Final COPY Torrance County Board of Commissioners Regular Commission Meeting January 11, 2023

9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

RYAN SCHWEBACH – CHAIR KEVIN MCCALL – VICE CHAIR

Others Present:

JANICE BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER
JUAN TORRES – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY
SYLVIA CHAVEZ – DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
NOAH SADILLO – FINANCE DIRECTOR
GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Call Meeting to order

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Calls the January 11, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

- 2. <u>Pledge lead by:</u> Chairman Schwebach <u>Invocation lead by:</u> Commissioner McCall
- 3. Changes to the Agenda: Defer items 7C, employee is unavailable to attend meeting. Move item 14.F after 14.A to allow time for the presenter to tour the fairgrounds.
- 4. Election of Chair and Vise Chair:

A. COMMISSION: Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2023.

Action Taken:

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Motion to appoint Commissioner Schwebach as Chair. <u>Commissioner Schwebach:</u> Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to appoint Commissioner McCall as Vice Chair. <u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

5. Open meetings Act Resolution:

A. COMMISSION: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-1 establishing the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 and repealing Resolution 2022-1.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve Resolution 2023-1 establishing the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 and repealing Resolution 2022-1.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

- **6. PROCLAMATIONS:** None
- 7. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:
- A. ANIMAL SERVICES: Recognition of Employee Service Year Pin: Cindi Sullivan (20)

Madam County Manager Barela: Presented Cindi with her 20-year service award, pin and spoke kind words of her dedication to the job and how well she did her job. Cindi has submitted her paperwork and will be resigning; she will be missed.

B. SHERIFF: Recognition of Employee Service Year Pin: John Stocum (15)

Madam County Manager Barela: John is a person you can always count on; he is always willing to help. John assists with the non-profit RESPECT and is willing to help with special events. He does multiple jobs as an officer including handling and overseeing evidence.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Thank you for your hard work. We are blessed to have you here.

- C. ROAD: Recognition of Employee Service Year Pin: Jacob Medina (5) Deferred
- D. MANAGER: Recognition of Employee of the 4th Quarter: Lori Archuleta

Madam County Manager Barela: Lori is a great help to all, especially now with the new software, she is willing to help any department with any questions or concerns. For being the employee of the quarter, Lori will have her picture displayed in the hall by the Clerks' office and will receive one paid day off within this quarter.

8. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: None

A. MANAGER: Motion to appoint County Manager Janice Barela as the Torrance County voting member on the New Mexico Counties Insurance Pool and Deputy County Manager Juan Torres as the alternate.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to appoint County Manager Janice Barela as the Torrance County voting member on the New Mexico Counties Insurance Pool and Deputy County Manager Juan Torres as the alternate.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

B. MANAGER: Motion to appoint County Manager Janice Barela as the Torrance County voting member to the New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NMCIA) and Deputy County Manager Juan Torres as the alternate.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to appoint County Manager Janice Barela as the Torrance County voting member to the New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NMCIA) and Deputy County Manager Juan Torres as the alternate.

<u>Commissioner McCall</u>: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

9. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS

<u>Nathan Dial – Mayor of Estancia:</u> Speaking on behalf of the district 3 community, I request you hold off appointing a County Clerk till District 3 has representation on the Commission.

<u>Destry Hunt – Torrance County Resident /Estancia News:</u> I would like an update on the unofficial audit for the Primary Election, outstanding ballots, and the chain of custody. I don't believe any changes will be made but other counties are counting on us to finish. We want to know how many ballots remain.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of the October 26, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve minutes of the October 26, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

B. Motion to approve minutes of the December 15, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve minutes of the December 15, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

11. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. FINANCE: Approval of Payables

Action Taken:

Chairman Schwebach: Motion to approve payables.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: - Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:

None

13. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

A. MANAGER: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-02, A Resolution Accepting the Agreement for Capital Appropriations Project to plan, design, construct, furnish and equip improvements to the county fairgrounds in Estancia in Torrance County (22-G3049).

<u>Juan Torres – Deputy County Manager:</u> This resolution is to accept the capital appropriation for the fairgrounds we received in the amount of \$268,800.00.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve Resolution 2023-02, A Resolution Accepting the Agreement for Capital Appropriations Project to plan, design, construct, furnish and equip improvements to the county fairgrounds in Estancia in Torrance County (22-G3049).

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach – Yes; Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

B. DWI: Approval of documents for FY2024 Local DWI Grant Application.

<u>Tracey Master – Torrance County DWI prevention:</u> Before you is the FY2024 Local DWI Grant Application. These documents are the same every year only the

date changes. The first is the resolution allowing the county to apply for the grant. The second document is the MOU saying we are going to do what we are going do as far as client confidentiality and HIPPA compliance. Lastly a statement of assurances, this means we are going to have our reporting done in a timely manner and follow all the guidelines.

Madam County Manager Barela: The date will need to be changed to todays date.

1) Resolution 2023-03

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 with the amended date of 1/11/2023.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: — Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

1) Memorandum of Agreement

Action Taken:

Chairman Schwebach: Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: - Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

3) Statement of Assurances

Action Taken:

Chairman Schwebach: Motion to approve Statement of Assurances

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: - Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

14. APPROVALS

A. SHERIFF: Request approval to restructure the two Court and Community Services positions to certified Patrol Deputy positions.

<u>David Frazee - Torrance County Sheriff:</u> Handling prisoners is a dangerous job. We should have the most qualified officers. I don't want to cut corners when it comes to officers' safety. We also don't have any statutory language that defines peace offices from the certified officers. If there is an officer injured or killed it would be more difficult to prosecute a certified, then uncertified officers. Another reason is productivity. If we have officers in that role, when they finish their transport, they can go out in the field and do any necessary job. Uncertified officers cannot go out in the field and perform other duties. Certified offices can go out and do anything. I wanted to see how much work is being produced by the uncertified offices after they finish their transport duties. From October 3rd to current and calculated time in court 61 hours spent in 15 weeks of transport duties totaling 4.06 hours a week. What are they doing the rest of the time. This is not the fault of the officers. I don't believe this was researched well. If we have certified officers in that role, they can hit the street and do any job we have. The vehicles and equipment will stay the same, the pay will be the only change and we do have it in our budget to move forward. There are two positions and one filled at this time, we have asked him if he wants to become a certified officer (he declined), or we will assign him to a different position in the county.

Eli Lucero – Undersheriff: We will still provide security for the courts.

Commissioner McCall: What are we going to do to fill the job openings?

Eli Lucero – Undersheriff: With the competitive pay rate we will start to see more applicates in the next coming months.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Are we going to be taking deputies off the streets to provide transportation and court services?

Eli Lucero – Undersheriff: We will take into consideration what hours the courts will need security and we will arrange schedules around this.

<u>David Frazee – Torrance County Sheriff:</u> We have seven applicants waiting to be interviewed.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> I'm willing to take this chance assuming we are going to get the positions filled. The alternative is I will leave it at your discretion, is we pause for an additional month because we have an employee in that position. As soon as we do this, that position is vacated, and the individual takes the opportunity to become certified.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve the restructure of the two Court and Community Services positions to certified Patrol Deputy positions.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

E. GRANTS: Discussion with possible action: Presentation with Kendall Chavez, Food & Hunger Coordinator from the Office of the Governor, about the New Mexico Food Security Grant, with consideration of possible increase in local funding.

<u>Senaida Anaya – Grants Assistant:</u> We are fortunate to have Kendall Chavez from the Office of the Governor with us here today. We are requesting \$120,000 for the commercial kitchen renovations at the fairgrounds, this would be to add stainless steel countertops.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> We had a \$500,000 grant with a \$5,000 match. We looked at the kitchen and came up with a budget of \$650,000?

<u>Juan Torres – Deputy County Manager:</u> The initial quote was for \$745,000 and we received the grant for \$500,000. After we cut out appliances it went down to \$620,000 and the requested additional \$120,000 will get us to the quoted amount. <u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> The commission directed to keep this at the \$500,000 mark. You are requesting an additional \$120,000 over the \$500,000?

Senaida Anaya - Grants Assistant: Yes

Chairman Schwebach: This would bring us to \$620,000.

<u>Kendell Chavez – Office of the Governor:</u> I'm not going to speak specific to the Torrance County project, this will be an overview for the state. This is the first year we have had the food security grant its part of a larger food initiative package we are working on across the state to support farmers/ranchers and food businesses and address food access and food insecurities. Torrance County was one of 26 awardees from across the state out of over 105 applications totaling \$23 million plus. Torrance County was the 3rd highest grant. Toas has a \$1.5 million dollar grant, they are doing something similar but on a larger scale.

Senaida Anaya – Grants Assistant: To help with the cost we eliminated the stainless-steel counters and replaced them with the formica and changed the layout of the kitchen to reduce the price. This will be a good start to get the fairgrounds up and running and being in collaboration with what this grant was intended for.

Madam County Manager Barela: I have an email from Melody Montoya a capital outlay administrative assistant from the state budget division: New Mexico food security grant recipient, to apply for the New Mexico food security grant cost overrun for the additional finding. Please reply to this email with the amount of cost overrun funding being requested as well as proof of the cost overrun. The best way to do this is to provide an estimate from when you submitted your application and a current estimate or invoice showing the new amount. The difference should

be the amount you are requesting. We are asking to receive all requests by close of business this Friday January 13, 2023.

I replied to this email: Torrance County requested \$750,000 when we applied for this grant, the county was awarded \$500,000. It was estimated by the contractor that as additional \$120,000 would allow the county to purchase and install all the commercial appliances that were included in the grant application. The commission only approved the grant award amount to be used for this project. The governor's office liaison Kendall Chavez is on tomorrows meeting agenda to request the commission contribute additional funds to purchase and install all of the equipment. Is the county able to submit a response to your email to request additional funding be awarded as a cost overrun on this project? If possible, may I have an answer before our meeting.

She replied: Yes, Torrance County will be allowed to submit a request. My only concern are will you be able to complete and submit the original \$500,000 request before the June 30, 2023, deadline and will the additional purchases be able to be made prior to June 30 2023? Can you include a timeline of project completion and equipment purchases with your request? In addition to the estimate for these pieces of equipment, then we can consider it.

I think the questions Ms. Montoya is asking need to be answered either way in regard to the timeline and getting it done and completed. This may be an additional option.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> We are at the \$500,000, what went over? <u>Juan Torres – Deputy County Manager:</u> The stainless steel.

<u>Senaida Anaya – Grants Assistant:</u> We would like for the kitchen to be a commercial kitchen and with this upgrade we can.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> We can do the \$500,000 but it will not be a full commercial kitchen. With the additional \$120,000 it will be a full commercial kitchen, because of the stainless steel. The end goal is to help facilitate local producers and our processers to make a commercial product.

<u>Senaida Anaya – Grants Assistant:</u> We also added that we will be using the facility to accommodate the needs of the county in the event of a natural disaster. We also wanted to accommodate the farm to table concept. We were awarded the grant with the notion we will be doing these things.

Kendell Chavez – Office of the Governor: In initial conversations with the county we discussed A. supporting farmers and ranchers/processers etc. B. Being prepared for emergency situations and C. Food access supporting community where there are food needs. A commercial kitchen is not a requirement for the grant, does ensure all the elements are addressed. This will set the county up for success.

Chairman Schwebach: I think a commercial kitchen will be a good thing. In our community we will need programs to make the community aware this is available. The last thing I want to do is take taxpayer dollars and make a kitchen that is never used. What is available to facilitate those programs to get the true use out of what the state is trying to accomplish?

<u>Kendell Chavez – Office of the Governor:</u> The extension and I-Can program can help with these types of programs. The state will be behind the county if support is

requested and needed.

<u>Debby Maberry – Extension Services:</u> I have been hosting canning classes with great success. I have to add classes because we can only accommodate so few people at a time. We use the vegetables from the community garden. I can also do food safety handling classes and other programs. We can do programs with the libraries and head start. Being our office will be based out of there we can do things daily but definitely weekly. It would be a great opportunity to have a good working kitchen.

Commissioner McCall: I'm in favor but are we jeopardizing the first \$500,000

grant if we don't meet the criteria.

<u>Senaida Anaya – Grants Assistant:</u> The stainless steel meets the requirements plus the longevity of the kitchen is there. If the rules change and we have to have stainless steel, but we already spent the money on formica, we will have to come up with more money. Doing it right from the beginning would be beneficial to the county.

Commissioner McCall: I have formica on my farm, I know it passes. I want to

make sure we are checking all the boxes on the \$500,000.

Kendell Chavez – Office of the Governor: We do not want a punitive relationship with any of our partners. In terms of longevity of the project stainless steel is a higher quality product but that is a decision for the county to make.

Chairman Schwebach: If we can get the \$120,000 for the state to replace the stainless steel, we go with it. If we can, we offer \$50,000 and put as much stainless steel as possible.

Action Taken:

Commissioner McCall: Motion to submit what we can through the governor's office for this grant requesting \$120,000.

Chairman Schwebach: Seconds the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve \$60,000 to add stainless steel surface specifically for meat handling areas within this kitchen. If the \$120,000 is not granted.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

C. FINANCE: Request approval of a prior year invoices from Tyler Technologies, Inc. for conversion of financial software of \$14,603.69.

<u>Noah Sedillo – Finance Director:</u> This is for services for the prior FY we received this late. This does change the reported financials.

Chairman Schwebach: What was the reason we received this late?

Noah Sedillo - Finance Director: I do not know why we received it late.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Are they in breach of contract, for getting it to us late?

Noah Sedillo - Finance Director: I will have to look back at the terms in the contract.

Chairman Schwebach: If that has not been looked at then I am not ready to pay it.

NO Action Taken

C. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

<u>Samantha O'Dell – Emergency Manager:</u> CERT is an organization that falls under FEMA. They are required to have a local sponsor. The agreement is with the local CERT team and FEMA. This agreement is new. In the past everything was verbal. They have a set of officers and requirements that they fall under from FEMA. Legal has reviewed this and thinks it is good.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

D. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Approval to agree to Extenuating Circumstances letter from Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM).

Samantha O'Dell – Emergency Manager: We have previously discussed this letter with our hazard mitigation plan update and the plan we have been working on since October 2021. I have spoken with the Department of Homeland Security as well as FEMA to find out what the consequences would be if we were not able to complete this in the 12 months they are requesting. I received from FEMA the following statement: Funding for the project will be awarded under extraordinary circumstances. The recipient must acknowledge in writing that a plan will be completed within 12 months of the award. As time requirement is incorporated into the award letter and served as FEMA's approval of the justification request for extenuating circumstances. From the Department of Homeland security and Emergency Management response was Claunch Pinto is the one who will need to acknowledge and accept the award under extenuating circumstances. No one has been able to say if the funding will stop if we are unable to meet the deadline. Various departments that are involved in the hazard mitigation update and I believe we will be able to complete this in the timeframe.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve and agree to Extenuating Circumstances letter from Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM).

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

E. GRANTS: Approval of Estancia Valley Youth & Family Council Bylaws.

<u>Rebecca Armstrong – Juvenile Justice Coordinator:</u> We had our by-annual review meeting and are asking for approval for the updates. Our county attorney reviewed the updates.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve the Estancia Valley Youth & Family Council By-laws.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

MANAGER: Discussion and possible approval of updated programming for the new Torrance County Administrative Building.

Madam County Manager Barela: The department heads and as well as Commissioner McCall had a meeting to review the programing needs. Department heads feel they needed an area to meet. There was discussion about storage divided by chain-link fence for every department to have access to versus having the storage in their departments. We talked about possibly not have a building that is as expensive to construct that would be used for storage.

Commissioner McCall: It was a very productive two hours with the department heads. I was very encouraged that the current square footage we are in today and the new building would mimic that maybe a little bigger. There was great talk about a new EEOC, an Emergency Management section within the property. There was a lot of talk about storage and how long departments have to retain their records. Have a steel building in the back of the facility, climate controlled with each department having their own area separated by chain link and nothing gets mixed up.

<u>Juan Torres – Deputy County Manager:</u> Based upon that meeting I'd like to finalize all the numbers with each department head to ensure they get what is needed. Then come back to you with the overall footprint. I would like to have another workshop to discuss everything needed and hopefully at that time we will have our third Commissioner to get their thoughts and ideas.

NO Action Taken

H. MANAGER: Discussion and possible approval of restructuring of organizational chart moving the Grants Department under the Finance Director and reclassifying the Grants Manager position to Grants Administrator position.

Manager, she moved to another position within the county. With this vacancy it allows us the opportunity to review this position. The idea is by putting them under the Finance Director is not to minimize the position or need oversite but to provide more support to the Grants Department if they need time off. The finance department doesn't only do their individual jobs, but they are cross trained this will

help both departments. We can talk about whether the Grants Assistant will be helping only the Grants Manger or also the Finance Department. The job description wouldn't change much, assisting other departments with their grants. Making sure we are in compliance with reporting. This position was a need when it was approved by the Commission because we were getting audit findings in regard to our grants. This is a way of making sure we are in compliance with our grants. Currently the salary is \$23.38 in relationship to other departments within the Finance Department our assistant Finance Director makes \$22.75, and the Chief Procurement Office is \$22.27. If the Commission would like to make changes as far as salary is concerned, this is where you can change it before we advertise this position. The goal is to provide support to each other. We would have the oversite of the Finance Director. It would be the County Manger, Deputy County Manager, Finance Director and then Grants Administrator.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Do they have their own budget and changing mid-year, how will this work?

<u>Noah Sedillo – Finance Director:</u> Yes, I would suggest we maintain the current budget, then next year when we go to budget process this spring, we can go to combining the budgets.

Chairman Schwebach: I suggest after removing the title Manager the salary be \$22.75 for this position.

<u>Commissioner McCall:</u> We have a vacancy, lets take advantage of restructuring. I'm in favor.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to approve the restructuring of organization with the change and match in the pay to \$22.75.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Schwebach: — Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: MOTION CARRIED

15. DISCUSSION

A. MANAGER'S REPORT

1) Invitation to Bid (ITB) for road shop construction published on January 4, 2023.

Madam County Manager Barela: I will try on the next meeting to give a proper update on the unofficial audit of the Primary Election 2022. He addressed an issue that is a legitimate concern. The chain of custody, extra ballots that were found and given to us to make copies. There were 159 Republican ballots were located in the County Clerks closet. We do not have a solid chain of custody on those ballots.

Noah Sedillo - Finance Director: We have an invitation to bid for road shop construction published on January 4, 2023. We have a return of acknowledgement form for the distribution list. This is to gain access to the shareholder that has the construction documents, with that the mandatory pre bid conference will be January 23, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the new county Road Department site. The deadline for questions is January 25, 2023, and response to written questions and issuance of ITB addenda's deadline is 1/30 and the deadline for bid submission is February 6th, 2023.

Madam County Manager Barela: The Mexican Gray Wolf as crossed over I-40. It is being tracked and seen in Torrance County. Luna county has ordinances in place in regard to this subject. I will be bringing that up in a future commission meeting. Howard Hutcheson, Executive Director of the coalition of the Arizona/New Mexico Counties, sent an email stating: I have attached a sample resolution that has been passed by the coalition or from member counties that are actively engaged in the Mexican Wolf issue since they were introduced in Arizona/New Mexico in 1998. I will be communicating with him as well.

<u>Michael Garcia – County Attorney:</u> I was in Portales yesterday for Roosevelt County. They made a motion to join litigation involving amicus in a federal case involving the Gray Wolf. This is something we want to keep an eye out for, if this is something you want to be a part of.

B. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner McCall, District 1: It is important to know the wolf has traveled from the southwest corner of the state into our area. We need to take action and actively fight this for our livestock producers. There is talk that the Fish and Wildlife is going to try and expand the zone where the wolf is considered protected. This is a public safety issue Torrance County is different than Catron County.

Commissioner Schwebach, District 2: I agree, please make our producers aware of this. Pay attention so they can manage their livestock. Everything I heard with the agreements, the compensation for livestock by these wolves is not working out. We are looking into what the county can do. We need to be proactive.

<u>Madam County Manager Barela:</u> Services for Commissioner Leroy Candelaria will be this Saturday January 14th at 11:00 AM in Manzano at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Commissioner Schwebach, District 2: Public awareness, a lot of people are using cell phones while driving Hwy 41 at all hours of the day. Are State police and Sheriff aware of this and how can this be enforced?

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. **COMMISSION:** Discuss limited personnel matters closed pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1(H)(2), specifically, a possible appointment of the Torrance County Clerk position, including review of letters of interest and possible interview of candidates.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to go into executive session to discuss limited personnel matters closed pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1(H)(2), specifically, a possible appointment of the Torrance County Clerk position, including review of letters of interest and possible interview of candidates.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

11:29 AM

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to return from executive session into regular session.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

12:30 PM

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> We discussed limited personnel matters closed pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1(H)(2), specifically, a possible appointment of the Torrance County Clerk position, including review of letters of interest and possible interview of candidates.

17. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

A. COMMISSION: Discussion and possible appointment of Torrance County Clerk.

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> We had several letters of interest we reviewed. This situation doesn't happen often. This is an elected position. This Commission was tasked with filling the remainder of the 2-year term to ensure the office of the Clerk is maintained. We put most of our emphasis on experience and the ability to manage an office.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to Appoint Linda Jaramillo as the Clerk for the remainder of the term.

Commissioner McCall: Seconds the motion.

<u>All in favor:</u> Commissioner Schwebach: – Yes: Commissioner McCall: -Yes: **MOTION CARRIED**

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> I will direct the County Attorney to draft a resolution to be formally adopted and a letter appointing affective January 14th, 2023.

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

Regular Commission Meeting February 8th, 2023, 9:00 AM, Torrance County Admin Building.

19. Signing of Official Documents

20. Adjourn.

Action Taken:

<u>Chairman Schwebach:</u> Motion to Adjourn. <u>Commissioner McCall:</u> Seconds the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM

Ryan Schwebach - Chairman

Genell Morris – Admin Assistant

February 8, 2023

The Video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Torrance County NM website.