

September 19, 2023
Special Meeting

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date in Special Session in the Commission Chambers with the following members present:

Si Trujillo, Chairman
Mary Lou Kern, Vice-Chairman
Bret Wier, Member
Rayetta M. Trujillo, County Clerk
Monte Gore, County Manager

Others present: Sara Torres, Tim Martinez, Tina Colangelo, Joseph Martinez, Julie Main, Virginia Strohm, Joana Apodaca, and Nick Cardenas.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Trujillo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Chairman Trujillo asked if the Commissioners had any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Wier made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Kern seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discuss/Action – Certification of 2023 Property Tax Rates

Joseph Martinez, Chief Deputy Assessor presented the 2023 Property Tax Rates to the Commission. Commissioner Wier asked if there were any increases and was told by Joe that there were. Joe stated the Assessor contacted the school districts and was told their Mill levies were correct. Commissioner Wier questioned if they had contacted the municipalities and was told Kristi Graham did. Commissioner Wier questioned the increase for Vermejo and was told it was correct. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Certification of 2023 Property Tax Rates. Commissioner Wier seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss/Action – Purchase of Building Located at 333 Savage Ave., Raton NM 87740

Manager Gore stated that at the last Commission meeting the Commissioners toured the building. Manager Gore stated that it would be a good move for the Clerk's office and because of its design it would enhance security for the Clerk's office, and it will also open space at the County building and asked to move forward to start the process. Manager Gore stated that he is going to work with Mike Provine to get a building inspector to check the building as part of the contingency. County Clerk Trujillo stated that she attended election school and security was discussed. Clerk Trujillo stated that there is no security in their office at this time. Commissioner Kern stated that she does think there is a need for this. Commissioner Kern stated the funds were not budgeted and asked where the funds would come from to purchase the building. Commissioner Kern asked what amount the County was willing to offer. Joana Apodaca Financial Specialist stated that this was not budgeted but it would be up to the Commission to decide where the money would come from. Joana stated there is carryover money from last year's budget and capital outlay money that has not been expended such as \$100,000.00 for the animal shelter. Manager Gore stated that the offer would be around \$275,000.00 and they are asking \$300,000.00. Commissioner Wier stated that the county has excess cash from previous years that has accumulated so he is not worried about the amount of the offer. Commissioner Wier stated that if the funds for the animal shelter would be taken away, he would not be in favor of this. Commissioner Wier stated that he is in favor of the purchase for a couple of reasons, first because of security and he believes the Clerk's office and the County building will become safer with the move and second this will open space at the county building. Chairman Trujillo stated that he is in favor of this, and he would like the purchase to be contingent on a favorable inspection and he believes \$275,000.00 is within reason. Chairman Trujillo stated if there are any issues, this could reduce the purchase price if the county has to do any repairs and he would be okay with this. Chairman Trujillo stated that money will have to be used to fix the parking lot to make it more handicap accessible. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Purchase of Building Located at 333 Savage Ave., Raton NM 87740 contingent on the inspection. Commissioner Wier seconded the motion. Commissioner Kern stated that she wanted it noted that she agrees with Commissioner Wier and the animal shelter funds should not be used for this purchase and to use General Funds. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the

Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss/Action – Preferred Procurement Method for Solid Waste, Colfax County

Virginia Strohm stated that she did some research on some certain items that are excluded from procurement and refuge is one of them. Virginia stated she is asking the Commission what method they would want to use and asked if they would be okay with not doing the RFP process which can take some time verses finding a vendor and doing a contract with them. Virginia stated they are asking this because it is hard to find someone to pick up the trash in Colfax County and there are not very many people that want to bid here. Virginia stated those that want to bid, don't want to do the whole county they only want to do certain areas like Black Lake or Angel Fire or Raton. Virginia stated that if they eliminate the RFP process and just do a contract we could contract with different vendors. Commissioner Kern stated that this can be explored and stated that there was a time when the county was split into three areas. Commissioner Wier stated that normally he would not be in favor of this because he likes the RFP process, but the county is in a solid waste crisis and action needs to be taken on this. Commissioner Wier stated that he is in favor of this, but they need to be transparent. Chairman Trujillo stated that John Arthur from Arthur Rolloff requested a meeting with himself and Manager Gore, but they did not meet with him because they were not sure if they were going to go out for RFP or do the contract. Chairman Trujillo stated that County Manager Gore sent a certified letter to Tri-State notifying them of unacceptable service and notifying them the County is withholding payment. Chairman Trujillo stated that he supports this and then after the solid waste crisis is under control, they can go back to the RFP process. Commissioner Wier stated he would like to make the constituents aware that solid waste rates could potentially be raised due to this. Commissioner Kern reminded the Commission of the environmental tax. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Preferred Procurement Method for Solid Waste, Colfax County. Commissioner Wier seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjourn

Commissioner Wier made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kern seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

COLFAX COUNTY BOARD COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



Si Trujillo

Chairman

Wendy Gore

Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Kern

Member

Raytheon
Clerk of the Board