

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

Valencia County Commission Chambers, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031

PRESENT	ABSENT
Gerard Saiz, Chairman	
Jhonathan Aragon, Vice-Chair	
David A. Hyder, Member	
Troy Richardson, Member (Via Zoom)	
Joseph Bizzell, Member	
Danny Monette, County Manager	
Adren Nance, County Attorney	Dave Pato, County Attorney
Mike Milam, County Clerk (Via Zoom)	
Press and Public	

1) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Saiz at 3:31 P.M.

2) Ms. Benavidez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Bizzell moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Aragon. Roll call vote. Commissioner Richardson voted yes. Commissioner Bizzell voted yes. Commissioner Hyder voted yes. Commissioner Aragon voted yes. Chairman Saiz voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION/ PRESENTATION (NON-ACTION) ITEM(S):

4) Commissioners, Committees and Reports.

Workshop with Universal Waste Systems

Rheganne Vaughn, Director of Governmental Affairs & Contract Compliance for Universal Waste introduced UWS President Mark Blackburn, Director of NM Operations Mitch Blackburn and Business Development Specialist Ernie Byers. Ms. Vaughn stated that UWS has grown into the largest family operated solid waste provider in New Mexico. They are operating with 6 government contracts and 7 offices in the state including the newest office located in Rio Communities. UWS is currently servicing 7,660 customers in Valencia County. Discounts are offered for low income and senior citizens, over 800 customers utilize the discounts. The direct cost benefit to the county is around \$4.3 million which includes improvements to Conejo, franchise fees, GRT, and cost savings of the county not having to operate Conejo. In kind benefit to the county is \$300,000 which includes roll offs, bulk item vouchers, hazardous household waste and e-waste events. Regarding Conejo there have been no accidents and the wait times have been significantly reduced. Ms. Vaughn stated that UWS would like to have Conejo permitted as a transfer station to allow for the increased tonnage. They are also proposing infrastructure updates to include enclosing the tipping floor and building a new scale house. The cost would be over \$1 million to plan, design, construct and permit. UWS is not asking for any capital outlay from the county.

Mr. Byers discussed some operational issues that Conejo faces. He stated that UWS is trying to do the right thing for the county and they would like to sit down with staff and the county attorneys to discuss a plan. Mr. Mark Blackburn stated that they know that they can do a lot better at Conejo then they have. At Conejo there is a high employee turnover and a lot more people are coming to Conejo from Belen since the facility there raised their prices. Having an enclosed facility would improve employee turnover and would reduce the amount of trash around the facility. Mr. Blackburn stated that they would like to sit down and have a dialogue with the county regarding improvement plans. Chairman Saiz asked if the board was in agreement to direct staff to meet with UWS and look at their options then report back to the board. Commissioner Bizzell stated that he doesn't want to commit to anything but there is nothing wrong with looking at the proposal. Commissioner Aragon stated that is a great to hear that they want to enclose the Conejo property. Mr. Monette stated that the direction will be taken for staff to meet with UWS and report back to the commission.

Minutes of September 1, 2021

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

**September 1, 2021 – Business Meeting @ 5:00 P.M. In person/Facebook Live
Valencia County Commission Chambers, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031**

**September 15, 2021 – Public Hearing/Business Meeting @ 5:00 P.M. In person/Facebook Valencia
County Commission Chambers, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031**

**October 6, 2021 – Business Meeting @ 5:00 P.M. In person/Facebook Live
Valencia County Commission Chambers, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031**

5) Adjournment


Chairman Saiz adjourned the meeting. **TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

**NOTE: All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the
September 1, 2021 Workshop (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are
attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.**

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


GERARD SAIZ, CHAIRMAN


JHONATHAN ARAGON, VICE-CHAIR

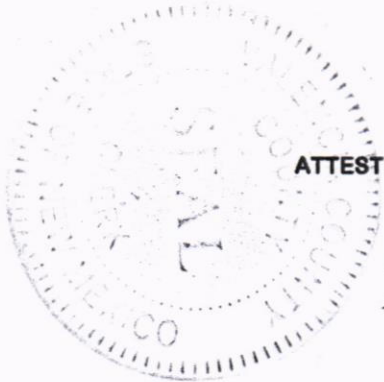

DAVID A. HYDER, MEMBER


TROY RICHARDSON, MEMBER


JOSEPH BIZZELL, MEMBER

ATTEST: 
MICHAEL MILAM, COUNTY CLERK

9-15-2021
DATE



*Minutes are not verbatim. The complete audio file from this meeting can be heard at
<https://www.co.valencia.nm.us/>*