

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting
June 10, 2026 9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

JORDAN BARELA-COUNTY MANAGER
MICHELLE JONES-DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA- COUNTY ATTORNEY
SYLVIA CHAVEZ-COUNTY CLERK
GENELL MORRIS- ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK
DON GOEN – PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Schwebach called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Pledge led by Chairman Schwebach, Commissioner McCall said the Invocation.

3. **Changes to the Agenda:** A request was made to remove Item 9B, which concerns Amendment No. 1 to the grant agreement between the County and the Department of Health (DOH). The request stemmed from confusion regarding whether additional approval was required for the amendment. It was noted during the discussion that there is a pre-existing approval in place, raising questions about the necessity of further board action on the item.

4. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A. PLANNING & ZONING: Request Reappointment of Gilbert Sanchez for a Second Term as the District 3 Member to the Torrance County Planning & Zoning Board.

Donald Goen, County P & Z Director: Gilbert Sanchez submitted a letter of interest requesting reappointment, which was included in the meeting packet.

- Gilbert was described as:
 - A thoughtful and valuable member of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
 - Someone who pays close attention to detail.
 - A current representative from District Three.

- Based on his service and qualifications, a recommendation was made to reappoint him for a second term.

Commission Membership Status Update

To clarify current vacancies and membership balance:

- Gilbert Sanchez
 - Current member of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
 - Eligible for reappointment.
 - Represents District Three.
- Art Ducharme
 - Completed his term and rotated off the commission.
- Danielle Johnston
 - Resigned from the commission.
 - Represented District One.

Current Commission Composition

- The Commission currently has five Planning & Zoning members.
- Representation is spread across three districts.
- The desired district balance is:
 - 2 representatives from District One
 - 2 representatives from District Two
 - 1 representative from the remaining District
- Members discussed maintaining this representative balance as future appointments are considered.

Procedural Discussion

- It was noted that there were two separate appointment-related items on the agenda:
 1. Reappointment of Gilbert Sanchez.
 2. Consideration of another vacant position (Agenda Item 4B).
- The group agreed to address Gilbert's reappointment first and then move on to the second appointment item.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded by Vice-Chair Jaramillo.**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

B. PLANNING & ZONING: Interviews and Potential Appointment of Philip Terry-Smith, Eddie O'Brien, or James Stevens as the District 1 Member of the Torrance County Planning & Zoning Board.

Donald Goen, County P & Z Director: Explained that the board currently lacks representation from District Two because:

- No letters of interest were received from District Two residents.
- Eddie O'Brien withdrew his letter of interest after informing staff on Monday.
- Emphasized that maintaining a fully staffed five-member board is more important than achieving perfect district balance.
- Noted that uneven district representation has occurred before, including board compositions such as:
 - 3 members from District One,
 - 0 from District Two,
 - 2 from District Three.
- Recommended appointing both remaining applicants:
 - Philip Terry Smith
 - James Stevens
- Described both candidates as:
 - Highly qualified.
 - Valuable assets to the board.
- Explained that appointing both would result in:
 - District One: 3 members
 - District Two: 0 members
 - District Three: 2 members
- Christina Estrada will reach the end of her term next year.
- Stated that future recruitment efforts would focus on obtaining applicants specifically from District Two to restore balance.
- Confirmed that notices seeking applicants were:
 - Advertised for nearly two months.
 - Published through newspapers.
 - Announced regularly at Commission and P&Z meetings.

Board Composition Discussion

Current proposed board makeup if both candidates are appointed:

- Staff acknowledged this is not the ideal balance.
- The preferred composition would generally be:
 - 2 members from District One
 - 2 members from District Two
 - 1 member from District Three
- However, officials noted that the board must work with available applicants.

Candidate Information

Philip Terry Smith

- Present at the meeting.
- Recommendation for appointment.
- Described as qualified and capable of serving effectively.

Jim Stevens

- Present at the meeting.
- Recommendation for appointment.
- Described as qualified and capable of serving effectively.

Dr. Philip Terry-Smith:

Background and Qualifications

- Recently relocated to New Mexico, having purchased land in 2018 and becoming a resident shortly thereafter.
- Retired college dean with extensive leadership and administrative experience.
- Retired military officer holding the rank of Colonel in the New Mexico State Defense Force.
- Well-connected and actively engaged in the local community.
- Originally from Maryland, and has traveled extensively around the world through military service.
- Active supporter of youth organizations, including involvement with:
 - Eagle Scouts/Boy Scouts
 - Girl Scouts
- Describes himself as community-oriented and committed to civic participation.

Vision and Priorities

- Expressed appreciation for the beauty and potential of the County.
- Supports thoughtful and responsible development.
- Emphasized:
 - Smart growth and planning
 - Wise use of county resources
 - Enhancing economic opportunities
 - Creating conditions that allow residents to prosper financially

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: Why did you choose Torrance County? What attracted you and your family to settle in Torrance County?

Dr. Smith's Response

- First visited New Mexico at age 17 while participating in scouting activities.
- Developed a strong affection for the state during that visit.
- When considering where to settle permanently, he and his family:
 - Reviewed multiple potential locations across the country.
 - Evaluated and eliminated locations based on various factors.
 - Found New Mexico consistently rose to the top of the list.
- Existing friends and family connections in the region influenced the decision.
- Ultimately selected Torrance County as the preferred place to establish a permanent home.

Current Leadership and Volunteer Roles
Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC)

- Confirmed he currently serves as Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC).
- Clarified that the position is not an appointed governmental position.

Potential Conflict of Interest Discussion

- The interviewer asked whether serving as LEPC Chairman could create a conflict of interest.
- Dr. Smith explained that the role is separate and non-appointed, suggesting no direct conflict.

Emergency Services Involvement

- The interviewer asked whether he serves as a volunteer EMT.
- Dr. Smith clarified that he is not a volunteer EMT.
- Instead, he volunteers with the Emergency Response Partners organization.
- The group provides support services to emergency management personnel, including support for Emergency Management.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Vice-Chair Jaramillo**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

Dr. James Carl Stevens:

Personal Background

- James Carl Stevens introduced himself as a retired scientist and inventor.
- Has owned property in New Mexico for more than 30 years.
- Owns:
 - Property in Angel Fire
 - A condominium in El Prado, just north of Taos near the Pueblo
 - A home in Torrance County, where he currently resides
- Chose New Mexico as his retirement destination because of his deep appreciation for the state's beauty, culture, and environment.
- Expressed a strong personal commitment to New Mexico and stated his intention to live there for the remainder of his life.
- Highlighted New Mexico's natural beauty, particularly its sunsets, as one of the reasons he loves the state.

Qualifications and Professional Experience

National Academies Membership

- Member of the United States National Academies since 2011.
- Explained that the National Academies were established by President Abraham Lincoln to provide scientific and technical advice to the President and Congress.
- Participates in advising on:
 - National research priorities
 - Scientific and technological directions
 - National laboratory programs, including work related to Sandia National Laboratories

Scientific and Inventive Career

- Career focused on scientific innovation and invention.
- Holds:
 - More than 100 U.S. patents
 - More than 1,000 patents worldwide
- Stated that many people have likely encountered products based on his inventions.
- Examples provided:
 - Cushioning materials used in sneaker soles
 - Materials used in Crocs footwear
- Expressed satisfaction in seeing everyday products benefiting consumers, particularly children.

Educational Background

Chemistry Training

- Clarified that his Ph.D. is in Inorganic Chemistry, not Organic Chemistry.
- Later specialized in Organometallic Chemistry, which combines aspects of:
 - Organic Chemistry
 - Inorganic Chemistry
- Shared that:
 - Many students consider organic chemistry a difficult or "killer" course.
 - He personally enjoyed chemistry and was passionate about creating new molecules.
- Indicated that he was always more interested in chemistry research than pursuing medicine.

Advisory and Board Experience

Government Advisory Service

- Served on an advisory board for the Government of China after retirement.
- Provided advice related to:
 - Renewable energy
 - Energy-related research and development
- Continued in this role until the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ended participation due to:
 - Travel limitations during COVID
 - His wife's serious illness

Corporate Advisory Boards

Served on advisory boards for numerous international corporations, including:

- BP
- SABIC (Saudi Arabian chemical and energy company)
- Sinopec (Chinese state-owned oil company)
- LG Chem (South Korea)
- Mitsui (Japan)

Additional Advisory Work

- Continues serving on advisory committees through the National Academies.
- Has extensive experience providing strategic scientific and technological guidance to organizations worldwide.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Vice-Chair Jaramillo**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

5. Public Comment:

Luke Fields – Animal Services:

- Expressed appreciation to the County Commissioners, County management, employees, and community members for their support.
- Announced that significant progress has been made over the past two weeks on animal shelter improvement projects.
- Reported that the \$75,000 renovation project has officially received purchase order approval.
- Recognized Joanna for her efforts in securing CES approval and helping move the project forward efficiently.

Renovation Project Status

- Communication with the contractor began immediately after approval was received.
- Project planning and site layout activities started this week.
- An 811 utility location ticket has been submitted for the fence line work.

- Construction activities are moving forward smoothly and on schedule.
- Work will begin on the exterior improvements before interior renovations.

Animal Shelter Operations

- The kennel has been temporarily closed to allow renovation work.
- Danette and her team have successfully coordinated animal transfers to create space for construction.
- The department expects the entire \$75,000 renovation project to be completed by July 15.

Future Capital Improvements

- Discussed additional future projects that will be addressed further during the ICIP presentation.
- Announced progress on a separate \$136,000 new building project.
- Purchase orders for the new building are being prepared so work can begin immediately after the current renovation project is completed.

Appreciation

- Thanked County management and employees who have contributed to the success of the renovation effort.
- Emphasized excitement about continuing improvements to animal services facilities and operations.

Commissioner Discussion

Adoption and Animal Transfer Updates

- The Commission praised the department's work and asked about the adoption status of a specific dog.

Response from Animal Services

- The dog has not yet been adopted.
- The animal is expected to be transferred through Project Fetch to Animal Humane New Mexico in Albuquerque.
- Staff expressed confidence that the dog will be adopted quickly once transferred.
- Another potential adopter has been working with the department regarding one of the shelter animals.

Danette Langdon, Animal Shelter Director:

Project Fetch Explanation

- Explained that Project Fetch is a partnership program operated through Animal Humane of New Mexico.
- The program relocates dogs from overcrowded shelters throughout New Mexico to increase adoption opportunities.
- Torrance County Animal Services has worked with the program for approximately 23 years.
- Although transfers have become more challenging recently, the program continues to provide critical support.

Upcoming Transfers

- Four dogs are scheduled to be transferred through Project Fetch on Thursday.
- These transfers will help reduce shelter population levels and support ongoing renovation activities.

**Zoom*

NONE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COMMISSION: Request Approval of the May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion: **Chairman Schwebach** motioned to approve the minutes; **seconded by Vice-Chair Jaramillo.**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

7. Consent Agenda:

- a) **FINANCE:** Request Approval of Payables with a date range of May 21, 2026, through June 3, 2026.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

8. 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

A. CLERK: Request Approval of Canvassing for the 2026 Primary Election.

Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk:

- Chief Deputy Clerk Senaida Anaya
- Bureau of Elections Olivia Mauricio

Opening Remarks & Acknowledgements

Expressed appreciation for everyone involved in administering the election:

- Thanked office staff for their work during early voting and election preparation.
- Recognized precinct workers as an extension of the Clerk's Office.
- Thanked:
 - Veteran precinct workers
 - New election workers
 - Voting technicians for rapid response to polling-place issues
 - Chief Deputy Clerk Senaida Anaya for organizational support and election management assistance.

Election Overview

Purpose of Presentation

To present the official 2026 Primary Election Results and review four election reports showing turnout and vote totals from different perspectives.

Report 1 – Ballots Cast by Precinct and Voting Method

Breakdown Included:

- Absentee voting
 - Early voting
 - Election Day voting
 - Hand-tallied ballots
 - Provisional ballots
-

Republican Party Totals

- 1,818 ballots cast
- 4 hand tallies
- 1 provisional ballot

Democratic Party Totals

- 1,089 ballots cast
- 2 hand tallies
- 1 provisional ballot

Decline-to-State (Independent) Voters

- Participated under New Mexico's updated primary rules.
- Estimated participation:
 - Approximately 50 voters
- Election staff reported:
 - Process went smoothly.
 - Voters understood ballot options.
 - No significant issues occurred.

Report 2 – Candidate Votes by Voting Method

Shows where each candidate's votes originated:

- Absentee
- Early Voting
- Election Day
- Hand Tallies
- Provisional Ballots

Notable Information

- No overseas/UOCAVA ballots were issued this cycle.
- Only two provisional ballots occurred.

Provisional Ballot Issue

- Both provisionals originated from:
 - Precinct 21
- One Republican voter and one Democratic voter affected.
- Cause:
 - Technical issue at alternate early voting location.
- Vendor:
 - AES
- Resolution:
 - The problem was immediately corrected.
 - No further issues occurred.

Report 3 – Candidate Votes by Tabulator

Shows vote totals received by each candidate on specific tabulators.

Locations with Multiple Tabulators

Due to higher voter volume:

- Moriarty Civic Center

- Edgewood School Administration Building
- Mountainair Dr. Saul Community Center

Reason

- Reduce voter wait times.
- Improve ballot-processing efficiency.

Report 4 – Candidate Votes by Precinct and Voting Group

Provides detailed information showing:

- Candidate
- Precinct
- Voting method (absentee, early, Election Day)

Benefits

- Shows where candidates received support.
- Helps identify turnout patterns by precinct.
- Useful reference for candidates and election analysis.

Write-In Candidate Process

Major Discussion Topic

The three Republican write-in candidates created substantial hand-counting work.

Write-In Candidates

- Larry Marker
- Joshua James Ryan Lawrance
- James F. Ellison

Workload

- 492 ballots required write-in review and hand tally.

Election Board Members Recognized

- Marley Neish
- Joyce Garcia
- Olivia Mauricio
- Senaida Anaya

Process Explained

- Ballots containing write-ins are automatically diverted by tabulators into a write-in bin.
- All other votes on the ballot are still counted electronically.
- Only the write-in contest requires manual review.

Clarification

- Write-ins were not hand-counted at polling locations.
- They were counted centrally by the election board.

Election Reporting to the Secretary of State

Election Night Process

1. Memory cards collected from tabulators.
2. Results uploaded into the county election database.
3. Data transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office.
4. Preliminary unofficial results published.
5. Write-ins and hand tallies added afterward.

6. Final numbers reviewed and verified.

Verification Process

Sylvia and Senaida:

- Conducted a detailed review of all totals.
- Corrected minor discrepancies after consultation with the Secretary of State's Office.
- Final numbers successfully accepted.

Current Status

- Awaiting official canvass approval.

Memory Card Discussion

Commissioner Questions

Discussion focused on election memory cards and prior purchases approved by the Commission.

Key Information

- The previous audit resulted in memory cards being held by the Sheriff's Department.
- Additional memory cards were purchased to ensure election continuity.
- County now has:
 - Two complete sets of memory cards.

Tabulator Configuration

Each tabulator contains:

- Primary memory card
- Backup memory card

Purpose:

- Ensure results can still be recovered if one card fails.

Outcome

- All memory cards functioned properly during this election.

Official Election Results

Republican Primary Winners

U.S. Senate

- Larry Marker (write-in) – 394 votes

U.S. Representative District 1

- Ndidamaka Ekwua Charlene Okpareke – 1,164

Governor

- Gregory D. Hull – 841
- Doug W Turner – 569
- Duke Rodriguez - 316

Lieutenant Governor

- Aubrey Dunn – 766
- David M Gallegos – 686
- Manuel (Manny) Lardizabal - 192

Secretary of State

- Ramona L. Goolsby – 1,025

Attorney General

- Samuel Isaiah Kane Sr. – 1,011

State Auditor

- Joshua James Brian Lawrance (write-in) – 368

State Treasurer

- James F. Ellison (write-in) – 384

Commissioner of Public Lands

- Michael Jack Perry – 1,348

State Representative District 22

- Stefani Lord – 1,022

Public Education Commission District 6

- Stuart Allen Ingham – 1,305

Magistrate Judge

- Craig M. Davis – 900
- Bobby L Garcia - 737

County Commission District 1

- Nathan Allen Schafer – 404

County Commission District 2

- Thomas J. Holt – 253
- Leanne M. Tapia – 242

County Sheriff

- Thomas D. Carter – 1,056
- David E Frazee - 705

County Assessor

- Crystal M. Garcia – 832
- Martin A Lucero - 802

Probate Judge

- Mary Ann Anaya-Hernandez – 568
 - Melvin Roy McNeil – 261
 - Tracey J Master – 436
 - Nathan M Dial – 429
-

Democratic Primary Winners

U.S. Senate

- Ben R. Luján – 872
- Matt Dodson – 195

U.S. Representative District 1

- Melanie Stansbury – 970

Governor

- Deb Haaland – 757
- Sam Bregman - 318

Lieutenant Governor

- Maggie Toulouse Oliver – 815
- Harold James Pope Jr. - 247

Secretary of State

- Amanda Lopez Askin – 564
- Katharine E Clark - 457

Attorney General

- Raúl Torrez – 972

State Auditor

- Joseph M. Maestas – 940

State Treasurer

- Laura M. Montoya – 947

Commissioner of Public Lands

- Juan de Jesús Sánchez III – 571
- Matthew McQueen – 360
- Jonas Moya - 112

State Representative District 22

- William "Bill" Scott – 612

State Representative District 70

- Anita Amalia Gonzales – 246
- Ambrose M Castellano - 85

Court of Appeals Position 1

- Kris Houghton – 905

County Commission District 1

- Albert Chavez – 299

County Commission District 2

- William Peifer – 272

County Assessor

- Hugh G. Jones – 901

Independent Candidate Filing

Public Notice

Sylvia announced:

- Independent candidates may still file for the November General Election.
- Filing day:
 - Last Thursday of June
 - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Clerk's Office

General Election

- Write-in candidates will still be permitted.

Potential Recount Discussion

Race of Concern

Republican County Commission District 2

Results:

- Thomas Holt: 253
- Leanne Tapia: 242

Reason for Review

- Margin appears within automatic recount thresholds.
- Sylvia believes race may qualify under:
 - 3% rule or
 - Five-vote threshold provisions (pending SOS review).

Current Status

- Awaiting official determination from the Secretary of State.
- Expected notification:
 - Early the following week.

Recount Procedure Explained

If ordered:

Steps

1. Petition District Court.
2. Obtain court order.
3. Open sealed ballot boxes.
4. Retrieve affected ballots.
5. Conduct a hand recount.

Locations Potentially Impacted

Likely:

- Absentee ballots
- Early voting ballots

- Northern county precincts

However:

- Any county polling location may contain votes from eligible district voters due to vote-center voting.

System Recheck (Audit) Process

Purpose

Verify tabulator accuracy.

Method

Secretary of State randomly selects:

- Race
- Precinct

Election staff then:

- Pull all ballots for that race/precinct.
- Hand count votes.
- Compare results to tabulator totals.

Objective

Confirm electronic tabulation matches voter intent and hand-count totals.

Motion: Commissioner McCall motioned to approve; **seconded by Chairman Schwebach**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

9. APPROVALS/ACTION ITEM:

A. SHERIFF: Request Approval of an Agreement Between Torrance County and Axion Enterprise, Inc. to Provide Body Worn Cameras, Hardware, Software, Taser Devices, and Related Services for the Torrance County Sheriff's Office.

Reecie Eckard, Sheriff's Executive Assistant: The County is at the end of its existing five-year contract with Axion.

- Axion initially proposed a 10-year contract valued at approximately \$998,000.
- County staff determined that a 10-year extension would violate state procurement laws because:
 - The County was already completing a five-year term.
 - Adding another 10 years would create a 15-year consecutive contract term, exceeding legal limits.

- A new 10-year agreement would require a completely new procurement process.

Financial Impact

- First payment will be due after July 1.
- Budget planning had already anticipated an increase for FY27.
- Payment structure:
 - Initial payment: approximately \$43,000
 - Years 2–5: approximately \$62,000 annually
 - Represents an increase of roughly \$19,000 per year after the first payment.

Procurement and Legal Compliance

Why a Five-Year Contract Instead of Ten Years?

- State procurement law limits non-professional services contracts to a maximum consecutive term.
- Since the county had already completed a five-year term:
 - Extending for another 10 years would exceed allowable limits.
 - A new procurement process would have been required.
 - The procurement timeline would likely have outlasted the current contract, creating risk to the Sheriff's Office operations.
- The County, therefore, pursued a five-year renewal to remain compliant.

Concerns About Axion's Proposal

Commissioner McCall

- Questioned whether Axion should have known the contract violated procurement requirements.
- Expressed concern that a company experienced in government contracts would propose a structure that was not legally permissible.
- Noted concern about Axion's apparent market dominance and lack of competitors.

Response from Legal Counsel

- Confirmed there were extensive discussions with Axion regarding procurement requirements.
- Some proposed language involving automatic renewals and state pricing agreements was also reviewed and found problematic or insufficient.
- Ultimately, Axion agreed to the County's requested revisions.

Commissioner Comments and Concerns

Commissioner Concerns About Pricing

Commissioner McCall

- Expressed concern about the large pricing flexibility demonstrated during negotiations.
- Questioned how Axion could reduce costs so significantly while maintaining the same services.
- Suggested the large reduction raised concerns about the original pricing proposal.

Jordan Barela, County Manager, response

- Characterized the outcome as a result of strong negotiation.
- Noted that Axion is operating as a sales-driven company seeking the highest possible contract value.

- Emphasized that:
 - No services were removed.
 - The negotiated contract represents a substantially better value for Torrance County.

Monopoly and Competition Concerns

Market Position of Axion

Chairman expresses

- Multiple comments reflected concern that Axion is effectively the only viable provider.
- Existing records and systems are already housed within Axon's platform, making the transition difficult.
- Commissioners worried about:
 - Lack of competition.
 - Potential future price increases.
 - Dependence on a single vendor.

Future Considerations

Chairman Schwebach:

- Encouraged future administrations to explore alternative vendors if they become available.
- Suggested maintaining awareness of competitive options before the next renewal cycle.

Contract Exit Clause Discussion

Concern Raised

- Asked whether the contract contains a termination clause that will allow the County to exit if a better alternative becomes available.

Response

Michael Garcia – Torrance County Attorney:

- Could not immediately identify a termination provision in the contract.
- Requested additional time to review the agreement before final action.

Motion: Commissioner McCall motioned to table to allow legal review of termination provisions. Seconded by **Chairman Schwebach**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Tabled

B. GRANTS: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement 26 IGA 3050 00038 01, Between Torrance County and the New Mexico Department of Health for the Cities Readiness Initiative, Allocating a Budget of \$60,000.00.

Removed

C. GRANTS/MANAGER: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 of the Professional Services Contract Between Torrance County and Rebecca Armstrong, Extending the Term of the Agreement an Additional Year Beginning on July 1, 2026.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: The discussion focused on renewing the contract of Rebecca Armstrong, who serves as the Program Coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Program. Staff recommended extending her contract for an additional year because of her strong performance and the program's ongoing success under her coordination.

- Rebecca Armstrong currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Program.
- The county/program has maintained an active contract with her and has historically issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for these services.
- The existing agreement allows the organization to extend the current contract for an additional year rather than reopening the RFP process.
- Staff reported that the current team of contractors is performing well and that the working relationship with CYFD remains positive.
- The proposed extension would continue under the same terms and conditions as the existing contract.
- Annual contract amount:
 - \$48,000 total
 - Includes \$500 designated for travel and training expenses

Roles and Responsibilities

Rebecca Armstrong – Program Coordinator

- Oversees and coordinates the entire Juvenile Justice Program.
- Manages:
 - Financial administration
 - Staff scheduling
 - Coordination with CYFD
 - Required reporting and program compliance
- Supervises and supports the other contractors who provide direct services.

Other Contractors

- The remaining contractors work directly in schools.
- They provide services to students and are supervised/coordinated through Armstrong's role.

Manager Barela

- Explained that the current contractors are performing effectively.

- Recommended extending Armstrong's contract for another year.
- Clarified that Armstrong manages program operations, finances, scheduling, and reporting.
- Noted that the other contractors deliver services in schools.

Commissioner Schwebach

- Asked for clarification regarding Armstrong's supervisory role over the other contractors.
- Confirmed understanding that she oversees the personnel whose contracts would be considered next.

Staff Response

- Confirmed that Armstrong is responsible for coordinating the entire program and supervising operational functions.

Commissioner/Board Feedback

- Expressed satisfaction with Armstrong's performance.
- Stated that the organization has been pleased with her services.

Staff Comment

- Praised Armstrong's work quality.
- Noted that she is recognized statewide for her excellence in the field.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

D. GRANTS/MANAGER: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 of the Professional Services Contract Between Torrance County and Jessica Love, Extending the Term of the Agreement an Additional Year Beginning on July 1, 2026, and Increasing the Maximum Annual Compensation to \$60,000.00.

Jordan Barela, County Manager:

- Clarified that the current contract amount is up to \$60,000 per contract.
- Explained that when the contracts were originally established, the total annual state funding available for programming services was \$180,000.
- Noted that the original contract amounts were approximately \$37,500 for program services.
- Stated that the lower original amounts were based on the expectation that:
 - More personnel would be working directly in schools.

- A greater volume of program services would be delivered through school-based staffing.

Funding Allocation Explanation

- The available funding was divided among the contracts, with each provider receiving a portion of the total funding allocation.
- The three contracts discussed collectively represent the distribution of the program services funding.

Reason for Contract Increase

- Contract amounts were increased from approximately \$37,500 to \$60,000 each.
- The increase ensures that the organization fully utilizes the state-provided CYP funding.
- Current funding structure:
 - Contract 1: \$60,000
 - Contract 2: \$60,000
 - Contract 3: \$60,000
 - Total: \$180,000

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

E. GRANTS/MANAGER: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 of the Professional Services Contract Between Torrance County and Serena Ortiz, Extending the Term of the Agreement an Additional Year Beginning on July 1, 2026, and Increasing the Maximum Annual Compensation to \$60,000.00.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

F. GRANTS/MANAGER: Request Approval of Amendment No. 1 of the Professional Services Contract Between Torrance County and Robert Chavez, Extending the Term of the Agreement an Additional Year Beginning on July 1, 2026, and Increasing the Maximum Annual Compensation to \$60,000.00.

Jordan Barela, County Manager:

- Contract amounts reviewed:
 - Most contracts discussed are approximately \$94,200
 - Robert Chavez's contract is \$79,600
 - Question raised regarding why Robert's contract is lower than others

Explanation Provided

- The difference in contract amounts is due to program service scope differences, not errors.
- Speaker: Contract Commissioner / Staff Response
 - The contracts include an attachment outlining program service breakdowns
 - That attachment reflects total program services rather than just the base contract line
 - The programming is divided between:
 - Girls Circle program (higher cost / more services)
 - Boys Circle program (lower cost relative to Girls Circle)
- Clarification:
 - The Girls Circle programming is more extensive than the Boys Circle
 - Therefore, Girls Circle contract totals are higher
 - The attachment at the end of contracts may not match the total contract amount directly because it reflects program-level service allocations

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

G. FIRE: Request Approval of a Professional Services Agreement Between Torrance County and Rio Grande Medical Direction, LLC, to Provide EMS and Dispatch Medical Direction for Torrance County.

Gary Smith, County Fire Chief: The EMS agency is working to recontract the current medical director, who remains the same individual but has transitioned out from under his previous organizational umbrella.

- He is now operating independently but continues providing services directly to the County/EMS system.

Role & Responsibilities (as described by EMS staff)

- Provides 24/7 medical direction support for EMS operations.
- Can be contacted at any time, including overnight emergencies (examples given of 3:00 AM contact and email communication).
- Responsible for:
 - Signing off on EMT skills
 - Approving EMS protocols
 - Providing real-time medical guidance during calls
- Conducts training sessions for EMS personnel.
- Coordinates with dispatch center and emergency management.

Availability & Reliability

- Staff confirmed he is generally always reachable, though he is a single provider without backup physicians on-call.
- Despite being solo, EMS reports they have been able to reach him even during late-night emergencies.

Budget & Cost Increase (FY27)

- Noted significant increase in contract cost (~\$30,000–\$40,000 annually, total impact).
- Monthly increase is approximately \$700/month, raising his pay to about \$2,000/month.
- Primary reason for increase:
 - He is now responsible for his own malpractice insurance, previously covered under his former organizational umbrella.

Procurement / Alternatives Discussion

- The Commissioner questioned whether other medical directors were considered.
- Response indicated:
 - There are multiple available providers, but the current doctor has a strong working relationship with EMS.
 - He is described as flexible, cooperative, and responsive to County needs.
 - Staff emphasized preference for continuity over switching providers at this time.

Contract History

- The medical director has served the county for approximately 3 years.
- Previously, EMS had fewer effective arrangements with prior medical directors, described as less practical or less responsive.

General Sentiment

- EMS leadership expressed satisfaction with the current provider despite the cost increase.
- Commissioner acknowledged concern about the increase but indicated acceptance if EMS is satisfied with performance.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded by Commissioner McCall.**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

H. FINANCE: Request Approval of a Letter to Bank of America Regarding Removing Joseph Jordan Barela as a Primary Authorized User on the County’s Corporate Account and Adding a User.

Jordan Barela, County Manager: Currently, there are two authorized users on the County’s Bank of America (BOA) corporate account:

- Helen (Treasurer’s Office)
- County Manager (Manager’s Office)
- Purpose of account access:
 - Management of procurement cards (P-cards/RP cards) and related financial transactions
 - Ability to resolve issues directly with Bank of America when they arise

Request Presented:

- Add Joanna Romero (Assistant Finance Director) as an additional authorized user
 - Would provide coverage under the Finance/Manager’s administrative structure
 - Ensures continuity of access with both Finance and Treasurer representation
- Remove the outgoing County Manager from the account due to separation from Torrance County (final week of service)

Operational Rationale (Manager):

- Ensures at least two internal points of contact remain available to:
 - Contact Bank of America for account issues
 - Maintain continuity of P-card administration

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to remove Jordan and add Joanna; **seconded** by **Vice-Chair Jaramillo**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – No
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

10. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION:

A. GRANT: Continued Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2027 Infrastructure and Capital Improvements Plan.

- Jody Cornwall, Grants Administrator:
 - Original ICIP spreadsheet
 - Revised version with strikethroughs indicating proposed removals
 - “Clean” ICIP version reflecting deletions

Key intent:

- Remove projects that are:
 - No longer departmental priorities
 - Not shovel-ready
- Create a definitive, streamlined project list

Commission input requested:

- Confirm agreement or disagreement with removed (strikethrough) items
- Identify any projects that should be reinstated

Correction to Project List

- Identified a mistake in the spreadsheet
- Issue:
 - “Regional Animal Center” was struck through incorrectly
- Clarification:
 - Prior decision was to keep it in the ICIP
 - Update required: change designation to Torrance County

Outcome:

- Staff requested that commissioners confirm corrections to ensure accuracy before finalizing the ICIP list

Priority Setting for ICIP Projects

Facilitator: Staff / Commission Discussion

- Focus of discussion:
 - Establishing year-by-year project priorities
 - Ensuring alignment with funding and readiness

Goal:

- Develop a clear priority ranking system for ICIP projects moving forward

Fire Department Comprehensive Plan Funding Discussion

Commission Discussion

- Topic: Fire Department comprehensive planning and potential funding strategies
- Mentioned:
 - \$90,000 available funding
- Discussion included:
 - Exploring “creative” use of existing funds
 - Whether funding should support planning or other project needs

- Item referenced in relation to strikethrough decisions and project prioritization

New Proposed ICIP Projects

Opening Remarks / Project Introduction

Speaker: Luke Fields (Torrance County Animal Services)

- Began by acknowledging key support from Jody, who:
 - Helped secure \$136,000 for the next project phase
 - Helped resolve a notice of obligation issue at the Roundhouse
 - Was credited as critical to project progress (“without her, we’d still be spinning our wheels”)

Overall Project Concept: McIntosh Safety Campus

Purpose

- Transform the McIntosh facility into a more organized, secure, and professionalized safety campus
- Proposed naming:
 - “Dominique Smith Memorial Safety Campus” (in honor of deputy namesake Sergeant Dominique Smith)

Key Goals

- Improve security, infrastructure, and operational efficiency
- Address issues over a 5–10 year planning horizon
- Submit under ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan) for funding opportunities

Proposed Project Components

Security Improvements

- Fence entire campus:
 - Protects dispatch + telecommunications infrastructure
 - Prevents unauthorized vehicle access
- Add controlled gate systems:
 - Dispatch gate tied to bay doors (emergency fail-safe opens on power loss)
 - Separate gate for Animal Services

Drainage / Site Improvements

- Current issue:
 - Area behind dispatch and Animal Services floods quickly (even with light rain)
 - Soil is clay/silt → turns into mud
- Revised solution:
 - Avoid full paving (to preserve future flexibility)
 - Install:
 - Base course grading
 - Two culverts
 - Goal: improve drainage and usability without locking future infrastructure options

Equipment / Yard Cleanup

- Large amount of unused/obsolete equipment stored on site

- Plan:
 - Work with Chief + departments to auction/sell surplus equipment
 - Use DFA/state-approved processes
 - Consider online auction system (E-Fleets mentioned)
 - Reduce unnecessary insurance costs on unused assets

Training Tower (Major Addition)

- Proposal: 3-story fire training tower
- Estimated cost: ~\$750,000
- Location:
 - Northeast corner of the property after cleanup
- Purpose:
 - Fire training (firefighters, forcible entry, etc.)
 - Law enforcement training support
 - Recruitment and professional development tool
- Benefits:
 - Potential ISO rating improvement (approx. +8 points mentioned)
 - Regional training potential

Cost Estimates (Preliminary)

- Site grading/base course: \$45,000
- Automatic gates:
 - Dispatch/fire gate: ~\$10,000 system (fail-safe, bay-linked)
 - Animal Services gate: \$5,000
- Fencing: \$80,000
- Training tower: \$750,000
- Total discussed scope: multi-phase, long-term capital plan

Funding / Process Discussion

- ICIP used as:
 - Long-term infrastructure planning tool
 - Gateway for capital outlay + grants
- Possibility raised:
 - Partial completion funding through capital outlay first
 - Later matching with grants (including the automated grant matching system “PARS” mentioned)
- Suggestion:
 - Projects may be partially funded and phased over time

Operational / Strategic Discussion

Equipment and Space Concerns

- Debate over:
 - Whether the existing yard is too crowded
 - Need to clear old vehicles and equipment first
- Agreement:

- Cleanup is necessary regardless of project approval

Training Facility Questions

Speaker: Gary Smith (Torrance County Fire)

- Confirmed:
 - Existing training structure exists (used for live burns and training)
- Concerns raised:
 - Past funding issues with regional training commitments
 - Desire to ensure fairness and long-term commitment

Key Policy Discussion Points

Commissioners and staff raised:

- Whether a new training tower is needed vs. improving the existing facility
- Whether the county should:
 - Build a standalone facility at McIntosh
 - OR pursue a regional training partnership (JPA concept)
- Concern:
 - Avoid duplication of training infrastructure in the County

Land Expansion Discussion

- Question raised about:
 - Whether the current 2.2-acre footprint is sufficient long-term
- Key considerations:
 - State land borders property (north/east discussed)
 - Potential need to acquire additional acreage
 - Avoid “locking in” future expansion constraints with fencing decisions
- No decision made, but:
 - Strong interest in exploring state land acquisition

Key Themes / Consensus Points

- Strong agreement on:
 - Need for site cleanup and drainage improvements
 - Need for security upgrades (fencing + controlled access)
- Mixed views on:
 - Immediate need for training tower
 - Whether to pursue a regional vs County-only training facility
- Broad agreement:
 - Project is valid but should be phased and carefully planned
 - Long-term land use planning is critical before locking infrastructure in place

Items Likely to Move Forward

- ICIP inclusion of the McIntosh Safety Campus project
- Initial grading + drainage improvements
- Security fencing upgrades
- Continued evaluation of:
 - Training tower feasibility

- Regional training partnership
- Land acquisition options
- Equipment disposal/auction process

Property Cleanup / Consolidation Plan (County Yard / Dispatch Area)

- Proposal to centralize all surplus/disposed county equipment/materials:
 - Move everything currently scattered across departments to the backside of the County yard property (behind the existing fence area).
- Expected benefits:
 - Major visual cleanup of dispatch area → would “make it look a lot bigger and more organized.”
 - Improves internal control of surplus/disposal inventory.
 - Allows better tracking of what is being removed or retained.
- Operational considerations:
 - Area has sufficient space to consolidate materials.
 - Drainage flows toward state land; acceptable but noted for design consideration.
- Funding stance:
 - Could still pursue outside funding for improvements, but internal cleanup is seen as an immediate, low-cost improvement step.

Road Infrastructure Strategy & Funding Priorities

Micro seal “Double Chip Seal” Proposal

- Proposal to request approx. \$500,000 per project cycle for:
 - Micro seal double chip seal (two-layer treatment) on existing roads.
- Estimated impact:
 - Could complete ~5–6 miles per \$500K depending on road conditions.
 - Existing pilot projects (single seal roads) are performing well:
 - “Holding up good” with improved durability and pothole reduction.
- Strategic shift:
 - Move away from vague “road material” requests.
 - Instead, submit named, mileage-specific priority road lists for funding clarity.
- Funding sources discussed:
 - State capital outlay / DOT / TPS programs.
 - Emphasis on shovel-ready, clearly defined projects improves approval chances.

Martinez Road Project (Large Capital Issue)

- Project status:
 - Estimated cost: ~\$1.5 million ICIP listing
 - Includes engineering challenges (mountain terrain, culverts, design complexity).
- Issue:
 - Not approved yet due to scale and complexity
- Discussion:

- Consider phasing the project into segments to improve approval likelihood.
- Currently categorized as a tip seal / engineered roadway project.
- Other road projects:
 - Some projects approved (e.g., Allen, Breaking Range-type roads).
 - Martinez remains the most difficult approval case.

Road Assessment Study

- Proposal:
 - Full countywide road condition assessment.
- Purpose:
 - Rank roads systematically for multi-year planning and funding strategy.
- Cost:
 - Approx. \$300,000 quote
- Update:
 - Coordination with RTPPO may provide partial funding support.
 -
- Outcome:
 - General agreement that it would significantly improve long-term planning.

Capital Outlay & Funding Strategy Discussion

- General theme:
 - The county is performing relatively well compared to others in executing capital projects efficiently.
- Observations:
 - Smaller counties may benefit due to fewer competing projects.
 - Strong emphasis on:
 - Fast project execution once funding is received.
 - Avoiding delays that reduce funding efficiency.
- Legislative feedback:
 - County projects are viewed favorably when well-defined and actively managed.

Emergency Services & Facilities Planning

Emergency Care Facility (Renaming Discussion)

- Proposal:
 - Rename “24/7 Urgent Care” to Emergency Care Facility
- Rationale:
 - County lacks a true emergency room locally (nearest is Albuquerque).
 - Clarifies intent: full emergency-level capability rather than urgent care branding.

Emergency Equipment Needs

- Identified needs:
 - Generators
 - Portable lighting
 - Other response equipment
 - Items considered shovel-ready and eligible for immediate purchase

700 MHz Radio System

- Funding status:
 - Multiple funding sources + partial grant awards in progress.
 - Still not fully funded (~shortfall risk remains).
- Decision:
 - Keep the project on the priority list to ensure completion.
- Concern:
 - Risk of personnel lacking statewide radio system access if incomplete.

Willard Fire Station Upgrades

- Status:
 - Minor renovations and improvements under consideration.
- Issue:
 - Lack of finalized scope, plans, and cost estimates.
- Decision:
 - Likely to delay or move down the priority list until a clearer project definition is developed.
- Reason:
 - Need better understanding of long-term staffing and station utilization patterns.

Fire Protection Water System (McIntosh Site)

- Project:
 - Above-ground 30,000-gallon steel tank system with heater
- Cost:
 - Approximately \$221,600 (installed).
- Funding available:
 - About \$490,000 allocated
- Notes:
 - Requires site prep, drainage adjustments, and pipeline connection work.
- Status:
 - Considered feasible and lower-cost than expected, moving forward.

Emergency Medical & Fleet Planning

A. EMS Vehicles / ICIP Request

- Proposal:
 - \$1.7 million for ALS 4x4 ambulances and response vehicles
- Concerns:
 - Long procurement timelines (2–3 years for specialized builds)
- Discussion:
 - DFA is concerned about project lifespan vs. delivery timelines.
- Outcome:
 - Keep funding request active for now, pending legislative clarity.

B. Fire Apparatus Procurement Issues

- Problem:
 - Fire trucks now take 2+ years to deliver due to demand and manufacturing backlog
- Discussion:
 - Consideration of:
 - Stock units
 - Smaller “mini pumper” alternatives for faster acquisition
- Insight:
 - Rising costs and limited manufacturers are driving delays and price increases.

General Funding & Legislative Strategy

- Maximize all funding sources (state, DOT, capital outlay, grants, RTPO).
- Prioritize:
 - Shovel-ready projects
 - Clearly defined scopes
 - Phased approaches for large projects
- Legislative outlook:
 - The County is seen as efficient in executing capital projects, which strengthens future funding competitiveness.

Clerk’s Office – Record Scanning & Digital Access Project

- Nearly all clerk record books have been fully scanned and digitized.
- Next step: integrate records into the Triadic system for:
 - Online public access
 - Image sales/revenue generation
- Project status: “shovel ready.”
- Funding needs:
 - ~\$50,000 for Triadic system integration
 - \$200,000 total over phases
 - Over 100 books still require physical repair/restoration
- Important clarification:
 - Even scanned books must still be physically preserved and repaired
- Additional coordination:
 - Working with the Treasurer’s Office for the payment/revenue collection system
- Request:
 - Keep the project as a high priority in budget planning

Outcome:

- Commissioners agree to prioritize and consider funding in upcoming budget cycles.

Animal Services – Facility Expansion & Site Planning

- Current status:

- New kennel facility and cat facility planned
 - Site improvements underway
- Capacity outlook:
 - Current site likely sufficient for ~10 years with phased expansion
- Expansion options discussed:
 - Additional kennel buildings
 - Quarantine facility (identified as a critical need)
 - Possible eastward expansion or land acquisition
- Strategic direction:
 - Shift away from the regional facility model
 - Focus on improving and maximizing the current site
- Operational priorities:
 - Clean up lot (fencing, drainage, gravel, yard improvements)
 - Use a modular, phased construction approach
- Infrastructure idea:
 - Use millings (recycled asphalt material) for durable surfaces
- Site coordination:
 - Collaboration with the road department and other County departments

Vehicle Relocation & Site Consolidation

- Discussion on moving county vehicles and equipment for site organization
- Agreement:
 - Proceed with relocation without major formal barriers
 - Timing flexible (target: by spring if needed)
- Goal:
 - Consolidate equipment to improve site appearance and efficiency

Economic Development Plan & LEDA Ordinance

- The County currently lacks a modern, comprehensive economic development plan
- Existing plan:
 - Partial and outdated (covers only southern areas; focused on preservation, not growth)
 - LEDA ordinance dates back to 2003
- Findings:
 - The County has no updated countywide economic development strategy
- Cost estimates:
 - ~\$225,000 for a full economic development plan (comparable counties)
- Importance:
 - Required for funding eligibility and project justification
 - Supports long-term economic planning and land use decisions
- Current action:
 - Meeting scheduled with the State Economic Development Office
 - Reviewing whether the existing ordinance is sufficient temporarily
- Decision:
 - Plan must be added to ICIP (capital improvement plan)
 - The update process will likely require external consultant support

Mescalero Dam – Removal Plan

- Dam is:
 - Non-functional
 - Long-standing safety/liability issue (~60 years)
- Proposed solution:
 - Full breach/removal of the dam
- Status:
 - Engineer study completed
 - State Engineer Dam Safety Bureau approved concept
- Cost estimate (2023):
 - ~\$70,000 (likely higher now)
- Benefits:
 - One-time cost
 - Eliminates ongoing liability and maintenance
 - Enables reuse of materials for protective berms
 - Protects the nearby transfer station from flooding
- Execution plan:
 - Use the county road department for in-house work
 - “Shovel-ready” project

ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan) Prioritization

- Priority framework discussed:
 1. County Administration Building (highest priority)
 2. Public safety (fire, EMS, sheriff)
 3. Roads infrastructure
 4. Other capital projects (lower priority)
- Agreement:
 - Maintain general structure rather than full reprioritization
 - Focus on the annual funding request shortlist instead
- Key deadlines:
 - July 1 deadline for new ICIP additions
- Already added:
 - \$500,000 for road-related item
- Next steps:
 - Add a comprehensive land use plan
 - Finalize ICIP list
 - Hold public hearing before adoption

B. CLERK’S REPORT:

Sylvia Chavez, County Clerk: none

9A. SHERIFF: Request Approval of an Agreement Between Torrance County and Axion Enterprise, Inc. to Provide Body Worn Cameras, Hardware, Software, Taser Devices, and Related Services for the Torrance County Sheriff's Office.

1. Contract Review & Termination Clause

- Confirmed the sheriff's contract includes a reference to a hyperlinked document containing key terms.
- The contract includes a termination provision, specifically for:
 - Lack of availability of funds
 - Lack of appropriation by the governing body
- Staff indicated the contract is generally acceptable ("we're good to go").

2. Ability to Terminate Contract

Michael I. Garcia, County Attorney:

- Confirmed termination is possible in theory.
- However, emphasized it would not be simple:
 - Likely involves a lengthy process
 - Options for termination are limited and constrained

3. Concern Over Hyperlinked Contract Terms

Chairman Schwebach:

- Questioned whether it is appropriate/typical for contract terms to be contained in a hyperlink.
- Raised concern about whether such terms can be changed.

Michael I. Garcia, County Attorney:

- Acknowledged that it is not the best practice, but not uncommon.
- Suggested best practice:
 - Print and attach the linked document to the contract
 - Ensure it becomes part of the official record
- Emphasized concern that:
 - If terms are only online, they could change over time
 - Parties may not know which version they are bound to

4. Best Practice Recommendation

- Agreement that the linked terms should be printed and stored physically
- Ensures:
 - Clear record of agreed terms
 - Protection against future changes to online content
- Confirmed agreement:
 - Recommended printing and attaching the document to the contract file

5. Documentation Follow-up

- They will ensure a hard copy is obtained

- Staff will send the document for printing and inclusion in the official file

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to approve; **seconded** by **Commissioner McCall**.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

C. MANAGERS' REPORT:

- Noted a busy few weeks focused on:
 - Wrapping up “odds and ends.”
 - Advancing a strategic plan
 - Putting final initiatives in place
- Reflected that there were no major new updates today due to the transition period.
- Expressed deep appreciation:
 - Thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve.
 - Appreciated working with constituents and County staff.
 - Emphasized that County achievements during his tenure were due to staff effort and execution, not individual leadership.
- Acknowledged the importance of strong teams in making government initiatives successful.
- Shared a personal, humble farewell:
 - Recognized he is “not very touchy-feely,” but wanted to formally express gratitude.
 - Closed by affirming appreciation for the opportunity and support during his tenure.

Commission / Members – Farewell Remarks

- Multiple members expressed strong appreciation and personal sentiments:
 - “We will miss you, Jordan. You were a joy to work with.”
 - Well wishes extended to Jordan and his family for future success and blessings.
 - Light humor noted:
 - Comment about “a lot of people wearing black today,” indicating a symbolic farewell tone.
-

D. COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Kevin McCall, County Vice Chair: Hiring context and experience

- Commissioner reflected that “Ryan and I have hired three County Managers.”

- Noted that each county manager hired was new to the role (first-time county managers).
- Acknowledged mixed outcomes but stated:
 - “We’ve had some good ones.”
 - Took a “gamble” on the current County Manager.

Strong endorsement of outgoing County Manager

- Commissioner stated the outgoing manager was:
 - “The best of the three” (clarified as personal opinion; not fully agreed by the manager).
- Early performance stood out:
 - In week two, the manager submitted a detailed list of personal and county goals.
 - This early initiative was seen as a defining positive indicator: *“This is the guy I want and need.”*

Professional growth and development

- Commissioner observed noticeable improvement over time:
 - The county manager “has matured and gotten better as we’ve gone.”
 - Expressed regret that tenure is ending now:
 - “Would have liked to see you another six months to see how good you could have been.”

Transition and succession

- Acknowledged upcoming leadership change:
 - The county will move forward with hiring a new county manager.
- Noted transition timing humorously:
 - Any further development of the outgoing manager would now be “the next commission’s issue.”

Personal sentiments and appreciation

- Emotional tone expressed by commissioner:
 - Described self as “touchy-feely” and “teary-eyed” in reflection.
- Strong appreciation and encouragement:
 - “You’ve been awesome.”
 - Wished the manager “best of luck.”

Community/personal connection

- Mentioned ongoing personal ties:
 - The Manager’s children are involved in the 4-H youth development program.
 - Commissioner expressed support for this program and anticipates future interaction.

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman: None

Linda Jaramillo, County Commissioner: Roads & Constituent Issues

- Met with several individuals directly on their roads to hear concerns.
- Primary purpose was to review and document complaints and issues from residents.
- Some of the concerns raised may be escalated or forwarded to Leonard for follow-up action.

Community Engagement / Funeral Attendance

- Attended the funeral service for Dennis Chavez, who recently passed away.
 - Dennis was described as someone she has known most of your life.
 - His daughter, Venessa Chavez, is a former County Commissioner and someone personally very close.
 - She also has a long-standing family connection through friendship with my daughter during childhood.

Upcoming Event

- Will be attending a celebration at Wind Towers.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COMMISSION: Executive Session Pursuant to 10-15-1.H(2): Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the Position of the County Manager.

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to move into Executive Session; **seconded by Commissioner McCall.**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

12:54 PM

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motioned to move into Regular Session; **seconded by Commissioner McCall.**

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

12:55 PM

Ryan Schwebach, County Chairman:

- Mr. Barela's last working day will be Friday. Thank you for your service.
- Stephanie Reynolds will be appointed as Interim County Manager effective after Mr. Barela's departure.

- She will assume full managerial responsibilities for the County in the interim role.
- Specific contract and administrative details were noted as forthcoming and to be addressed separately.
- The County is actively continuing the search and advertisement for a permanent County Manager.
- Leadership emphasized forward momentum in the hiring process.

14. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:

Next meeting: June 24, 2026, 9:00 AM

15. Signing of official documents

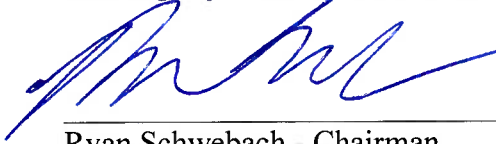
16. Adjournment:

Motion: Chairman Schwebach motions to adjourn. **Vice-Chair Jaramillo** seconded.

- Roll Call Vote:
 - Schwebach – Yes
 - McCall – Yes
 - Jaramillo – Yes

Motion Carried

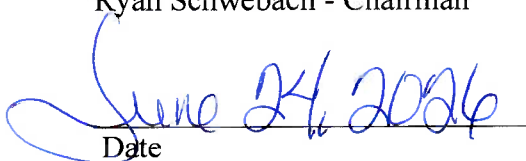
Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.



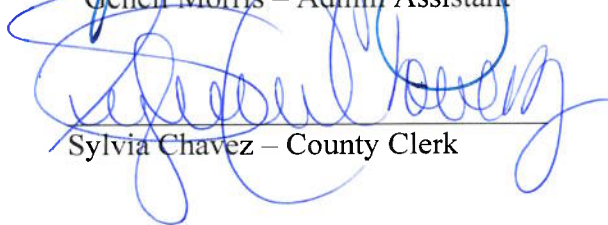
Ryan Schwebach - Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Date



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk

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