

**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**JUNE 16, 2021**

*Valencia County Manager's Conference Room, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031*

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Gerard Saiz, Chairman	
	Jhonathan Aragon, Vice-Chair
David A. Hyder, Member	
Troy Richardson, Member	
Joseph Bizzell, Member	
Danny Monette, County Manager	
Adren Nance & Dave Pato, County Attorneys	
Michael Milam, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

1) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Saiz at 5:00 P.M.

2) Commissioner Hyder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Monette requested that item #10 be removed.

Commissioner Hyder moved for approval of the amended agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Saiz announced that Commissioner Aragon will not be present for this evenings meeting.

4) **Approval of Minutes: June 2, 2021 Business Meeting  
June 7, 2021 Canvass**

Commissioner Richardson moved for approval of both sets of minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Bizzell. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**DISCUSSION (NON-ACTION) ITEM(S):**

5) **Commissioners, Committees and Reports.**

Fire Chief Casey Davis reported that the fire down south is currently 60% contained, there was an outpouring of community support with donations of food and water. He stated that its going to be a bad fire season so people need to be careful when burning. The Governor recently issued an executive order calling for a ban on fireworks but Monday was the deadline for passing a resolution in regards to fireworks. Currently the unincorporated area of the county, the Village of Los Lunas and Belen only allows the sale of safe and sane fireworks, so nothing over 10 ft. high or over a 10 ft. radius. Mr. Nance stated that what the county currently has in place is the extent of what the county can do. State law prohibits local governments from restricting the sale of safe and sane fireworks. Chief Davis reported that an arrest was made yesterday for the fires in the Los Lunas river bridge area. There have been multiple state agencies working hand in hand investigating these fires, there is a possibility that there may be 2 or 3 other individuals involved with the fires but the primary one has been arrested.

Mr. Monette stated that the July 7<sup>th</sup> commission meeting will be cancelled as 2 commissioners will not be present, the meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> will still be held.

Commissioner Bizzell asked if code enforcement could help watch for illegal fireworks.

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Mr. Nance stated that they could keep an eye out for illegal fireworks and contact fire services. Chief Davis stated that he would caution in allowing code enforcement to do so as it has become an extreme safety concern for personnel.

**ACTION ITEM(S):**

**6) Approval of Consideration to Approve (IGA) between Valencia County and the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED). Presenter: *Human Resources Director Orlando Montoya*; Sponsor: *Commissioner David A. Hyder***

Mr. Montoya requested approval of an agreement between the county and PED which provides high school students the opportunity to intern in various departments in the county for 6 weeks, they will be paid minimum wage and will be taught life skills and get to see how the county is run. The state is contributing \$154,000 towards this program. Mr. Montoya stated that the county would be able to handle 75 kids, ½ in the morning and ½ in the afternoon.

Commissioner Hyder moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Bizzell. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 4-0. (See Exhibit A)

**7) Consideration to Approve Audit Services with KMA. Presenter: *Purchasing Director Rustin Porter*; Sponsor: *County Manager for Regular County Business***

Mr. Porter requested commission approval of a contract with Kubiak, Melton & Associates for the county's FY 2021 financial audit. This is the same company that preformed last year's audit, the cost of the FY 2021 audit will be \$47,320.00

Chairman Saiz moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 4-0. (See Exhibit B)

**8) Approval of MOA with the Pueblo of Laguna for a Communications Tower. Presenter: *Chief Casey Davis*; Sponsor: *Commissioner David A. Hyder***

Fire Chief Davis stated that Laguna Pueblo approached the county over a year ago in regards to them wanting to house their infrastructure for expending their internet on county property. Last month the tribal government fully funded the project, Laguna will foot the bill for construction but the county's part of the agreement will be to allow them to have a tower at the Highland Meadows fire station. The agreement allows for the county to put equipment on the tower as well, it will enhance the public safety for fire and sheriff; it's a win-win situation for everyone. Chief Davis stated that the agreement can be canceled with 90 days' notice.

Chairman Saiz moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Hyder. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted 4-0. (See Exhibit C)

**9) Letter of Support for the Elephant Butte Coalition. Presenter: *County Manager Danny Monette*; Sponsor: *Chairman Gerard Saiz***

Mr. Monette stated that he had received a copy of a letter from Congresswoman Yvette Herrell to the US Bureau of Reclamation asking them to join in on coming up with a strategic plan for Elephant Butte Lake. The proposed resolution calls upon the Bureau of Reclamation to lead efforts to establish a minimum pool at Elephant Butte Lake. Commissioner Bizzell asked how farmers above the lake will be effected. Mr. Pato stated that this is just an effort to rebuild the minimum pool so the local infrastructure can be supported, it should not have a direct impact on the farmers here. Commissioner Richardson asked if anyone knew what the opinion of the Elephant Butte irrigation district and farmers down south was. Mr. Pato stated that he does not know their opinion but he believes Congresswoman Herrell would not act adverse to the majority of her district.

Commissioner Bizzell moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. Roll call vote. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

County Clerk Milam announced Resolution 2021-29. (See Exhibit D)

**10) Direction to Staff Regarding Proposed Animal Control Ordinance Changes. Presenter: *Animal Control Director Jess Weston*; Sponsor: *Vice-Chair Jhonathan Aragon***

Item tabled (See item #3)