

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
October 08, 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 October 08, 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:**

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: The County Attorney has time constraints. If we can move the Executive Session to after agenda items 10A and move 14 G after agenda item 6.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Defer item 13E.

Action Taken:

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Motion to approve changes to the agenda.

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

4. **PROCLAMATION: None**

5. **AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS: None**

6. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None**

14. **G. COMMISSION:** Discussion Regarding McCall's Pumpkin Patch and Torrance County's Intergovernmental Agreement with the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Discuss Ongoing Public Communications on the County Commission's Determination to Maintain the ICE Agreement and Attempts to Dissuade Members of the Public from Attending the Private Businesses of Individual Commissioners)

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I've written a statement along with my family that I would like to read into the record concerning this event and this item on the agenda.

I've served the Community as a Commissioner for the past seven years. At times, it has been hard on our family business because of the time and energy taken away from our farm for the needs of the County, but it has been fulfilling to serve the Community in which our family was raised, my family was raised, and our business was built. I always try to vote on behalf of the majority of my constituents. This is what I did in the voting to extend the contract with ICE for the Torrance County Detention Facility. This facility not only provides jobs for many of us in our Community, but it also serves as our County jail. At multiple meetings, we heard from Torrance County residents, and I never heard one objection from them, from our County residents; any objections came from residents of Albuquerque or from out of state. Our family is the owner of McCall's Pumpkin

Patch. At the start of the season this fall, the Albuquerque Teachers Federation sent an email out to all APS staff entitled McCall's Prison Patch? This alerts them that the Commission had voted to keep the detention center open and ends the email with Beware of rotten pumpkins. I shared this concerning email with our County administration. At the request of the Chairman, this topic was placed on the County's agenda for discussion in response to social media responding with many false and malicious statements connecting ICE with McCall's Pumpkin Patch. Our business is no way communicating or working with ICE. This is utterly false from its start 28 years ago. Our mission at McCall's Pumpkin Patch has always been to provide a fun, family-friendly place for our guests to make cherished memories. We welcome all families, and I say all families, to McCall's to make it part of their New Mexico fall tradition.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I brought this up, just as Commissioner McCall mentioned, because the discussion I wanted to have was concerning the Teachers Union and other unions for that matter, and the information they give to our teachers, specifically me. I think you all know I have kids in school. I am concerned about what they're being taught. I'm concerned about how that information is getting in. I discovered that an email is sent to teachers at APS. It doesn't give the whole picture. That's the discussion I wanted to have with this Commission, because this Commission does have some insight into our own school districts. That's the road I wanted to go down. I think it's clear in life that what happened in the last week happens when false or misleading information goes out, damaging an individual. It had nothing to do with McCall's Pumpkin Patch. It was simply a mechanism that brought it to my attention. Has nothing to do with the fact that he's a Commissioner or my wanting to do this discussion. I want to have the discussion I wanted to have. I don't know if we can at this moment, in light of current events. I don't think we should, because I think it's Jaded. My goal has always been to solve problems, not create new ones. I'm not so sure that is what the Teachers' Union wants to do. That's why I wanted this discussion. We're 50th in education in the Country. I find it ironic that the union can throw these out, to hamper economics, to mislead students, to create fear. If you look at what's happening nationally, it's happening too much, and I do not want it to come here. I feel we need to speak up and have conversations to talk it out, to see what's really happening. Unfortunately, I think it's lost now in light of what's happening and the damage of social media. I'm going to end the discussion there. Unless you all want to move on, I don't think it'd be prudent to continue.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I think that everything that goes on in our Country, in the world, affects all of us. This is an example of it coming into our County and affecting our County. I'm sorry that this happened to you, but we have to all face the fact that this is in our backyard, and we have to deal with it, and it does affect Torrance County. As Commissioners, we will try our best to protect our County from anything like this or any damage that might be done to our County from the outside world.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I also want to say thank you for all the support. The last 24 hours have been rough on my family. Probably more for my 24-year-old son, who came back from college to run this business. He was freaking out yesterday, seeing it all happen. When it unfolded, it unfolded fast like wildfire. Thank you to the Community. I want it to be very clear, my decisions behind this contract is for this County and for the betterment of this County, and it does not affect my decisions on what I do at my own personal business. In no way am I associated with ICE. In my statement, I read that and said that, and that's just wanted to come off, off the heart. Thank you.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I hope that sheds light on some things. What came out of it? I see some recording this. I'm going to throw it in the hands of all these individuals out there with social media. Choose wisely. Do you want to stir the pot, or do you want to solve the problem?

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

No in-person public comments

***Comments by Zoom**

Ian Philabaum, Innovation Law Lab: I'm going to read a message recently shared from someone detained in TCDF. "There is a serious environmental contamination issue that affects the entire facility and poses an imminent risk to the health of both staff and inmates for several days due to the collapse of a septic tank. Unsanitary conditions have developed that could lead to an epidemic or even a pandemic. Several inmates are experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, and other

symptoms. In my particular case, I am also suffering from severe coughing. The situation in the dining area is unbearable. Either we do not eat, or we eat with disgust due to the presence of flies and the lack of hygiene. Multiple complaints and written reports have been submitted to the facility's doctor and to the County's grievance section without receiving any response. Public health authorities must be notified, as this is a Community health emergency. Additionally, several cells do not open automatically, but only manually, due to system failures. This constitutes a violation of safety regulations, since in the event of a fire, inmates would have no emergency exits and could become trapped and die from burns."

My colleague Tiffany and Arielle are at this moment conducting legal visits to support the casework of folks detained as they will be tomorrow, and they hope to additionally learn if this situation has improved at all. However, the comments are striking that they echo other recent complaints shared with the Commission regarding inoperable cell door technology, as well as prior complaints this year related to digestive health concerns lack of medical attention and sewage or plumbing infrastructure failures with the County contract with ICE to operate TCDF due to expire at the end of this month, my colleagues and I would echo many dozens of calls from people detained and other advocates for the County not to renew its contract to operate this harmful facility. Thank you.

Todd Brogowski- Mountainair Dispatch: I want to raise several questions on behalf of the Mountainair Dispatch, and I'm sure other members of the public are interested in the answers to these. I know right now it probably feels like everything is an attack, and that's not the intention of these questions. These are just questions regarding legal matters. The first one being, and feel free to answer all or none of these. Why is it believed that it is ethical to use the County letterhead on behalf of or for the benefit of the Commissioner's private business? Why was that unsigned letter posted to the County Facebook page for the benefit of McCall's? Will there be other messages posted by the County on behalf of McCall's Punch Pumpkin Patch? When was the last time you communicated with ICE or its representatives?

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Firstly, Commissioner McCall said he has not communicated with ICE or representatives, and the County does not deal with ICE and field agencies, as I believe you're speaking of. Secondly, it is very prudent to use the County letterhead to address this issue, because the County and the

agenda are what triggered the attack upon the pumpkin patch. As chairman, it is very prudent to do it. As for signing it, the County Manager has authority through direction of the Chair to put it on without my signature, because I've been working about 18 hours a day trying to get my harvest out, and time was of the essence. The County Manager had full authority through the Chairman to put that out.

8. Department updates and Communication:

A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Emergency Preparedness & Evacuation Workshop.

Samantha O'Dell, County Emergency Manager: I wanted to make the Commission and the Community aware that tomorrow, October 9, at 2:00 PM, in this room, we will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Workshop. Anybody who attends will receive a free starter go bag. This is a free workshop for the Community; all are welcome. I have flyers, if anyone's interested. Thank you.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COMMISSION: Request approval of minutes of the September 24, 2025, Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve minutes.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - No: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – No: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION DIES

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I thought they were going to be deferred and did not have time to read the minutes.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to defer minutes.

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

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE: Request approval of payables with a date range of
September 18, 2025, through October 1, 2025.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: 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

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Discussion of threatened or pending Litigation Pursuant to 10-15-1.H(7):
The estate of Travis Boawn v. the Board of County Commissioners for the
County of Torrance.

B. Discussion of threatened or pending Litigation Pursuant to 10-15-1.H(7):
Brian Sanchez v. the Board of County Commissioners for the County of
Torrance.

Action Taken:

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

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

9:21 AM

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Motion to move into Regular Session.

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

9:47 AM

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Item A. No action taken. Item B. We give the County Manager and Attorney authority to settle the matter.

11. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE / AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:

None

12. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. FIRE: Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025-42, A Resolution: (1) dissolving the Six Torrance County Fire Districts (District 1- Duran; District 2 – Indian Hills; District 3- McIntosh; District 4 – Tajique/Torreon; District 5 – North East Torrance; and District 6 – Willard); (2) Approving the creation of Two Fire Districts which shall be identified as the Northern District (Formerly Districts 2, 3 and 5) and the Southern District (Formerly Districts 1, 4 and 6); and delegating signature authority to the County Manager to execute such documents and take such further action as may be necessary for the implementation of this Resolution.

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: This resolution will dissolve all of the districts and reconstitute them back into a north and a south district. That was the cleanest way we could do it and separate these two regions appropriately. I want to open up dialogue.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: It looks like this map follows the lines of Commission Districts, except for a drop-down from Commission District Two. I know we are in need of doing something because we are in dire straits, like you've been telling us. What's going to happen with the money that is allocated to the

Southern District? Are you going to be totally in charge of that, and these other departments will not have any say on how their funds, their equipment, and everything is distributed?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: That is correct, that's the way it already is. There's a process in place that their requests for equipment, and those come through our office. We do approve those. It would give us a better span of control, a better opportunity to disperse our very limited volunteer sources into other areas where they need to be placed, along with equipment. Then the true benefit of it is, as we move forward, a lot of these districts were doing things completely different. We had one district that would get on board with this particular apparatus, and they bought one, instead of us using our buying power as we move forward, and we need to buy more equipment. We can have a little bit more control over how we buy those things. If you buy three, you're definitely going to get a better deal than just buying one here and there. It streamlines our administrative role over the County. We'll have two District Chiefs, one over the north, Mike Trammell, and one over the South, Randy Sanchez, and then the volunteers will possibly have station captains on those particular districts that we're still going to have volunteers.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: By consolidating, this gives you more authority over all the districts to streamline the processes and work with them to get our ISO ratings up in the Southern District.

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: Yes, that's the plan for all the districts, is we want to try and decrease that ISO and the tax burden, or the insurance burden that is on our constituents.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Does the ISO ratings depend on training? Is any training going on right now?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: There's a lot of training going on right now.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: In our Southern District?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: No, not a whole bunch that's been going down in the Southern Districts. The plan right now is that we have a whole bunch of paid staff who haven't been brought up to any type of standard for the firefighting aspect. All of them are certified or licensed EMTs, but some of them did not have the fire training that they needed. The plan is for us to get all of our paid staff up to

a basic firefighter level, and then, after we get up to our fully allotted 20 paid staff, we have to buy the CBA. We have to keep two rescues up and running in the northern end, up in the Moriarty area. Even if we weren't constrained by that CDA. It still makes the most sense. I can give you numbers if you're interested, Commissioner, on what we're actually running in the northern end versus the southern end. I pulled those numbers this morning to try and give you an idea of why the northern region is a little bit more compact and geographically a smaller area, versus the southern end. It really comes down to call volume. The majority of our calls are up in the northern end. The I-40 corridor that comes through Torrance County is a meat market sometimes. I mean, there are some bad car accidents on there that we need to have a whole bunch of people on. For example, 150 calls in September for the Northern Region, versus 41 in the Southern Region.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: It's still 41 incidents. Shouldn't there be enough training available for everybody, even the Southern District? Not only concentrate so much on the north. Also, come down to the south and train those so that our ISOs can come up. Who do you have training right now?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: All the training has fallen under Chief Fixler. He's the one who's facilitating all that. The plan is, once we get those paid staff that we have complete control over, lack of better terms, because they are employees and they're here on a set schedule. The plan is once we do get up to that full allotment of 20 personnel, that should allow us to get our footprint down in Willard, which has always been the plan, with a couple of firefighters and certified EMTs down in Willard that will end up becoming our training facilitators. When they're down there in the Willard district, because last month, Willard ran eight calls. Part of their duties, being down on the southern end, will be to go and facilitate training for the volunteers in these other regions.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Is training available online that people could be doing on their own?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: We have a platform that does have that component in it, with some courses we can just send out. This is going to be your respiratory protection month. Here's the training that you need to go through, which is an additional cost on top of the platform vector that we use right now for our scheduling. There are opportunities for us to do that, to get some type of online training. There's been a lot of lack of training. We are producing all these training hours. I know all the paid staff have more training hours now than they've ever had. Everybody's in a Fire One and Fire Two class on the paid staff; they'll be

doing their live burns at the end of October. Once they get up and running where we can say. You've got your basic level of training. Here's your syllabus. You're going to be going to Willard today. You're going to be training with their volunteers, or down to Duran, or whatever the case may be, and rotate them through the County, facilitating those trainings.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Is there any way that we can incorporate the Mountainair Fire Department and Estancia Fire Department to help on the southern end, or are they a totally different entity?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: They are their own. I'm not saying that we couldn't try and work on something like that, but that would probably be conversations to be had with Mayor Nieto and the other powers that be in Estancia.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I feel isolated in the Southern District. Fire and Rescue, this consolidation is for medical emergency services, and fire?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: Correct.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: If you have an accident in Duran, and the only people that can go out there are the Duran Fire Station, are they still being allowed to do that?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: Yes, they are. There have been some changes. There have been changes all over; there'll be a couple more with this consolidation. They're still allowed, and they've got their apparatus back, because there were some issues with the State Fire Marshal with that station down there, as you're aware of, but that has been cleaned up. It's changed a little bit since we lost the Battalion Chief down there, and now we've got some other members that are coming in.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: You said you're feeling a little left out on the southern end. I think it's important we talked, because it's no secret that the southern end of the County is lacking, and has been lacking in its emergency services. This Commission has to weigh two things. One, I think you touched on the number of calls. It's clear North needs more resources; just by statistical speaking, that doesn't mean that we pull from the South to give to the North. I think that's what I want to hone in on. We are changing to two districts so that we can pull resources from the South to the North. We're going to two districts where we can spread resources and manage them better. Is that a correct statement?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: 100%

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: With this combination, the \$1 that we are going to one district, for example, those dollars can be better spent and better managed to the two districts, same amount of dollars coming in, and same amount of volunteers, same amount of fire stations. This is a management tool. The clear plan that this Commission has had is to beef up the southern. I understand how looking at that map, you may feel that way, but I want to be very clear, the reality is, it will be beefed up more with the plan we have going, especially when we start talking about the way he can manage full-time training more down in Willard. It's something he couldn't do with the separate districts, because it starts messing with the funds. Am I correct in saying that?

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: Generally, yes, correct.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: That is a concept. I encourage you to educate or explain to your constituents that this is not pulling something away from. We have been very clear with our Chief that this is one full County that requires the same level of professionalism, clear across it. Realistically speaking, dollar speaking, we have to manage it differently. It doesn't mean cutting services, and I agree. The vast miles that we're dealing with, the southern and the County are just a different animal.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I have faith in you, Chief Smith, that you can do this. I'll be watching.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I am very concerned that the northern half has the potential to go down in ISO rating. I'm not in favor of it, but I get why we're doing it, and the powers that be pretty much told us you will be doing this, saying the State Fire Marshal he's given us that directive. I wanted my northern constituents to know I'm not in favor of it, but I understand why we're doing it, and I fully support it after the State Fire Chief tells us, we're going to have to do it, we'll do it. I appreciate our Chief fighting to at least do the two districts. To me, that made more sense, a northern and a southern, than just one entire district. Thank you for that, but that's where it stands.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I see both sides of it. The reality is what we're doing, and I don't mean to pick on you, Commissioner, but feeling is very different than reality. The reason I say that the reality is, we are gambling the Northern District to lower its ISO rating, to beef up the Southern District. We are

gambling that this man up here is going to get it right, because we have a year to do it. We are gambling that this Commission is going to give them the funds and the resources they need to even out that ISO rating. The gamble we are putting on the Northern District, which has a better ISO rating.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: My feelings are not frivolous; their feelings for the people who are in my district, who are so far from Albuquerque, and they have incidents too. I have the same number of constituents in my district that both of you have, and they're just as important, and they're in harm's way at times, out in the middle of nowhere, and that's where my feelings lie in my constituents and their safety.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: In doing this, I reiterate, we are doing this for the Southern District.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I understand, I'm voting for it so that we can get this done, and for the Southern District to get as many volunteers as we possibly can, and for the safety of my constituents also.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution 2025-42.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. MANAGER: Request Approval of Resolution No. 2025-43, A
Resolution adopting the Torrance County Critical Incident Reporting
Policy.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: We've had some discussions about how critical incidents are reported in the County, what sort of conduct, what follow ups done, and how the County is being communicative with the public and stakeholders as a result of critical incidents. This policy discussion had been happening for quite some time. I think a couple of weeks back, there was a day specifically, where we had two incidents during a bout of weather, one in which a plane crashed up near Moriarty, and another one in which a lightning strike caused a power outage at the Dispatch Center. There were some areas identified where we could have certainly improved how we address those situations, how we communicated that, and how

we got that information out to the public. This policy sets in place a framework for how those incidents are reported within Torrance County. It ensures that all critical incidents are reported, recorded, and responded to promptly, and it helps ensure consistency and critical incident reporting, aiding the County in quickly providing essential information to stakeholders and the public. I've also included in there what a definition of a critical incident. It's a pretty broad definition, and there certainly will have to be some discussions with the Department Heads, people who may be involved in incidents or have information in terms of identifying and vetting what a critical incident is and what it isn't. We fully anticipate that to be a growing process. This does require that supervisors report to the County Manager's Office any critical incidents that may have occurred within the County. Then it's the responsibility of the Manager's Office to coordinate with stakeholders, how we frame that, what type of communications come out, and what type of resources are needed to respond to that.

One of the other things on here that I think is pretty critical, that we have not been doing up to this point, is that the policy would require after-action reports and critical incident debriefs. Essentially, an after-action report is, using the Dispatch Center as an example. If we have a power outage at Dispatch, did the backup generators work? Did they not work? Were calls routed to Valencia County as they should have been? Did that not happen? It's a mechanism to identify what went right, what went wrong, so we can develop best practices, and we can make any adjustments to risk that are necessary thereafter. It also requires a critical incident debrief, which is essentially sitting down with the stakeholders who were involved in that situation within the County, having that discussion, reviewing that report, so we can have discussions about how we proceed in the future. That's a very standard practice in a lot of public safety incidents. It happens in Law Enforcement quite a bit. It happens in the Fire Department quite a bit, but generally speaking, across the County, it provides us room to grow. We wanted to formalize this to make sure that we can get this policy out to Department Heads and everybody is on the same page, and then we can work on being more transparent and having more communication with the public when things do happen, so they're aware and there's not a panic. We get calls from stakeholders and members of the public.

That day was one that was very specific. When I was getting calls from the public and even a call from the news media, I was aware that it had occurred, but I did not know that we were the handling agency. We certainly do want to do some cleanup in that regard.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Who is in charge of the debriefing afterwards? Is it the Emergency Manager, or who is in charge of doing all of that?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: It would be dependent on the incident. There are some things, and the policy does state, the after-action report will be an instance, there's a County response. There may be some instances where that isn't the case. For example, if you have a vehicle crash on Highway 60, and there was some hazardous material involved. Maybe we don't report to that, and we're not involved in the direct response, but that's still something we want to know, because we want to get that out to the constituents to avoid that area for safety reasons. If there are other incidents, it may be the Emergency Manager. It may be the Manager in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department. If something is completely administrative, if it happens in this building, then it's likely me. It varies in terms of what the incident is and who was the individual directly overseeing that.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Is there a Torrance County Critical Incident Report policy as we speak?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: No, I do not believe there is.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I appreciate whoever had the forethought of putting this forward. It's a great policy to have.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: This all stemmed from that plane crash, correct?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: It did well, the plane crash and the power outage at the Dispatch. Those two incidents happened within a couple of hours of one another, and by the time the Manager's Office had found out about it, I was trying to put the details together, and I was on the phone with Chief Smith and Selena at Dispatch. At first, I didn't know if the plane crash caused the power outage at Dispatch, which was at the plane crash turned out to be completely independent incidents, but that's the game of communication. In the time that people are trying to put the details together, hopefully, this frames it to where we can consolidate that information, get something out to the public through social media, the website, and then if we do get media inquiries, we have a statement ready to go. Once the policy is passed. We will have monthly meetings with the Public Safety Department, Emergency Management, Sheriff's, Fire, and Dispatch,

and so we will go through a full vetting process, because I'm imagining a majority of the reporting regarding this policy is going to come from public safety.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve Resolution 2025-43.

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

13. APPROVAL/ACTION ITEMS

A. MANAGER: Request approval of a Municipal Advisory Agreement between Torrance County and First American Financial Advisors, Inc. In an amount not to exceed \$59,000.00 for Financial Advisory Services.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: This is the annual renewal for First American Financial Advisors, Mr. Burpo, for his services to the County. There is a contract agreement cover sheet included in your packet. I want to summarize that there were two changes to the contract. One went from a 12-month term to a 24-month term, consent of that term, and then the mileage rate increased for the IRS mileage regulations. Other than that, the hourly rates and all of those other terms stayed the same.

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. MANGER: Request approval of an Option and Lease Agreement between Torrance County and The Tower's, LLC to lease Parcel Number 1-005-052-250-000-000 for the Erection of a Cellphone Tower.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: This agreement has been in negotiations since I came to the County. About a year ago, we were approached by The Towers LLC. They are a company that erects cell phone towers for major providers. This particular tower is going to be a Verizon tower, but there may be other service providers connected there. There is a gap in coverage in the I-40 corridor that sort of feeds down into the Estancia Valley. The County currently owns a parcel of about 1.79 acres in the Cattle Country subdivision at the tail end; there's actually a map to show you exactly where that is. It's right off of I-40, off East Martinez, next to the eastern Moriarty exit. That land was provided to the County. It's currently undeveloped. It's surrounded by other undeveloped parcels, and at this point, we have no future intended uses for the property. The Towers is proposing a lease to Torrance County whereby they would get sole access to that parcel and be allowed to erect that tower for cell phone coverage in the area. The lease terms, as they've been laid out, are an initial five-year term with five options for renewal, totaling 45 years as part of the lease. Part of that is that there's a significant financial investment from the towers to get this tower up. They did want a long-term option. As far as funding to the County, The Towers would pay us \$1,550 per month, with a one-and-a-half increase on that rent amount annually, and so long as we provided them the renewal option, we would get an initial \$3,000 payment upfront. There's the layout of the map to show the parcel itself. There's also a breakdown of the revenue schedule for Torrance County that was put together as it relates to this lease. It gives you the breakdown in terms of year by year, what our monthly rental amount would be. The total you see to the right is our annual total, and over the course of at least the first 45-year term of the lease, it would generate just under \$1.2 million for Torrance County in revenue as part of this.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Did our County Attorney have a chance to review the lease?

Michael I. Garcia, County Attorney: I did.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Have we done our due diligence to ensure that the \$1,500 a month is the cost of our cell phone?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Yes, we did. There was some back and forth. That number was a little bit lower. It started initially at about \$1,000 a month. We came back and said, "You know more, these are more like \$1750, so there was some back and forth. There we ended up at \$1550 with a one-and-a-half percent, instead of 1000 with a 2% annual return. We did do some due diligence.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: From that map, is hard to tell. Are they putting a tower in a place that's in the corner of the lot? If, by chance, we decided to do something else years down the road.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: As far as the placements are concerned, I have not had that discussion with them in terms of exactly what it's going to be on the 1.79 acres, so I can't say for sure, but I can certainly talk to them and get that information.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I would appreciate that. I don't want them to put it out in the middle of the lot so that it can't be used for anything else, and if it doesn't affect the ability to put out a signal, I would put it in a corner if possible.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: The County is on AT&T right now, and we've had some preliminary discussions with T Mobile. In this particular instance, the people that I do know who have Verizon service in this area say they have pretty horrendous service throughout the 41 corridor. I think, regarding a public benefit to this, it should increase services and open up additional options for broadband is an issue here too, but when you have good cell phone coverage, Verizon, and other providers' home internet services. This may open up a lot of those options for residents in the Community.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: How many carriers are they putting on there, and do we get compensated for them?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Verizon is the only carrier that I know that's on there. I know certainly through the process, sometimes they sublease out lower portions of the towers to other service providers that may need that coverage once it's up. As far as the lease provisions, I didn't see anything their specific to being compensated depending on what service providers are tied into The Tower. As I understand, The Towers do have this agreement with Verizon, but essentially, they get this erected and go to the legal provisions to get that done, and then they begin the negotiations with those providers.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: If it's not black and white, we're never going to see that compensation. County Attorney, what's your suggestion on that?

Michael I. Garcia, County Attorney: I don't think it's in there; we're not going to get it unless it's spelled out in there. If we want that, we'd have to go back and ask for it.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: My opinion is maybe we need to look into that and see if, as the carriers grow onto it, the County's not compensated indirectly for that. I know that would inhibit us from passing this contract. I don't think two weeks is going to matter.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: If there are additional questions or feedback that the Commission wants, we can certainly table this item now. I can go request that from the provider, and then bring those answers, and maybe it does require some additional amendments to the document. I know the company itself is trying to move forward with the process, but we have been in negotiations for a year, and I think we're pretty close. As long as we can hammer out some of those fine points.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I'm not looking to get rich on it in front of the county, but I do think we ought to be fairly compensated if they're being compensated.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Motion to table.

Ryan Schwebach, County 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

C. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/MANAGER: Request approval of a proposal for Architectural Pre-Design Services for Studios Southwest Architects for \$20,800.00 for a potential Torrance County Emergency Operations Center at a County-owned property in Moriarty, NM.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: The County was provided a couple of years back, \$50,000 to plan and design a potential new Emergency Management Center. I know there have been previous discussions with the Commission about potentially using the red building in Moriarty, which is currently owned by the County for a few different purposes. That facility is currently being used by the Sheriff's Office. The intent of half of that building is more or less as a section for the Sheriff's Office to continue to process vehicles and to maintain some type of storage. The other consideration was putting some permanent office spaces in there for Emergency Management, so Samantha and her specialist would have a

centralized location that has all the equipment and requirements they would need for an Emergency Management Center. Then the third component of that was having a training room that's available for the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Dispatch, and Emergency Management to conduct any training, because we know that's a significant need. We've reached out to Studio Southwest. They went ahead and met us out at the Moriarty site. They've done an initial evaluation, and essentially, what this would be doing is using that state appropriation for planning and designing this center to do some general programming and some cost estimates in terms of taking that idea and putting it down on paper. What would this look like? How would it function? Is this feasible, and what are the cost estimates associated with that would be? So the Commission's aware of you know, if we decided to go down this road, what would be our ask from the Legislature, what would be the cost to the County. We're bringing forth this proposal, about \$20,000 of that is strictly programming, cost, estimation, and design elements, \$800 for travel. The hope is that this will get us a document to bring back to the Commission to formally evaluate this and make the determination. Is this a project that we want to proceed with, or not? Nothing is definitive here, but if this is something we want to try to bring to fruition, we do need to know what this looks like, make sure that it's good with the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, and the Commission, and also know what we're going to need as far as funding.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: How is the \$50,000 labeled in the state appropriations? Is it just design, any construction costs?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: It's a general language plan, design, construct, and equip an Emergency Operations Center. If we get through this programming, it can be used for future design, and it can be used for construction. Whatever that balance is can be carried over.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I'm in favor of doing something with that red building.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I agree, we need to do something with this or liquidate it.

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. ROADS: Request approval to reallocate \$72,297.97 in appropriated County Infrastructure Funding from road materials to the purchase of blades.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: The Road Department is requesting to reallocate some of the County infrastructure money that was awarded for the FY 26 budget from his materials to purchasing the blades. The cost of the blades has actually increased because trade and value went down, more hours on the machines. They are requesting to reallocate \$72,297.97 from materials to blades. They are not requesting additional money, just moving it around within County infrastructure.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: How come, all of a sudden, we had a surplus of \$72,000 in materials?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: He was awarded \$100,000 in materials. I believe that was for the crusher material. He wants to take \$72,000 from that to do the blades. He's just saying he would rather have the blades than the stockpile material. It's a decision that he made based on priorities.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Is that going to cut us short on materials for other projects?

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: It'll leave him about \$27,000 to do some stockpiling. He does think he can still get through the season with that amount of money and materials. He doesn't anticipate coming back to ask for more. The total cost is \$1,049,007.97 for three blades. We have the money already appropriated for that.

Charmen Padilla, County Road Asst. Executive: We have a little bit of stockpile left, and that \$30,000 is going to take us through the rest of the year. We've done a lot to try to get these blades. It's been quite a fight; we don't want to give it up. It's going to put more hours on the old blades. If we could get these new ones purchased, I can tell you that with the blades that we purchased recently, our repairs have gone way down from what they used to be with the old blades.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: On the stockpile material. What material are we talking about?

Charmen Padilla, County Road Asst. Executive: The stockpile material is the base course or rock.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

E. ANIMAL SERVICES: Discussion and potential approval of part-time Administrative Assistant position for Animal Services.

Deferred

F. DISPATCH: Request approval of an unauthorized purchase to Central New Mexico Community College for \$1,684.00 for a Telecommunication Academy attended by two non-certified Dispatchers.

Tanis Chroninger, Administrative Assistant, Dispatch: I'm still new at this job, and I'm still learning, and I try my best but, that being said, I did make a mistake, and I overlooked that we needed a purchase order for this. I'm requesting that we be able to pay the Central New Mexico Community College, and this purchase will be fully reimbursed by the DFA. It has been approved on the DFA level.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Motion to approve 13F.

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

G. ROADS: Request approval to pay a prior year invoice to McLeod Medical Centers of NM, Inc., doing business as Duke City Primary Care, in the

Amount of \$110.00 for a Commercial Driver's License Medical Examination for Pete Montano.

Charmen Padilla, County Road Asst. Executive: We had a purchase order for this, but his appointment was on the 26th of July, and the medical center didn't get the bill out until recently. It's something that we need to get paid for, and it just doesn't get billed in time.

Action Taken:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Motion to approve 13G.

Ryan Schwebach, County 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

14. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. MANAGER: Discussion on Domestic Violence Services in Torrance County.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: This was a discussion item on the last agenda due to time constraints; it was deferred to this meeting. I did give the Commission at the time a little bit of a blurb during the Manager's report, but as this Commission has been made aware, the MOU with Valencia Shelter Services is set to expire at the end of this month. We did want to provide some background in terms of what we're doing to address those domestic violence services. Looking at the budget for domestic violence services, we are under the assumption that we will have about \$40,000 following the closure of the VSS MOU, and we are intending to go out to advertise for a contractor to come on board for the remainder of this fiscal year. The intent would be to allocate about \$30,000 of that funding to make available to have a local person who is here as a point of contact for Law Enforcement Officers and victims of domestic violence in Torrance. We would make the same provisions available to them. We provide them with a County cell phone. They would have office space at the Public Health building. They would have access to the same County vehicle, fuel car that that VSS did have under their MOU and with the other \$10,000 that's available, we intend to use that funding to work with local emergency housing providers to open purchase orders to potentially get victims housed immediately, and just have those purchase orders open that way, if there is an instance, we do have a place to get somebody safely

and securely located. We had some other conversations with service providers in the area. All faiths were one of those organizations. We had a number of meetings, and unfortunately, All Faiths said that they were not in a position right now to provide the services in Torrance County to have a person here, but that we could use those services through a referral base. If we did have somebody here who made the initial contact with victims, they could refer them to All Faiths in Albuquerque for the clinical services, legal support, and all of those wraparound services. This is a short-term fix. We did want to ensure that there's not a lapse in coverage for domestic violence and getting that contractor on board, we've also put in the packet material a contract that I drafted up and the County Attorney has reviewed regarding what that Service Coordinator position would look like, what that scope of work would look like, and our intent is to get that advertised by the end of this week, and hopefully get some letters of interest and make a selection and have somebody on board before October 30, when our current MOU expires.

B. MANAGER: Discussion on New Mexico Grants Administration Services.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: We wanted to bring the Commission in on some discussions we've had with a company called New Mexico Grants Association. This was a company that came up to the finance affiliate and presented their services as options for municipalities and companies to use. What we're exploring with this organization is giving some assistance in our grant department to identify our current grant projects, to streamline some of the process and procedure-type issues within the grants department, and then to provide overall training for the staff. That's been one of the pain points that the County's experienced. I think, as you're aware, over the last year, between changes in staff within Grants. That is a resource we're looking into. We did receive a post-scope of work as well as a cost estimate from the New Mexico Grants Association. However, we have also reached out to MRCOG, and they are willing to provide some cost assistance to cover this. We have a meeting with MRCOG on Thursday. We'll discuss exactly what they're willing to cover, what they're not, if it's all, if it's part, what that kind of looks like, but MRCOG has offered assistance in paying for this particular program. We will likely come back before the Commission with a contract approval, once we kind of iron out those details, as far as assistance with this cost.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Could we hire somebody else to help in the Grants Department? I remember that there used to be two people in there. Would that help instead of outsourcing?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: The Grants Department did have a Grants Assistant. That position had a high level of turnover, and some of that money has now been taken from that position and allocated for an Economic Development Specialist. The intent with the New Mexico Grants Administration is to provide some back-end assistance. The one thing, and even in my time here, which has been a relatively short time at Torrance County, we've had three Grants Administrators come into that position, and some of the feedback that we've gotten is, with that high level of turnover, there hasn't been a standardized process for policies and procedures, how things are documented, how they're filed, and that's really what we want to use NMGA for, to help us build those policies and procedures, the tracking mechanisms for the grants, the reporting requirements, and in hopes that that sets the foundation that now the Grants Department has a formalized mechanism of monitoring and tracking these Grants. They wouldn't necessarily be doing any in-house grant reporting or things along those lines that would still be the Grants Administrator. Their job is to build the foundation of the entire grants program to make sure that everything we do is standardized and it's in alignment with a lot of the grants that we have. The other benefit to them is that a lot of the state grants, federal grants, those types of things, not a lot of people in this state have that level of expertise. What is this? How do you report it? Where do you report it? These are the requirements that this organization has, and we'd also use them as a training resource for our current Grants Administrator or anybody who's in our Grants Department. The one thing that they did provide, which is a little bit of a safeguard in terms of having them on retainer, is if you do have a situation where there is a position is vacated for any reason, they do come in and handle some of those day in, day out operations for a short period of time to make sure that there aren't any lapses in grant reporting or things along those lines.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Some of the money that was appropriated for the Grants Department was given to an Economic Development Company.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: I'll touch on this in the Manager's Report, too, in terms of where we are with the Economic Development Grant. That money was allocated because we are hopefully in the final process of submitting that grant application to get an Economic Development Specialist on, but a component of that is that the County does have to provide a match. What we're requesting for the

grant is salaries and benefits for the Economic Development Specialist, and then money to do an economic development plan. Once that Economic Development person comes in, they will also be taking over the ICIP process, which is a huge component of what grants do right now. It made sense to us at that time to say, if we use that money from the Grants Assistant position. We move that over to economic development, and then when that person comes on board, they are handling some of these functions. Administratively, that made sense, but it also allowed us to get the amount of match funding that was required to even apply to the Economic Development Specialist.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Are you talking about AREA, the company is in Albuquerque?

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Yeah, the people who came to our meeting.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: They were never tasked with helping us with grants. They were strictly Economic Development.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: AREA is an Economic Development Resource for Torrance County. We had EVEDA, which was doing direct economic development. AREA doesn't provide those direct services. What they do is provide the resources to the County to engage in economic development activity that may be market analysis, site selections, presenting to the County opportunities for businesses that are looking for locations, and they think that Torrance County may be a good location. They aren't directly doing economic development on our behalf or engaged in grants; they were there as a resource for people, any County employee who's engaging in Economic Development activity.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: The way I like to look at AREA is like a toolbox. The things in it can provide help with our own economic development. To put them on the task of your economic development, that's not what the AREA is, and their fees reflect that their fees are in a way that it's more of a toolbox.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: By taking the money and not getting an assistant, that cripples the Grant Department for a long time. Wouldn't it be more feasible to get somebody to help in the meantime? Go ahead and do this, but I think the Grant Department needs some assistance now. What about part-time?

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I don't entirely agree, because I have to go back to the amount of turnover. This is why we have exit interviews. Because what we've discovered is that turnover is, there are multiple reasons why they've left, but every time we get a new position in here, it's like redesigning the wheel. We're hiring these contractors potentially to come in here and streamline the process. Now we have a process in which you can take any individual who can come in here and say, This is how the County does its grants, administers it, takes care of it. I have this set of skills, and I can do it, and it's continuing regardless of who's there. In my opinion, once we get that taken care of, we look at the workload on a set system. Then we can look at additional funds. I'm on board with this light thing, and at the point that we get this in place, they're not doing the work, but they're helping to streamline it towards more efficiency. Then we go to our Grants Administrator and say, "Are you overwhelmed? Do you need part-time? What do you need to facilitate what the system will do?"

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Building the system is a very important thing. We have all different kinds of grants for all different kinds of entities and all different types of reporting requirements. Bringing anybody in on a part-time basis, I don't necessarily know that we're going to find anybody who has the skills, knowledge, or tool sets to really help with that. Bringing anybody in at this point, before we build that system and have a training resource for them, in a way, you set them up to fail, because they would be starting from scratch; it wouldn't be immediate assistance. I think that's the purpose of this, can we build the system, and can we build a training resource once that's there, then absolutely, we evaluate that to determine where's the workload, how everything's going, but if at that time we need to bring somebody in, we do have a training resource that's available to start them off on the right track and get them the knowledge base that they need to be effective in that position.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I think it's a win-win. If we can get somebody who's an expert in that area, number 1 and number 2, if mid Mid-Region Council of Governments is willing to ante up some funds. I think we're going in the right direction.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I like the direction it is going.

C. MANAGER: Discussion on regionalization of Torrance County Dispatch Center.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: I'll preface this by saying all the discussions that are happening right now are preliminary; there aren't a lot of details. As the discussions came about, as far as regionalizing Torrance County with another jurisdiction with a little bit more capacity on the dispatch side, we had started off those conversations with three entities, and that was Sandoval County, Bernalillo County, and Santa Fe County. To start with, in Sandoval County, there were some communications that they sent us a proposal from a consulting company. Essentially, that proposal would look at a feasibility analysis of what it would take to get Torrance County involved as a component unit of Sandoval County to leverage their dispatch. That initial proposal came in at \$48,000, which is likely very cost-prohibitive for us, and at the end of the day, it is just a feasibility study. You can allocate the \$40,000 and then make the determination that it's not feasible to sort of do that merge. Those discussions were had, but we haven't pursued that any further. We did have a meeting; unfortunately, Selena couldn't be there, but I, the Fire Chief, did meet with Bernalillo County at their dispatch center. We met with their Dispatch Director and their Deputy County Manager, and we had some preliminary discussions in terms of what that would look like. We were just trying to get a feel of interest. Is this something that you do, and is this something that would make sense for Bernalillo County? In that regard, the feedback we got was, yes, this is something that they do. Bernalillo County has taken over smaller municipalities and provided dispatching services to them. From a cost perspective, and at least in terms of my discussion with the Deputy Manager, there didn't seem to be a need to actually go down the road of a feasibility analysis; it was more along the lines of, what type of services are you looking for? We'll get you an understanding of what the cost would be. We got them some information, basically around personnel, who we have under employment right now, what positions we have, and what their titles are. The feedback I got at the time was, you know, this is likely going to be, if the County wanted to do this, would be the cost of their personnel. It would be anybody that was a Torrance County employee that now became a Bernalillo County employee under this consolidation, their salaries and benefits, which would be at a higher rate than ours at this point, as well as about an administrative fee for maintaining the servers, the equipment, all those types of things, which is should be in the ballpark of about \$20,000 a year. We're still waiting to hear from those numbers, and we certainly need to set up a follow-up meeting with Selena and that team, because there were certainly some more technical questions that the Chief and I couldn't answer. We will set up that follow-up discussion.

Santa Fe County's discussions have been happening for some time. Santa Fe County is currently doing a feasibility study on what a regionalization would look

like between Santa Fe and Torrance, and that's been completely funded by the state. The consulting team that's doing that is here today. They're doing interviews with all the Municipalities around the County. Selena and I will be meeting with them this afternoon. They intend to look at this holistically, see what it would take. They're estimating right now, based on their project schedule, that the feasibility analysis will be done by January of 2026. Those are so they're ongoing discussions that are happening; nothing at this point is definitive. I think there are still a lot more questions that we have to ask, but I did want to let the Commission know where we are and what discussions have been had to this point. When there is more formal information regarding many of these options, we will bring that back and ask the Commission for any other specific details you might want to know to decide whether this is a viable option for Torrance County or not.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: What revenues do we keep? What revenues do we lose if we send Dispatch out?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Preliminarily, the GRT revenue is something that we've looked at specifically for Dispatch. My understanding at this point in time is that revenue would stay in-house. It would be used to fund whatever transition happened. The DFA money that comes into the County right now for the purposes of managing Dispatch, if we fell under the umbrella of another organization, that DFA money would go to that other organization, and rightfully so, because it's there for operational components of Dispatch.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I think one of my big questions is, service alone, will we be at the same level of service that we have now? Years ago, we looked at this, and one of the concerns that came up with one of the arguments from the then Director of Dispatch was that, when you start looking at our mapping and Google and all of that, our roads are not up to date. It doesn't necessarily coincide. That's one advantage of having locals here. They have that relationship with their First Responders.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: We've had at least some preliminary discussions about that, too, and even in terms of this Dispatch Center. What we didn't want to do was make things burdensome on our First Responders, either. I don't think we get through this process without having at least one or two people still active in our current Dispatch Center. Some of that may be for informational purposes and a local knowledge base. Other things are for just baseline processing, where the Sheriff's Department has to have contact with the Dispatcher if they're

filing missing person reports, if they're having to sign over and execute warrants. It's to what degree that happens.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I was under the assumption that this was essentially closing our Dispatch Center and moving it. It's a more partnering role for the overall operation, correct?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Yes. There are different factors. Right now, Bernalillo County would have to find a way to carry their signals from Capilla Peak into the valley, but they're already on the 700 system. Everything that they're operating is already up to state standards right now. Santa Fe County is still going through that process. No, the complete closure of dispatch hasn't been a consideration. It won't be as active and staffed as it is.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We're looking at shifting some of the services to regionalize, what we see as our Dispatch now in this consolidation?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Correct, yes. Our calls would now be routed through Bernalillo County. Essentially, former Torrance County employees are now Bernalillo County employees.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I was involved in the Sandoval County discussion, and it came back that in today's age, if GIS is really doing its job and doing it well, mapping is mapping. It's in front of them on a computer, and the Dispatcher can walk the First Responders through. If mapping is done, and I hope it is, I like to think it's a non-issue. I'm not saying it's perfect, but we don't live in a perfect world. There are the warrants the Sheriff's Department has to go to Dispatch for missing persons, etc. There is a portion of the Dispatch that needs to stay in this County for the hard paper copies that the Sheriff's Department will need. That's the way I understand it. Where that is housed, I don't know. The other benefit to this is that our Fire Administrator, our Chief, is here in the administration office, because they're on top of one another over at Dispatch. I think it even solves the issue of office space, as we've outgrown that building, and the Fire Department has grown, as there's no secret to that administratively; they need more office space. I think that's a win-win if you can move Dispatch to another area and still get the Fire Department to be able to use that office space.

Fire Chief is the one who brought this to my attention. He's really concerned about the lack of communication with First Responders. He gave me an instance where they were out on I-40 east of Moriarty, a bad accident with fatalities, and the radios

don't even work because of our lack of 700 megahertz radios. He's very concerned we're going to have a loss of life among First Responders. It boils down to the lack of communication. That is a big concern. They rely on cell phones a lot, in which case they shouldn't. They should be able to have that radio right there and have instant access to Dispatch or help if they need it. From a public standpoint and safety standpoint, I think we can get to the 700 megahertz. The sooner the better. If it takes moving Dispatch, I think it's we should do it. Thank you, staff, for looking into that.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: The Dispatch Center here in Torrance would be an Administrative Office and not answer calls?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: I think that's still up for discussion in terms of what it would be. From my discussions, I would consider that to be a satellite location. One other factor, the Chief and I discussed the benefits to the Fire Department, and we're talking about the concerns, talking about the consolidation failure. Another component of ISO ratings is communications, and so a lot of that revolves around Dispatch functions. There's some room to improve in that area. Our ISO is by leveraging an organization that is a little bit bigger and has a little bit more capacity than we currently do.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: A long way from being solidified. Thanks for bringing up the discussion.

D. MANAGER: Discussion of New Mexico Counties 2026 Legislative Priorities and potential support from the Torrance County Commission.

Jordan Barela- County Manager: New Mexico Counties reached out to Torrance County. They do this about this same time every year. They've put together their list of legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. What they request of the Counties is to see if the County Commissions would be willing to pass a resolution in support of their legislative agenda. They can show that consistency and support when they go to try to get these enacted at the legislature. It's a relatively short list as far as New Mexico County's legislative priorities. Under House Bill 2 is an appropriations discussion allocating more funding to a particular project or program. The top two detention reimbursement funds and detention, recruitment, and retention funds wouldn't necessarily apply to Torrance County, since we don't operate our own detention facility here. New Mexico Counties are requesting some additional funding for courthouses through the Administrative

Office of the Courts, and I think that is a big one for us. I met with Judge Murdoch and Judge Murphy this week to have a discussion about the building and some of the concerns that they have in terms of maintenance and capital upgrades that need to happen in the facility. What this request would be is that the state appropriate money to the Administrative Office of the Courts to deal with some of those capital issues. So the County is not footing that bill. In terms of the items that are going on right now at our District Court building, we're discussing what those cost estimates are, to asking the AOC for funding to get that done this year.

Another item is the Firefighter and EMS recruitment fund. It's a big thing. We have used that in the past, specifically for our Fire Department, and it does make a bit of a difference. We were notified about a week ago, nothing's formal, but our budget's been submitted. One of the areas where DFA gave us some feedback was that we had guesstimated what our funding was, and they actually gave us more money than we anticipated. I think we had assumed somewhere about \$263,000 for recruitment and retention, and it's up over \$500,000 this year. There are some additional awards. As we need more people in the field, this funding does support the hiring and retention of additional First Responders, which is pretty critical in the County, as widespread as we are.

The 700 radio system. That's a big topic of conversation. Specifically, this item is discussing the ongoing fees that are associated with that, and so that is a component of it. Once you switch to the 700 system, there is a monthly fee charged for every radio that is tied into that system, and a lot of local governments are having to foot that bill. I know Samantha's here; she can ask and answer some more specific questions about the calculations, because I know she has those for what it would look like for us. What they're saying is there's money for the capital, but there's no money for the long-term operation or the cost to maintain these fees. They're requesting legislative appropriations for that.

The RISE Funding is asking for additional funding for Behavioral Health Services in Torrance County, which was passed last legislative session. I think about \$4.5 million was allocated to that particular program. We've been in discussions with the State Health Department about what we're doing for our region right now, where we're at in the process, every district, and I would say that broken down by District Courts at the state level. Those Counties are coming together and trying to pull their data regarding what Behavioral Supportive Health Services are available within the County, and now they're trying to build a state database system of all the behavioral and supportive health systems across the state. It's still in the design phase, but specifically for Counties that are more rural with fewer services. They're

trying to build a system where you can identify where the services are around you and potentially leverage those, and so they're asking for more funding to support that initiative at the state level, because that's relatively new.

The last two would be IPRA improvements, and these are actually statutory changes. I haven't seen any language specific to the upper one, but I think they're trying to draft something that puts some additional parameters around it and ensures that, maybe to a certain degree, IPRA can't be weaponized in ways that we've seen it weaponized in the past. The intent of the law is good, but how it's used in practice sometimes is something else.

Lastly, discussing the Property Tax Exemption deadlines for veterans, ensuring that those tax exemptions are scheduled equitably amongst other taxpayers.

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: This particular Veteran Exemption will take place in 2026, and it's based on a percentage of the Veteran's disability rating. What controversy are we still looking for? We've got an order from the Property Tax Division last month that directed the Assessors on how to implement this issue. It's an issue because it's an administrative right now, in addition to the regular Veterans Exemption, which was moved to \$10,000 this year; not only is that amount exempted from a person's taxable value. But then also the head of the family is also exempt from there. Then the Veteran, at any disability rating, would be eligible for an additional percentage exemption from that amount. For example, you have a Veteran who has a piece of property that's assessed at \$300,000 taxable value is \$100,000. A third would be deducted from \$10,000 for the regular Veterans Exemption, we would be exempted from \$2000 for the head of family exemption, which would leave that at \$88,000 taxable value. This is where this piece of legislation steps in. The Assessors push for the disability rating. For example, if you have a Veteran who's 50% disabled, then his taxable value would be reduced by an additional 50%. I believe it was the Veterans Administration that threw in the legislative wording; it was a percentage of the veterans' interest in that property. If a property is owned in joint tenancy, they own 100%; if it's owned in tenancy in common, then we have to figure out what percentage is the veterans' exemption, and then do the math on that. If you have tenants in common, for example, there are four people involved, you're looking at 25% of the 50% disability rating, or 50% of the 25%. It's quite the formula that we're going to have to be looking at, and I think that's what we're going to move forward with the legislature, is to get that veterans ownership interest taken out of there and make it simpler by saying what's left is the base value after the first two exemptions, then it's the disability, whether it be 30%, 40% or 70% of what the base is. Going back

to my example, after taking off the first two exemptions, making that taxable \$88,000, if a 50% Disabled Veteran applies for that and is awarded that, then that base value of \$88,000 would be reduced to \$44,000, not \$44,000 of 25% or \$44,000 of 50%.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: This is the stance of the Coalition of Counties or the Assessors on wanting to take that percentage out. If you remove that percentage, it leads to potential abuse of it, not saying that it can happen, but it has more ability. We can overcome a little math. What is the stance of the Assessors?

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: Because of the administrative issue regarding the percentage interest owned by the Veteran, we want to take that out; it benefits the Veteran in doing that. In keeping that language in there, then the percentage exempted is less. If we do a percentage of ownership of Veterans, more money stays in the property taxes. If we go the other direction, then it's more.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: For example, a Veteran-owned business, with four non-veteran partners. That business is valued at \$10 million; all of a sudden, that full \$10 million gets a Veteran exemption?

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: If he is fully disabled, he is entitled to a 100% deduction. However, he only owns 25% of the company. With the disabled veteran, because it's it has to be applied to the principal place of residence. Commercial is different. The regular Veterans' Exemption? Yes, they can use that regular \$10,000 for commercial vacant land, what have you. It's not simply the principal place of business. Disabled, however, is on the residence, and that's to help the Veteran specifically.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: I appreciate that explanation. I was asking for thumbs up, thumbs down on the New Mexico Counties 2026 Legislative Priorities. It says veterans would have 30 days after notice of value to file an exemption or request an extension for up to 180 days to resolve any delays in certification. Is that 180 days going to put your office in a bind?

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: It doesn't necessarily put our office in a bind. We like to have our values certified properly by June 15. However, if there's an extension that is granted, that would be a finding, and we would have to give justification to the DFA for the numbers that don't match up.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Months ago, when you were presenting, there were some timing issues, and I was wondering if these legislative priorities addressed the timing issues that you were struggling with.

Linda Gallegos, Chief Deputy Assessor: I'll go back to the specifics, the Veterans, not the timing of the legislation and the deadlines and so on. When we send out the Notices of Value, all exemptions and senior freezes and head of family and everything should be applied for within that 30-day window. What we've done in the past is allow a Veteran to come in and apply for his exemption anytime during the year, which then would cause us to do a tax roll change. Anytime we change the Valuation, especially to decrease it. After the certification is sent to the DFA, we have to do a tax roll change, which then adds more work to the Treasurer's Office in redistributing paying funds. We like to try and avoid that; that's where we're going with applying within that 30-day window, so we don't have those variations in values. The 180 days fall under the protest period which we have to change the values through protest. We have that amount of time from the last day of April until, and then 180 days, and then we go to formal. It's meant to coincide with those same deadlines and processes that have that type of 180-day window.

E. COMMISSION: Update on the leasing of 4 Acres of property from the Tajique Land Grant for the Tajique Transfer Station.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: For about five years or more, the Tajique Land Grant Association has been asking for the County Solid Waste Transfer Station to be moved to a different site, currently behind the Tajique Community Center. The County has been leasing the property from the Tajique Land Grant for \$300 a month. It was increased in June to \$400 per month. At the time of the renewal, the President of the land grant, Andrew Gutierrez, informed the Commission that the transfer station would have to be moved to an alternate site. They were adamant they were not going to renew unless they were going to move it. He informed the Commission that the land grant had four acres that the County could lease for the transfer station. The Commission asked if there were other locations in the area to purchase. We looked and found none in that area. I wanted to bring this up so we could discuss the terms of this contract. I know they gave us a year to get this done. My way of doing things is, "let's get it done". I know that all details have to be worked out. Mr. Gutierrez is on Zoom, and Danette is here.

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: I think you want me to come up with some rough estimates on moving?

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Let's clarify, because the direction to the Manager was to identify other properties that we could purchase where we don't have a lease, because that's always a concern on County money going on to not our property. Have we looked at every other possibility up there?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: We did look at several possibilities in the Tajique area. There were a number of conversations that were had, but for one reason or another, they did not pan out to the point where we had a viable transaction. I will preface that by saying we were focusing on the Tajique area. After having some discussions with Danette this week about potential locations for this. From at least our conversation, looking in a broader area, Tajique to Torreon may be viable. We have not explored that option. That being said, we did look at several areas in Tajique, not really much further outside of Tajique. The only other option that I think we potentially have on the table, as far as exploring that, is putting out an RFP, saying here's the broad parameters, proximity to Highway 55 between these locations, within these miles, access from a public roadway this size, all of those things. There's a rough draft of a potential RFP that was provided on the backside of the leases. That is something that we can do to continue to explore those options. Don't know if we're going to get anything or not.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Let's go back to the option we do have. We've talked about different years. Is the property suitable for the Transfer Station?

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: Right now, it's not; they would have to be cleared out. I don't know if that's going to be our responsibility to do that.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We can work out as we go. I'm looking for specifics of what it's going to take. Clearing the property, there's a cost to that.

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: Clearing the property, I'll have to get with my Engineers on a design for a new station. I also have to contact the New Mexico Environmental Department. We have to treat it as a new station. We have to do that a month in advance to get registered. We would have to work all that out. With fencing, I think I had talked to Jordan about getting a rough draft quote on fencing. Ideally, we would like to

make it larger. Right now, it's 60 x 60. It's one of the smaller stations and we have, and it's one of the second busiest stations.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: There's an advantage to the larger acreage.

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: We want to mimic the central location, 100 x 130. I got a quote for that fencing, it looks like it's going to be about \$41,000.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Andrew, are you aware of these talks on a larger footprint on this leased land?

Andrew Gutierrez, Tajique Land Grant President: Yes, the land grant is willing to lease all four acres to the County. What the County and the Solid Waste Department work out is up to you.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Access, are there safety concerns on this property, visibility, trucks turning? Can that be overcome?

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: The roads are narrow; it's technically a loop.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: There's another one on Chris Lujan Rd. Chris Lujan Rd, seems to me to be a safer entry and exit.

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: The road is very narrow. We would have to have them go up one side and then go out the other side. I had my Operations Supervisor with me, and we had to go to the very top and make a U-turn to turn around.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Once you get off the highway, that's where my safety concern is, visibility on trucks slowing down and the oncoming traffic. Once you're off, I assume we can make roads that can handle the traffic. My main concern is access to the highway.

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: Saturdays get busy. I don't know how long others will be lined up to go into the station. If we put it far enough in that property where there's not a line on Highway 55, because that's a dangerous area.

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: How many people do you have come through at one time?

Danette Cabber, Executive Director for the Estancia Valley Solid Waste: We have about 60 people a day. It's open for three days a week. Saturdays, usually, anywhere between 60 to 80 people.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: You want to make it a little bigger in your design. I think that's for the actual construction of moving the property. I think the County is responsible for the majority of it, but not at the whim of the Solid Waste Department. Let's be clear about that. The County is paying for it, and the County is going to make the decisions. I do respect the fact that what you're seeing, the busyness. Make it a little bit more user-friendly, customer-friendly, and we will have those conversations. How do we overcome putting that on private property, or can we?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: I believe we can, because the land grant is considered a component unit of government, and that won't necessarily be an anti-donation issue.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I like options when it's all said and done. The land grant has gratefully given us an option, which sounds to be a viable option. I also like to see what else is out there. Is there a better option for the dollar in the proximity? We looked at existing parcels for sale. How long does it take for an RFP looking for this in those restraints? What's the time process with that?

Jordan Barela, County Manager: I talked to Kristen, our Chief Procurement Officer, about this earlier this week. We can probably get some type of solicitation out by early next week. I'm thinking probably within three or four weeks, we can have an idea of what came in, if anything came in.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I think we should do our due diligence. In the meantime, I think we need to form the concept of what fits that Community the best. A larger transfer station would better handle traffic. We need to apply it to that land and that design concept, so that we can put it in our RFP. Personally, I would rather purchase property. I think if the County owns the property, it gives us more leeway on what we can and can't do with it. I've never felt that this entity should be leasing, if we have the option to purchase.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: As the RFP language is currently drafted. I have it for lease or sale. Do we want to just focus on sales or need both options available?

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: This property that we're looking at to lease right now is within the land grant. It's the same dynamics. I'd rather purchase it. This property is also not a bad location. Safety is a big concern. Now that we have the four acres, I think we can build it reasonably. That's the only thing I want to eliminate, if there's not a piece of property that we can purchase at a fair market value and do the same job.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: That sounds good. We can make that adjustment and get that out.

F. COMMISSION: Discussion on the operational costs for the Torrance County Treasurer's Office.

Misty Witt, Deputy County Manager: The Commission had asked for the operational cost for staffing specifically for the Treasurer's Office. To summarize, the total budget for salaries and benefits for the Treasurer's Office is \$576,986 for staffing, which is broken down in your packet by position. We also provide job descriptions for the Treasurer's Office. The other question that we were asked to provide is what we have spent on the JAG, CPA firm, for services for the Treasurer's Office, specifically. To date, we've spent approximately, which I think we're up to \$34,000 now that we have been billed. JAG estimates the total fees for the Treasurer's Office to be about \$40,400 by the time they're done with this project. Then the estimated number of hours by the time this project is complete is about 218 hours, which John has spent on the budget.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I asked for this discussion a couple of months ago. The purpose of my bringing this up is for this Commission to wrap their brain around the Treasurer's Department. We have a budget in. I would like to ask the Treasurer, How are things going now? Now that we've got a lot of that worked out, current reconciliation, current office, what's going on in your office now?

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: We're waiting for about seven items from the Finance Officer to get that closed up. As soon as they get that, they can get that closed up. Also, with the Tax Account, I believe they have about three or

four items on hold, and they should have that closed up as well. We'll work on that next. We've discovered a few issues that we might find the solution to. In talking with Tyler Eagle, it looks like from the conversation from July 31, 2022, it looks like it was a system setup; they didn't put a line item in there. When we're doing the journal entries and converting to Tyler Incode, that's what's putting the fiduciary funds in the negative. We're hoping we can get that wrapped up. They're looking into it with their team. It looks like that was due to other funds that were in there. I pointed it out to Misty, so when we're done, we're probably going to look at that and see if that's what the issue is. It looks like at the beginning, when the predecessor was doing the transfer into funds. Looks like she was pulling it from all the entities that are special districts, and she was putting it into the transfer funds to the County general. That's not being done because of something no one's ever really been aware of.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Are you fully staffed right now?

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: Yes.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: I don't know if I'm ready to go down this road today, in light of what I've been learning, and from what I'm hearing, is your offices are learning. I'm getting a better understanding of where the hiccups came from, the direction they're going. As a Commissioner, I have to ask with a price tag of \$576,000 in labor and a budget that could not able to be turned in because of this office. Do we need to relook at how this office is totally structured? That's the reason I had this. I don't know if I'm ready to talk about that at the moment, but I want to be brought to the forefront. I don't have control over the Treasurer's Office and cannot give her resources or try to redesign resources, but at the end of the day, when my work is put on a budget that is compromised, it doesn't sit lightly with me. I think we've had this discussion, and that's the reason answers here, because if we have to get third-party accounting firms to cover the duties of the Treasurer's Office, I see no reason to keep these jobs. I don't think that's the case now. I hope it's not.

Kathryn Hernandez, County Treasurer: We're working hard.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: We owe this County due diligence to make sure the Treasurer's Office job is fulfilled; however, that looks, it's the most economic, efficient, and accurate way possible.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Misty and I have been meeting with the Treasurer's Office regularly since these issues came about. Madam Treasurer invited us into that office to be a part of that process, and one of the things that we're doing right now is doing a department assessment, very similar to what happened with the Fire Department when I was put in that interim role, sitting down, touching base with staff, putting together that SWOT analysis. In conjunction with the Treasurer, we are going through that process and really looking at it from an operational, organizational perspective. That process is underway, and there's been a good working relationship there to try to get that done and maybe identify some areas where there can be some improvement.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: In all honesty, what I've seen the last several weeks, I think you were making huge strides, and I appreciate that, and I give you kudos, and I hope it continues. I'm going to reiterate what I've said in the past is that we have a team that understands office management, understands these duties, and leans on to make it a great Treasurer's Office when it's all said and done.

G. COMMISSION: Discussion Regarding McCall's Pumpkin Patch and Torrance County's Intergovernmental Agreement with the US Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Discuss Ongoing Public Communications on the County Commission's Determination to Maintain the ICE Agreement and Attempts to Dissuade Members of the Public from Attending the Private Businesses of Individual Commissioners)

Heard after agenda item 6.

H. CLERK'S REPORT:

Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk: Early voting started yesterday. We processed 424 applications for Absentee ballots. 408 of those are Permanent Absentee Voters. I would like this number to be bigger, but we did have 16 early voters yesterday. The alternate voting location in Moriarty opens on October 18. Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 to 6. The northern part of the County can take advantage of going to the Moriarty Civic Center to vote. I ask the voters to contact my office for sample ballots so that you can educate yourself on who the candidates are, as well as the School Bond questions and capital improvement

questions that are on the ballot. Please give us a call, we will get you a sample ballot, either in the mail or we can scan and email it to you, whichever you prefer. I would like for people to get out and exercise their right to vote. I would also like to thank Commissioner Jaramillo for coming to our certification of our voting machines last week. I appreciate you coming in, and I'm sure you were happy and glorious that you didn't have to do the actual certification. I would like to thank my Chief Deputy Clerk, Senaida, for all of her hard work and training for our precinct workers. I've gotten a lot of feedback, and they feel very confident. Going in yesterday to the early vote room and the absentee room, I can see the confidence in the precinct workers that I have. I appreciate Senaida's due diligence in the training that she's done. Please exercise your right to vote and cast your ballots. I just want to express to people, especially people that do live within a Municipality. This is where it does hit your pocketbook, it's your locally elected officials, from your Mayor to your Council Members, to your Municipal Judges. These people are the ones who, on a day-to-day basis, if you have complaints, it's the Mayor. If you have issues with law enforcement, it's your Police Chief. Please exercise your right and make sure that you are voting for who you feel is going to be the best improvement for your community.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: You made us aware that there are quite a few write-in Candidates this year. Do voters know where to go to know who those candidates are?

Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk: If they contact my office, I can give them specific information on who the Candidates are for these different Municipalities. I don't have any write-in candidates in the Moriarty area. The write-in candidates would be in the Estancia area, Willard Municipality, and at the Mountainair School District. By all means, anybody can contact my office, and we can get you that information. Thank you.

I. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jordan Barela- County Manager: The Economic Development Application. We are finally at a point to get that submitted to the EDA. We've had a couple of consecutive meetings. It was not an easy application to put together. The intent of us putting this application together was to get a comprehensive Economic Development Plan, and a lot of the application required us to do some of that preemptive research, to pull data, demographics, things that aren't readily

accessible for Torrance County right now, to try to consolidate that together. We are at a final point. Misty and I met with EDA a couple of weeks ago. They gave us some final pointers upon preliminary review language, to consider language, probably to take out of some areas, to make it more competitive through the process, which we're really grateful for that information. The last step is having MRCOG sign a letter of support stating that what we're doing is in line with the region's Economic Development Plan. Hopefully, by the end of this month, that will be completed, submitted, and then we should know, probably within the next 30 to 60 days, whether or not that has been awarded.

J. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT:

1. Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1

Kevin McCall- County Vice Chair: What's the update on the administration building property with the city of Estancia?

Jordan Barela- County Manager: That will be on the next agenda for the Commission. There will be a full update. The lot consolidation to our point of understanding right now has been approved by the Town of Estancia, which is the final step we needed to take. Wilson and Company should have us do enough preliminary design work to go out to RFP for a CMR Contractor by the end of this month, and we are currently working under a schedule to get us under construction in March. That's what we're working off of, and that's the timeline associated with that. The one thing that's still pending on the table as it relates to Wilson and Company is their proposed contract amendment. What we want to do next meeting is bring a full update to the Commission. Where are we? Here's the schedule. What are the next steps? What does procurement look like for a contractor? When do we have estimated construction times? Do that in conjunction with the potential contract amendment for the Commission's consideration.

2. Ryan Schwebach- County Chairman, District 2

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Because of the past events in the week. There was a public comment. I think Mr. Philabaum made the statement that there was a septic system that collapsed, and there were a bunch of issues over there. That's not true. According to Core Civic, septic did not collapse, and there are no

reports of diarrhea or vomiting. Not to say his testimony they read was not accurate on who gave it to him, but I think we need to question sources. At what point do you keep crying wolf, and nobody listens? A lot of this has gotten out of hand. I just want to correct that statement that those issues are not there. When those issues are constantly brought up in a public meeting, there's no broadcast, and people take it and run with it. Clearly.

3. Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner, District 3

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: I've been here nine months as County Commissioner, and in those nine months, I've tried to learn the processes and work with you. My main concern is that I listen to the constituents. I'll answer every call, and I listen to what they have to say. I answer all my emails, but I'm learning that there's so much we can do. Maybe listening helps, but it's a hard way to go up here, I'm telling you. I thought being a Clerk was hard, but there are so many issues, and I know things move slowly. That's one of my main pet peeves is I like to get things done. I want things to move, but I know everything has to be in place before things are done, and it has to be by the law and correct, and for the sake of everybody. I'm doing the best I can, and I'm enjoying it. I stay awake at night, sometimes thinking about all these issues and how I can fix them, but it's a group effort.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Discussion of threatened or pending Litigation Pursuant to 10-15-1.H(7):
The estate of Travis Boawn v. the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Torrance.

C. Discussion of threatened or pending Litigation Pursuant to 10-15-1.H(7):
Brian Sanchez v. the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Torrance.

Heard after agenda item 10A.

17. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:
October 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

18. Signing of Official Documents.

19. Adjourn.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to adjourn.

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

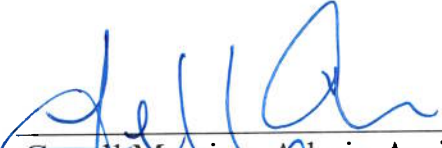
Roll Call Vote: Linda Jaramillo – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.



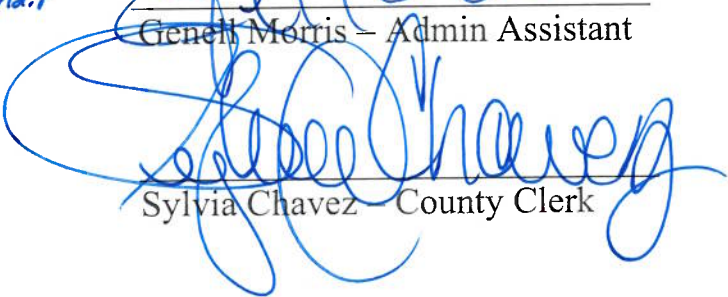
Ryan Schwebach – Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Date



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

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