

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2022

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 | |
| Joseph Bizzell, Member (Via Zoom) | |
| Danny Monette, County Manager | |
| Dave Pato, County Attorney (via Zoom) | Adren Nance, County Attorney |
| Mike Milam, County Clerk | |
| Press and Public | |

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

2) Representative Alonzo Baldonado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Richardson 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.

Chairman Saiz announced that he has a conflict of interest, one of his relatives applied for the appointment so he will recuse himself and abstain from voting for his relative. He also announced that one applicant, Ruth Romero, had withdrawn her letter of interest. There are still three applicants for the position. He thanked Representative Baldonado for all that he has done for the county over the past 12 years, and best wishes on future endeavors.

DISCUSSION (NON-ACTION) ITEM(S):

4) Commissioners, Committees and Reports.

Mr. Monette reported that the new fire chief Matthew Propp started last Monday.

ACTION ITEM(S):

5) Appointment of State Representative for House District 8. Presenter: *County Attorney, David Pato*; Sponsor: *County Manager for Regular County Business*

Chairman Saiz asked if the applicants have been duly verified. County Clerk Milam replied yes, they have. Mr. Pato requested that each applicant be called up, in alphabetical order, to present to the board and explain what their qualifications are and why they think they should be appointed to the vacant seat. Chairman Saiz stated that each applicant will have five minutes to present, it will not be a question and answer session; after the presentations by the applicants the board will move on to nominations.

David Carter stated that he was born in Belen and graduated from Belen High school. He has a vested interest in the county and the state. He graduated from NM State University and has received credits and certifications from various schools across the United States as well as teaching at the University of Phoenix. He spent 11 years as director of support services for Belen Schools, served on the Belen city council and currently serves as director of three boards within the county. He has a broad background from agriculture to business, from the private industry to government, from primary to higher education; a background that can bridge many barriers.

Sharalaina Piro-Rael stated that she has been a resident of Valencia County her whole life minus the time spent attending college. She graduated from UNM magna cum laude, started J Sharp Music in Los Lunas, and has invested in this community. If appointed to House Representative District 8 she will do her best to make sure that the county and District 8 are well represented. She has a lot of experience speaking with those she doesn't agree with and still remaining friends afterwards. She stated that there is too much political divide, there is the need for someone willing to extend the olive branch and