

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