case you need a backup plan.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve 13F.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

G. LEGAL: Request Approval of the New Mexico Department of Corrections 2025 Second Quarter Restrictive Housing Report.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: This information has personal identifying information that the Commission has been provided. This is not included in the packet material. This is a report from the New Mexico Corrections Department related to detainees at TCDF who were put in restrictive custody. This information has to be provided to New Mexico Counties.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve 13G.

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

15. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Discussion on the Use of Title III Funding in the Amount of \$219,971.72 for the Purchase of First Responder Radios to Allow for Improved Interoperability.

Samantha O'Dell, County Emergency Manager: The County receives funding annually from the Forest Service, a Title III funding that can be used for County projects. It's not been used in quite some time. It was brought to our attention that it will revert in September 2026 if it's not utilized. We currently have \$219,971.73 that we would like to put towards the radio upgrade to the state radio system. We do have to have a 45-day public comment period. This is to let the Commission, as well as the public, know that we're in that 45-day public comment period. Currently, it has been placed on the County website. New Mexico news put it out in their online publication yesterday. It's going out in the Indi paper today, and then Mountainair Dispatch also pushed it out last night. These are handheld radios or unit radios. It would be for first responders for the County, whether it be the Sheriff's Department or, Fire Department.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: With the overall radio project and upgrading everybody's radios. You know, we did receive \$350,000 in grant funding, but we still have a gap. With Title III funding, one of the primary purposes that it can be used for is interoperability and communications. It did seem like a good source to get us a lot further along in terms of upgrading all of the radios for Fire, Sheriff, and other county departments.

B. FIRE: Discussion of the Torrance County Employee Volunteer Firefighter Program.

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: This is County Manager Barela's idea. They used it up in Santa Fe County. This allows us to try and put an influx into some of our volunteers in the southern end. We currently have approximately 45 volunteers. Less than half of them are active; this program would allow them to be able to do some of the training. I don't think any of them will get up to our standard that we're going to have for training, but we'll at least be able to put them through a little makeshift fire academy, we'll get them up on driving the trucks safely, do an emergency vehicle operator course with them, and get them through some type of

pump offs, so they can take the truck to the scene. Then, when the fully fledged firefighters show up on scene, they'll at least have water to their hoses. They'll be able to start working. I think it's an awesome idea. It would allow them to have five hours of annual leave per week for the allotment of that condensed, makeshift academy of a four-week pilot program. We're talking about coming back, readjusting in six months. See if it works, see if we got any takers, see if it makes a difference.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: This is a program that Santa Fe County implemented about a couple of years ago. I went through it, and I think they were seeing the same issues that we're seeing here, which is little to no participation on the volunteer side. Specifically in Torrance County, we have about 143 employees right now, a lot of whom reside in Torrance County and live in some of the districts in which we have no participation. The way that we envision the program functioning is to get some type of fire support for people who reside in the County as a whole, but primarily in the southern part of the County. The thought would be to allocate about 20 hours of administrative leave over the course of a month, or a month and a half, because another issue that really happens with volunteers, specifically people with full-time jobs, is that they do not have the time to get in the amount of training necessary to operate equipment, etc. Similar to how it's been framed in Santa Fe, there would be just for assumption, five hours for four Thursdays in a row, where the training Chief would put together a baseline training plan for any employees who would be interested in the program, where they would learn emergency vehicle operations, how to work the trucks. After 20 hours, they would get deployed back in the field. If they did respond to a scene, they would be paid per call as any volunteer would. It would not be overtime, it wouldn't be the regular pay rate, but it is an opportunity to get some people who are employed in the County committed to the County, lived in the County, responding to some of these calls, and even if it is as simple as getting a truck or a tender with water to a scene in the southern part of the County quickly. When certified firefighters get there, the resources are there and available, and it really helps the Fire Department's response time in terms of adequately addressing that. We did put some feelers out to some employees that we knew who lived in those areas. We did get a response back, at least from five individuals, that they would be interested in doing this program if it were rolled out. This was a discussion item today. I think we wanted to get some feedback from the Commission in terms of your thoughts. If it does sound like it's a good idea, we would bring back a resolution to implement it. We did want to look at this as a pilot program to say, let's do this first round, see if we get any type of response. See if these people are actually going in their districts, if they're getting involved in their districts, and is it successful, and

then in about six months, bringing that data back to the Commission to see if this is something worthwhile continuing and implementing long term, or if it's something that we want to sort of nip in the bud then, because it's really not having the effect that we intended it to have.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I'm good with it.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Would that put your department in any trouble if four or five of them decided that's what they want to do, go get trained? That's the last thing I want to do. I understand we need to fill the gap. We've got some issues. I just want to hear from you, because I think your department would be the one that could do this.

Leonard Lujan, County Road Superintendent: I think it'd be a good program to try. It's not like it's going to be forever. It's four weeks of getting trained. Once they sign up for it, they just have to make sure that's where they're going. They would literally go to that training and be there for those four weeks. They're going to be on the clock but be at training. I think, in the long run, it would help, because it is part of our County, and it's most of our guys, that's where they come from. We got a lot of guys that come out of the South. They said they would sign up to do that, just to get training. I don't think it would hurt us, because it would be a scheduled time. If we had a snowstorm or something, it might be different, but as long as we're doing regular work, it would be alright.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We are good with it. Let's give it a try.

C. FINANCE: Discussion on the Potential Outsourcing of Payroll Processing for Torrance County

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: In this discussion item, I wanted to bring to you all the different ways that we can streamline the processes within Finance since our reorganization. We all had conversations about that process and what that looks like in my new role. One idea is outsourcing payroll. Payroll is a huge ask for the Finance Department. I would estimate that Joanna is spending anywhere between 10 and 12 hours every other week on regular payroll processing alone. That's not any payroll corrections or handling the benefits; that's not any of that extra stuff. This would be one way to streamline some of the finance duties. I have met with three different companies and got three different payroll outsourcing

options. I provided what each of those options would cost us. I would like to recommend going with option three. We would be changing to a platform called ISolved. They would handle our timekeeping, and that would be where the payroll processing happens. Then, a company called The Payroll Company out of Albuquerque would do the payroll processing. That would be a full, comprehensive payroll process, all the way from processing every other week payroll to doing the PERA reporting to the W-2, IRS reporting, and payments; all of those things would be handled by this outsourced company. Some of the benefits of that would be that we had some audit findings for PERA reconciliations last year. We also received some of those IRS notices that came before our Commission last year. Hopefully, this will clear up some of those potential audit findings and liabilities that we get. I think it would also be a lot more user-friendly and transparent for employees and department heads as well. Right now, all of our systems within the County have separate systems that don't talk to each other. We have a time clock that doesn't talk to payroll, which is processing Tyler, which doesn't talk to ESS, which is the employee side of things, where they can view pay stubs. None of the information can be synced, so none of the information matches. With the ISolved platform or another platform that we choose, those would all be in one system, and an employee, department head, and payroll department would see the same thing. I think it'll be a lot easier as far as that goes. The other side of this is that down the road, we could bring an HR module in. This could be a comprehensive plan that HR could use down the road, if she chooses. We're under a contract until 2027, with our current HR platform, but we could look at where we have one system that all talks together and alleviates some of these issues. The other thing to consider as we're having these discussions is if we did switch to a different platform and an outsourced payroll provider, we could get rid of Time Clock Plus, and also the Tyler payroll module, which is called Personnel Management. Getting rid of those two items would result in cost savings, approximately \$18,000 annually. We could reallocate that \$18,000 into this new outsourced payroll system. Option three costs \$30,356, which would be the annual cost. We would be looking at an additional \$12,000 that we would need to fund; the County would need to outsource.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Why is there such a big difference in these costs between options one, two, and three?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I had that same question. When I met with option three, The Payroll Company. Their focus is local; they are out of Albuquerque. They don't provide services nationally. These other companies do

that, which is why charges are higher. They have a lot larger customer base. The Payroll Company and ISL platform have a smaller, more localized customer base. They pride themselves on keeping those prices low.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: The company already has contracts with local County governments, then the state of New Mexico, that are similar to our County in size.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: We had discussions about the Fire Department's schedule. They are also familiar with working with Unions, which is another advantage for the Fire Department, as well as the Sheriff's Department, which has a shift differential. I also spoke with Cibola County and Guadalupe County. Those are two of the Counties that use them now. They're both very happy. They say it was an easy transition, that they handle all of their reporting. All we have to do on our side is approve timecards, and then they send us a journal entry to put into Tyler. The Treasurer's Office can reconcile the bank. It does take a lot off the plate of the County. They assume all liability for payroll and tax errors.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: How does it interface? How does that work? How is that approved?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: Employees have to go in and approve their time on their time clock. They check to make sure that it's accurate and make sure they put in all their PTO requests. Then it goes to the Department Heads, where Department Heads can review to make sure they've met their minimum hours, to make sure that they took PTO on the days they said they did. Once the Manager approves, it kicks up for payroll processing. That process would still say the same.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: If an employee had an issue with their payroll, would they contact them directly?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: They contact the payroll company directly, providing customer support for our employees.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I'm assuming you're looking at this because Finance is a little overwhelmed at the moment.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: Finance is overwhelmed at the moment. I think I see an opportunity to clean up our audit findings and liabilities, and free up

some time. That will also streamline a lot of what I do. I'm doing a lot of the quarterly tax returns, responding to the IRS notices, and anything pertaining to that. It frees up my time as well, a little bit on some of those payroll-related tasks.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Do you think, based on the current workload in Finance, that this is enough to settle it without adding another position?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: I believe so. I do not feel we would have to add another position in Finance.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Let's move forward with this.

D. CLERK'S REPORTS:

Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk: I came to you two weeks ago to let you know that we were going to have candidate filing day. It was yesterday. I had 34 candidates come in and file for positions. Three positions were not filed for; two were from Encino. One was for their two-year Trustee position, and one was for their four-year position. Mountainair Public Schools had a board member position that was not filled. People still have the opportunity to come in next Tuesday to file as a write-in candidate. I was trying to explain yesterday, because people were thinking that they could come in today and still file. I explained the write-in process; they can file as a write-in, and they would be a candidate. Their name does not appear on the ballot. People physically have to write their name on the ballot.

I have a list of everybody who filed. In the City of Moriarty, we had two Council positions available. We had four people who applied: Bobby Ortiz, Maggie Gibson, Kenneth Snow, and Robin Spalding. For Municipal Judge, incumbent Bobby Garcia. He was the only one who declared his candidacy. For the Town of Estancia, for the Mayor position, incumbent Nathan Dile and Runnel Riley. For the Trustee positions, stating that they have two positions available for the Town of Estancia. We have three individuals declare: Albert Lovato, Martin Lucero, and Mark Martinez. For Municipal Judge for the Town of Estancia, incumbent Bruce Dial and Irina Dile declare their candidacy. For the Town of Mountainair's Mayor position, incumbent Mayor Peter Nieto and Ernesto Lopez Jr. There are two Council positions: Jose Torrez and Dustin Kayser. For the Village of Willard, the Mayor position, Edward Redondo, two trustee positions for the Village of Willard,

Roberta Chavez and David Dean. For the Village of Encino, for their Mayor position, that's for a two-year term, Elias Sanchez. No one else filed for the other positions they had available.

For the school districts, Moriarty/Edgewood School District 81.3. I didn't have anybody from the Torrance side declare, but there was somebody from Santa Fe County who did declare; there is someone to fill that position. At the Estancia Municipal School, they have three positions that are available: Randol Riley, Heather Hedges, Roy Hubbard, Lee Weidner, and Jonathan Barela. Mountainair Public Schools had two positions, only one declared, Lori Archuleta. In the Conservation Districts for the Central Tri-County, there were two positions available; Danielle Presley Johnston filed on the Torrance County side. There was a position filed on the Santa Fe side. For the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District. We had two positions available, and three people declared: Jim Berlier, Joe Everett, and John Humphries. In Claunch Pinto, there were two positions available: David Cain and Thomas Carroll.

I'll be in the process of qualifying these particular candidates who came in and declared yesterday. I will give you an update on my process. In September, I will be contacting all my Precinct Workers to see who is available and who would like to work on Election Day, Early Voting, and Absentee Voting. I will have programming/certification of the tabulators in the latter part of September, which I will announce that everybody can attend. It is open to the public; people can come and view as certification of our tabulators. Then we will have our Election School. We went to individualized training for our Precinct Workers. Instead of doing one big election school, as we have done in the past. We were finding that people were having issues with the Ballot On Demand. We went on to having individualized training for each polling location, which cut down on errors. October 7 is when early voting starts, and Election Day is November 4.

Reminder: Candidate filing day for write-ins is next Tuesday. Hopefully, the Village of Encino will speak to some people in the Village and see if anyone will declare. If no one ever comes in to declare, the Municipality or the school board will have the opportunity to appoint someone.

E. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I wanted to give the Commission an update on Melody Ranch and where that water situation is currently. My understanding in

terms of talking to Bobby Ortiz is that there was an EMWT meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening. Potentially exploring the option of the acquisition of Melody Ranch. I will follow up with Bobby to see where that is in the short run. The Albuquerque Water Authority, we've had several conversations with them. There is a tanker still currently deployed out at Melody Ranch and available to residents at the County Line Feed. In talking to the Albuquerque Water Authority, they deployed a tanker last Wednesday. The original one was 6000 gallons. It got down to about 500 before they redeployed another one. They would likely be able to deploy one more tanker, and then they would have to pull water services from that facility. They do not sell or haul water. Their ability to do this is based on a grant-funded emergency program they put together. Through that program, they are limited in terms of how much water they can deploy to an area. Moving forward, private water hauling would be an option. You still have to take into consideration the tanker and the deployment method, because that's a factor. I did want to make the board aware, a tanker was lasting anywhere from 10 days to two weeks. If they deploy another tanker this week, we're probably talking within, by the end of the month, early September, that the Albuquerque Water Authority would have to pull from the location.

Another update is related to Valencia Shelter Services. I know this information went out to the Commission, but for members of the public, we received a 60-day notice of termination of our MOU with Valencia Shelter Services, which would mean that the MOU would expire on or about October 25 of this year. They did not give an explicit reason. I would summarize it in terms of saying that they felt that their services were not supported by the County, having a feeling that they did not have support internally.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Can we terminate sooner?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I'll take a look at the contract to make that determination. I think the 60 days was a provision of the MOU, which is why they provided that to us. From the County side, I can take a look and see if that's a possibility. Interestingly enough, though, the Commission did provide us direction to look at some potential options for domestic violence services in the County. All Faiths is a nonprofit organization out of Albuquerque that provides similar services in that area. The day that we received this notice of termination from VSS, we held a meeting with All Faiths to discuss what those services might look like in Torrance County. I provided some details in terms of the County, what our previous arrangements have been with VSS, what we provide, as far as financing through grants, as well as in-kind services. They are supposed to be getting us a

proposal. Hopefully, we'll have a proposal within the next week or two that we can bring back to the Commission. We'll also discuss a contingency plan in case, for whatever reason, All Faiths does not become an organization that's able to assist us, and what we do in the short run to ensure that those services are provided to residents. I've also notified the Undersheriff about what was going on with this particular MOU and what options we're looking at to address it.

The last item is the reason why I was late today. I attended a CCJ Committee hearing that was held at NMSU on Tuesday. That Committee was evaluating House Bill Nine, which had been proposed in previous legislative sessions and made it to the Senate Judiciary last session, then died on the docket. It was not put on the agenda. What that bill would do would prohibit a local government's ability to contract with ICE directly for the housing of migrant detainees in local correctional facilities. It was a long discussion. The Cibola County Attorney and I were there for roughly three hours answering questions and providing testimony. It was an emotional issue, a lot of back and forth between both Democrats and Republicans. You could tell from the rhetoric of the conversation, which I believe got heated on several occasions. It boils down to the fact that I think there's a strong disagreement in terms of federal immigration policy and how that's being enforced today. For that reason, the target ends up in these facilities. The Governor's office was present. They did not confirm or deny whether or not that item would be on a special session agenda, but that is still in the works. Overall, the sentiment that I got from the Committee is that there's, there's likely a greater appetite for moving forward with that bill in whatever the next available session there is. New Mexico Counties were there. We had a debrief, and we're trying to coordinate efforts to address this. We discussed with them and their lobbyists. New Mexico Counties are opposed to the bill, and they're pushing to see what can be done to get that off of any particular agenda and fight that bill through the process. I would say this is probably the third session in a row. I know that there's been a hard push, and my inclination is based on those discussions. If it makes it to Senate Judiciary again, there's a likelihood it will go to a vote.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: New Mexico Counties is opposed to it. Do New Mexico Counties make these decisions on what they're for or against based on what the County tells them?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: That's correct. New Mexico Counties do listen to the opinion of all Counties, but in this particular situation, I think they've taken the side of Counties that would be directly impacted by it, as far as the biggest opinion as to whether or not they oppose. In terms of Cibola County and our

County, CoreCivic owns those facilities. They're privately owned and operated. In the situation of Otero County, that is a County-owned facility, and they've taken out bonds against that facility. I think their argument is, if this bill passes and that contract gets cut, it really prohibits their ability to pay back those bonds, which puts them in a precarious financial situation. There was a significant number of people from Otero County present at the hearing yesterday.

F. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT:

1. Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: We've been saying it's a matter of time. I've been fighting that bill for five or six years since I've been on the Commission; we've always been able to defeat it.

I wanted to let the other Commissioners know, and it's no secret, I've had some conversations about moving our Dispatch to a different County, to a different area. Dispatch is aware of it, the Fire Chief, the Sheriff's Department, and Emergency Management. We're exploring some different ideas. Sandoval County, Santa Fe County, and Bernalillo County have all had interest. I wanted you all to know that. There are a lot of questions about funding. What funding do we lose? What funding do we keep and get to revert back? A lot of those discussions still had to be made. They would be willing to take our employees on if they're willing to move to those facilities. The Fire Chief came to me very concerned about the safety of his staff and the lack of communication.

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: My concerns are our direct communications, which we are trying to fix, but how much infrastructure are we going to put into a system? It's nothing per se against the personnel that are in there, but the organization, Bernalillo County specifically, that I know. That's a big component to our ISO, and that's what you hired me for: a component to lower your ISO. That 10 points in there, the accreditation is huge, the Dispatchers are being trained to a certain level, and all those other things that go into it, not saying we couldn't bring this whole system up to that. I don't know how long that would push us out. This Regional Dispatch concept, which is happening across the state, would snap us into normalcy quickly. The 700-mega system would come online quickly. Our communications would get better with that. Along with that, we are getting those points that get into the matrix of the ISO. This is in preliminary talks. I have

spoken with the Dispatch Director. She knows my thoughts. This is not a joke. I do not want to have somebody hurt because of our communication system.

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: I asked Misty to run me some numbers on what revenue looks like for Dispatch and what expenditures look like for Dispatch. I do have those numbers, but until we know some funding mechanisms in which we keep, in which we lose, it's hard to pinpoint what it would cost us to move.

2. Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:

I think most of my updates have been covered throughout the meeting.

3. Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner, District 3

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I attended the Tajique Land Grant meeting last week. I met with Andrew Gutierrez, the President of the land grant, and our Manager. We discussed details about the movement of that transfer station. Jordan will fill you in and what was discussed.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: We had some discussions about the term of the lease. The land grant was in agreement in terms of doing a long lease. They wanted to stay somewhere in the 20-25 year range. One of the concerns that I brought to their attention was the requirement of investing public funds in a piece of property that we did not own. Some of the feedback that I got from the land grant was, they're not in a position financially to make those upgrades to the site right now, but they would be more than willing to work with the County in terms of addressing things like providing labor for clearing out brush, putting in a request to the state for base course to update the property. From a financial perspective, I think that they felt as though they weren't in a position financially to provide whatever necessary site readiness stuff needed to be done to get this equipped. Though they did say they would be willing to work with the County through labor and potentially quiet materials to get that done. I can formalize a presentation in terms of what that looks like. I was happy that they were able to come to the table, because negotiating something like this through email will never get done. The one thing they did also indicate was that the one-month lease that we're on right now would probably be the last extension of the current site location that the land grant would consider. We've also looked at other options in terms of purchasing

property. A couple of parcels in that area had restrictive covenants that would prohibit us from doing this. I had a couple of landowners reach out to me to have a discussion about a potential sale of their properties or lease of their properties. Subsequent to that, they got some feedback from neighbors, a little upset about the concept, and they rescinded that offer. We've explored a couple of options, but nothing has panned out into something tangible at this point.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

17. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:
September 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

18. Signing of Official Documents.

19. Adjourn.

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

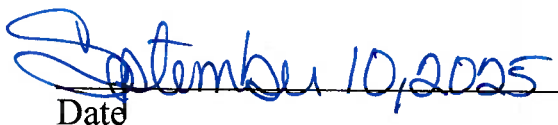
The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.



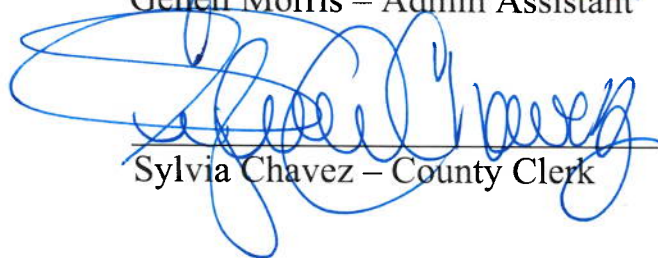
Ryan Schwebach – Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Date



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

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