

January 23, 2024
Regular Meeting

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date in Regular 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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Kern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Salute to the New Mexico Flag

Commissioner Wier led the Salute to the New Mexico Flag.

4. Approve Agenda

Chairman Trujillo stated item 21 was to be stricken from the agenda. Chairman Trujillo stated he would like to have a 10-minute break following item #29. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the agenda as amended striking item #21. 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.

5. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024

Chairman Trujillo stated he had corrections on the January 9, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes under item 22 regarding the appointment of the ECCoG member. Clerk Trujillo stated the changes were made. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2024, as presented. 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. Recognize Visitors

Chairman Trujillo thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Others present: Amadeo Soto, Sara Torres, Joana Apodaca, Joseph Martinez, Tarin Giacomo, Tina Colangelo, Roger Smith, Todd Tatum, Tom Vigil, Dean Williamson, Tina Noulán, Nancy Sanchez, Roger Rael, Glen Stevens, Nathaniel Sandoval, Robert Thompson, Lawrence Trujillo, Analý Tellez, Gene Klein, Tony Molitar, Lee Dixon, Terry Kamm, Tiana Romero, Rose Marchetti Lew, Danielle Avila, Regina Slade, Leonard M. Baca, BJ Lindsey, Carol Bridge, Patrician Duran, Rick Clark, Tim Martinez, John Arthur, and via electronic device – Jun Roh.

7. Public Comment

Gene Cline asked when the road to Rayado would be opened. Commissioner Wier stated it was supposed to be open by March. Rose Marchetti Lew asked for an update on the Blosser Gap Bridge and Manager Gore stated the construction has not started yet, as the company is trying to get Bonding for the project. Roger Rael addressed his concerns about the hiring practice when Manager Gore was hired. Mr. Rael also questioned the validity of Manager Gore's education.

8. Discuss/Approve-Indigent Care Claim

Tiana Romero stated there were three indigent care claims, two from the VMDC in the amount of \$3,786.00 and one from the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$2,300.00. Tiana stated all the claims meet the Indigent Care guidelines. Chairman Trujillo asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Indigent Care Claims as presented. 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.

9. Discuss/Action – Appointment of Board Member (Springer District) South Central Colfax County Special Hospital District

Analy Tellez from the South-Central Colfax County Special Hospital District advised the Board met and received three letters of interest and recommended the Commission appoint Boe Lopez to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Kern made a motion to appoint Boe Lopez as the Board Member (Springer District) South Central Colfax County Special Hospital District. 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.

10. Discuss/Action – Acceptance of Grant Agreement, HB2-2023, Regional Recreation Centers/Quality of Life Grant

Tarin Giacomo stated the County was awarded the Quality of Life Grant in the amount of \$940,000.00 for the upgrades to the event center. Tarin stated the funds need to be obligated by June 1, 2024, and spent by June 30, 2024. Tarin stated DFA is considering extending the date the funds need to be expended by. Commissioner Kern stated it is a lot of money to spend in such a short period of time. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Acceptance of Grant Agreement, HB2-2023, Regional Recreation Centers/Quality of Life Grant. 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.

11. Discuss/Action – Resolution 2024-05, Budget Adjustment, Various Funds

Joana Apodaca, Financial Specialist, presented the Budget Adjustments. Commissioner Kern questioned the Increase for the County Attorney and stated to add an additional \$100,000.00 is excessive since when she was the Manager only \$80,000.00 was budgeted. Commissioner Wier stated he would allow the Manager to comment. Manager Gore stated there were three major Lawsuits. Commissioner Wier reminded Commissioner Kern that she was involved in the lawsuits. Commissioner Kern reminded Commissioner Wier he too was involved in one of the lawsuits. Chairman Trujillo stated he diligently reviews the attorney costs. Commissioner Kern stated if the County is going to be spending that kind of money, maybe the Commissioner should have an attorney in house. Commissioner Wier stated he is not opposed to that and without legal advice, it could end up costing the County hundreds of thousands of dollars and he would rather pay now than later and that is what Monte is doing now. Chairman Trujillo stated he would entertain bringing an attorney on staff. Commissioner Wier stated the net cost of the BARS is half a Million Dollars and asked where the money was coming from. Joana stated the majority of it is for the increase in Health Insurance which would come from the General Fund. Commissioner Wier asked if the Revenues needed to increase or if it is being transferred out of the cash balance. Joana stated that the fees and penalties for \$19,800.00 to the IRS for failure to submit 1099's for 2020 were not budgeted. Joana stated Printing/Publishing is used to advertise positions and RFP, etc. Todd Tatum stated he felt the attorney fees are out of line and this is out of control. After further discussion Chairman Trujillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05, Budget Adjustment, Various Funds. Commissioner Wier seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – nay, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion passed 2-1.

12. Discuss/Action – Resolution 2024-06, Fee Schedule for Colfax County

Manager Gore stated the reason for the adjustments is to keep up with the cost of doing business. Manager Gore stated he would like to increase the Claim of Exemptions from \$300.00 to \$600.00. Commissioner Kern asked why such an increase and was told due to the time spent on the exemptions by staff and the attorney. After further discussion, Commissioner Wier made a motion to postpone Resolution 2024-06, Fee Schedule for Colfax County. 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.

13. Discuss/Action – Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance Regulating the Siting and Permitting of Wireless Telecommunication Facilities

Dean Williamson stated he was there for the next three items and asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Wier stated he was going to vote against this Ordinance as he did not feel there was anything driving this ordinance and did not feel there was a need for this ordinance. Chairman Trujillo made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance Regulating the Siting and Permitting of Wireless Telecommunication Facilities. Commissioner Kern seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – nay, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion passed 2-1.

14. Discuss/Action – Resolution 2024-07, Resolution for Small Wireless Facility Design Guidelines

Dean Williamson stated this resolution is designed for 5G and stated it is a small facility and allows the County to have input. Chairman Trujillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07, Resolution for Small Wireless Facility Design Guidelines. Commissioner Kern seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – nay, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion passed 2-1.

15. Discuss/Action – Resolution 2024-08, Resolution of Fees for Wireless Telecommunication Facilities

Dean Williamson stated the facilities do generate fees for the County. Chairman Trujillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08, Resolution of Fees for Wireless Telecommunication Facilities. Commissioner Kern seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – nay, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion passed 2-1.

16. Discuss/Action – Resolution 2024-09, Certifying County Road Milage

Glen Stevens, Road Superintendent stated there are 567.8 maintained miles in the County. Chairman asked Glen what the last mileage was, and Glen stated it was 570.8, but the County vacated 3 miles of road on the Smith Ranch. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09, Certifying County Road Milage. 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.

17. Discuss/Action – Promotional Funding Request, The Center for Community Innovation, The Wild Divide

Patricia Duran, the executive director for the Center for Community Innovation. Ms. Duran stated the organization handles workforce and economic development as well as tourism. Ms. Duran stated one of the projects the Center handles is GrowRaton. In 2021 they requested funding to create a Brand for Colfax County to promote the region and they were calling it Peaks to Plains and don't have a plan that supports outdoor recreation or any tourism. Ms. Duran stated the Brand they came up with is the Wild Divide because Peaks to Plains is too close to Ports to Plaines. Ms. Duran stated it is hard to brand the County, so they decided to brand the region. Ms. Duran stated she was there to request funds for the second part to create a website and to prepare the social media pages. Ms. Duran stated she is hoping to partner with the County again. Ms. Duran stated she applied for Lodger's Tax but realized she filed for Promotional funds, but the promotional funds do not pay for a website. Ms. Duran asked Commission if they could make the request under non-promotional funds to get the funding approved. Ms. Duran stated this advertising has the potential to reach 1million people a year. Ms. Duran stated that the County would have part ownership in the brand and be able to promote the County the same way the Enchanted Circle does. Commissioner Kern asked if this was approved by the Lodger's Tax Board and was told no, but the Lodger's Tax Board is on board. Tina Colangelo stated the Lodger's Tax Board asked that it be brought before the Commission for a decision. Commissioner Kern stated the County does need something but is not crazy with the Wild Divide and recommended something with gateway. Commissioner Wier asked if they did not have a quorum and Tina told him they did have a quorum, but the Lodger's Tax did not feel they could approve it because it was for a webpage, so it was recommended by the board that it be brought to the Commission. Commissioner Wier stated statutorily that only admin fees did not have to be recommended and Promotion and non-promotion expenditures had to be presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Wier asked legal for an opinion. County Attorney Jun Roh stated Commissioner Wier is correct and per ordinance the Commission needs to get the recommendation from the advisory board. Chairman Trujillo stated that it does not need to go back to the Board for approval. Chairman Trujillo asked if the County would own the Website and trademarks and Ms. Duran stated the County would. Chairman Trujillo stated he did not like the logo but does like the idea of the wild divide and likes the idea of marketing the County. No action was taken. Commissioner Wier stated even though there as aspects of the website that are non-promotional there are aspects that are promotional and there are logos that could be separated out, but the County has plenty of projects for the non-promotional funding. Commissioner Wier stated the County can spend 40% of the funding on promotional matches. Ms. Duran stated she has received a google grant and that is driving a lot of the traffic to the GrowRaton website. Chairman Trujillo asked the Commissioners if they had any more questions, and they did not. There was no action taken on this item.

18. Discuss/Action – Promotional Funding Request, LMNOC Broadcasting

Tina Colangelo stated LMNOC Broadcasting has the largest reach over Colfax County and the surrounding counties to bring in many visitors into the County. Tina stated there is an increase to \$10,000.00 plus tax. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Promotional Funding Request for LMNOC Broadcasting. 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.

19. Discuss/Action - Promotional Funding Request, Renewal of Lamar Contract #4355660, Billboards

Tina Colangelo stated this is a yearly contract for the billboards, which are changed 2 times a year. Chairman Trujillo stated he liked the winter board but did not think it should say visit Colfax County, as the individual is already in Colfax County. Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the Promotional Funding Request for the Renewal of Lamar Contract #4355660, Billboards. 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.

20. Discuss/Action – Salary Increase, County Manager

Commissioner Wier stated that the Commission conducted the annual review for the County Manager in executive session at the last meeting and the recommendation was to raise the County Manager's salary from \$95,000.00 to \$110,000.00. Commissioner Wier stated that he has done research on what government managers make and this is in the middle. Commissioner Kern stated that when they approved the budget last year with the increase in PERA they asked all the departments to hold off on giving any raises and they would revisit it at the next budget which is going to start soon. Commissioner Kern stated that she thinks they should hold off on any increases until the budget is reviewed because they are already having to pull money out of the reserves to meet current obligations. County Manager Gore stated that he appreciated the recommendation to increase his salary to \$110,000.00. Manager Gore stated that there have been a lot of issues that have had to be corrected such as premium pay issues that were paid out by the former County Manager. Manager Gore stated that there is still an ongoing lawsuit with the former County Manager. Manager Gore stated that they have corrected all the county contracts, and the County Attorney reviewed them. Manager Gore stated the sixteen audit findings at the airport have been corrected. Manager Gore stated that they obtained a 1.2 million dollar grant to build a hangar at the airport, another \$250,000.00 for the apron, and \$150,000.00 for the fuel farm. Manager Gore stated they have applied for a commercial airline grant. Manager Gore stated that the Detention Center is close to accreditation, and they house inmates from other counties and have utilized that money for 15% raises at the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office. Manager Gore stated that they received a \$940,000.00 grant for the Event Center. Manager Gore stated the County Attorney has been doing a great job and they have utilized him with the Ethics Commission to get Elected Officials to pay back premium pay that was wrongfully paid to them and they have had to work to get payments from former employees that were not eligible for the premium pay. Manager Gore stated they have had to utilize the attorney for personnel issues, and IPRA requests. Manager Gore stated that the County is making good progress. Commissioner Wier stated that the reason this review and raise was conducted now is because that is what's called for in the County Manager's contract and this should have been done in December, but it was postpone until January and in the prior year with the transition of Commissioners it didn't happen, and the County Manager did not get a raise. Commissioner Wier stated that if you go back and look at the record, he did not vote for this contract, but it was voted on and passed and the county must adhere to it. Chairman Trujillo stated that he has heard from his constituents who are concerned about a salary increase but things are getting completed by the County Manager. Chairman Trujillo stated that he has also looked at salaries from other counties and compared them to Colfax County and even with the increase he is still under the threshold of those other counties. Chairman Trujillo stated he does not have a problem with the increase for the County Manager. Commissioner Kern stated she would like to beg to differ on what Commissioner Wier said because Mr. Gore did get a pay increase at the end of 2022. Commissioner Wier stated that County Manager Gore did not receive a pay increase. Commissioner Kern asked how his pay increased from \$85,000.00 to \$94,000.00. Commissioner Wier stated it was done prior to a review. Commissioner Kern stated that if they are holding everyone else accountable to the budget then this Commission needs to be responsible and do the same thing. Commissioner Wier made a motion to approve the Salary Increase, County Manager to \$110,000.00. Chairman Trujillo seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners. Commissioner Kern – nay, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion carried 2-1.

21. Discuss/Action – Salary Increase, County Manager's Office

This item was stricken from the agenda.

22. Discuss/Action – Allocation of Funds for Salary Increases for VMDC

Warden Slade stated that she came before the Commission last meeting to ask for a raise for the Detention Center staff. Warden Slade stated that even with the money that they made they would be short if they gave

a three dollar or two dollar raise and she is requesting help through the General Fund to be able to give a raise to her staff. Joana Apodaca, Financial Specialist stated that with the three dollar raise \$ 181,510.00 would come out of the General Fund and with a two dollar raise \$92,814.00 would come out of the General Fund and stated that the total expected expense exceeds the projected revenue. Commissioner Kern stated that the Commission was led to believe that the Prisoner's Care Fund would sustain the three dollar increase but this is not the case, but she would support the increase that would be supported by the Prisoner's Care Fund but not the General Fund. Commissioner Wier stated that his concern was that they were handed the spreadsheet right before the meeting and suggested that this be postponed until the next meeting so he can review the numbers. Chairman Trujillo stated that it was also his understanding that the raises would be coming out of the Prisoner's Care Fund and if it is not going to come out of the fund then they will look at it during budget time and he does not want to exceed the Prisoner's Care Fund. County Clerk Trujillo asked if the raises were just for the guards or the whole office to include the secretary and everyone else. Warden Slade stated it included the whole office. County Clerk Trujillo stated that all the employees at the County are not getting three dollar pay increases and they work just as hard. Commissioner Wier made a motion to postpone the Allocation of Funds for Salary Increases for VMDC. 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.

23. Discuss/Action – Professional Service Contract Between County of Colfax and Arthur Rolloff Inc.

Manager Gore stated that the county is contracted with Tri-State for solid waste and there have been several issues this past year. Manager Gore stated that he hired a day labor to go out and address solid waste issues. Manager Gore stated that the fencing around the Black Lake dumpster has helped with some issues. Manager Gore stated that he does not believe Tri-State is up to the task for the County. Manager Gore stated that the Commission directed him to come up with other options and he worked with three other companies that are interested in this and after meeting with all of them his recommendation is Arthur Rolloff. Manager Gore stated that they have agreed to take this on and provide the dumpsters and he is the only one with a landfill within the county. Manager Gore stated that in their packets there is a breakdown of how many dumpsters, customers, and private pay customers. Manager Gore stated that he thinks the contract is reasonable and it talks about dumpster locations and roll off locations. Manager Gore stated that the contract with Tri- State has a clause that if either party wants to terminate the contract there has to be sixty-day notice. Manager Gore stated that the sixty days would not be enough time to get everything in place for the transition so the contingency plan is to have roll offs with covers until they can get dumpsters in place. Manager Gore stated that this is going to be a huge transition and a lot of work to get this done and Arthur Rolloff is willing to invest in Colfax County and purchase dumpsters, trucks, roll offs, and equipment at his expense. John Arthur stated that if they decide to go through with this, there is going to be hiccups and issues because it is a hard transition, but he is ready to take this on and make the change happen. John stated that the goal is to have things running smoothly by Memorial Day. There was discussion over the contract, dumpsters, roll offs, fees, and timelines. After discussion Commissioner Kern made a motion to postpone the Professional Service Contract Between County of Colfax and Arthur Rolloff Inc. 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.

24. Discussion/Action – Expanding Colfax County Commission to Five Members

Commissioner Wier stated that he was at a NM County meeting, and he talked with Commissioners from other counties about the challenges in Colfax County with the restrictions of having only three Commissioners because two Commissioners make a quorum. Commissioner Wier stated that he believes with a five-member Commission things could be done more efficiently because you would be able to interact with fellow Commissioners and get ideas. Commissioner Wier stated that District 3 is a big district and a challenge trying to adhere to all the constituents and there is a big difference in culture for all the area. Commissioner Wier suggested that the Commission consider moving to a five-member County Commission for the next election. Commissioner Kern stated she can appreciate and understand his comments because it is difficult with a three-member Commission, but she doesn't think this something that should be done before the next election and if they are going to consider this it should be after the election so that there is a two-year period for constituents to give input and redistricting. Commissioner Kern stated that at this time she is not in favor of this. County Clerk Trujillo stated that the positions have already been turned into Secretary of State as to who would be on the ballot. Clerk Trujillo stated that she believes that if they are going to do this it's going to be a lot of work and needs careful planning and it's not going to happen right away. Clerk Trujillo stated that it has to be a unanimous vote from the Commission to do this and recommended holding off until the next election cycle. Tom Vigil stated that as a citizen that lives in Miami, he is in favor of redistricting Colfax County to provide better representation for Miami and Moreno Valley. Clerk Trujillo stated we will have to look at the Census and figure out the breakdown so that the numbers can remain balanced per law. Commissioner Wier asked Clerk Trujillo to put something

together to see what those districts would be, and he didn't think it would take that much effort to put those numbers together. Clerk Trujillo stated that they are going to start getting busy with the Primary Election and she will not commit to doing that at this time and getting through the Primary Election and making sure everything is correct is her number one priority. Commissioner Wier stated that he would do this. Chairman Trujillo stated he agrees with Commissioner Kern, and he does see the benefit of a five-member Commission, and this is something he is willing to consider down the road. Chairman Trujillo stated that he would like to hear from the constituents. Chairman Trujillo stated that HB 399 requires counties with a population of 35,000 or more to expand their Commission to a five-member Commission and currently each of them represent a little over 5,000. Chairman Trujillo stated he believes he is transparent, and we would have to consider we would be paying two more Commissioners, and these funds could be used elsewhere currently. No action was taken.

25. Discuss - Quarterly Department Updates

Road Superintendent Glen Stevens stated that they have been working extremely hard clearing roads with the recent snowstorms and the drifts. Glen stated that the gravel project in Maxwell was successful. Glen stated that they have brought the in-kind funds up to date for equipment and vehicles. Commissioner Kern asked why the three positions that he has open are not advertised on the website. Glen stated that he did not realize that they were not advertised on the website. Commissioner Wier thanked Glen and his crew for their efforts with the latest snowstorm. Commissioner Wier stated that Miami Lane needs more attention. Chairman Trujillo asked how many miles of gravel they did last year. Glen stated there was 8 miles of gravel. Commissioner Kern asked Glen to talk to Mayor Lopez about a road in Springer that needs attention. Chairman Trujillo requested to keep Miami Lane maintained. Commissioner Wier asked what the status is on the new building for the Road Department. Glen stated that he needs to meet with Mike Provine about the location and floor plan. Glen stated he is working on getting the old vehicles ready for auction.

Sheriff Baca stated that he went to Santa Fe yesterday and he met with Senator Campos and Representative Sanchez, and they are going to help with patrol vehicles through capital outlay again this year and Representative Chatfield is also going to help. Sheriff Baca stated that he had a conversation with the Association of the Courts, and they are open to discussing paying for security for the Magistrate Court. Sheriff Baca stated that he will have a Deputy starting the academy in two weeks and he has one vacancy he still needs to fill. Sheriff Baca stated that they sponsored active shooter training and stated that the Union County Sheriff's Office, NM State Police, City of Raton Police, and his office attended the training. Sheriff Baca stated that last quarter transport cost the Sheriff's Office \$5,034.00 and 8,838 miles and the yearly total was \$28,180.32 not including overtime and 50,322 miles. Sheriff Baca reported that there were 3,671 traffic stops and 3,223 citations issued, 6 DWI, and 9 warrant arrests, 54 IPRA requests and serviced 44 calls for Cimarron. Sheriff Baca stated that they were busy during the recent snowstorms. Chairman Trujillo asked how many animal calls they have had. Sheriff Baca stated that they have had 27 for the quarter and 88 for the year. Chairman Trujillo asked if this was just in the unincorporated area of the county. Sheriff Baca stated that this is for the whole county. Sheriff Baca stated that his executive secretary completed the destruction of old reports and documents from mid-1970 through 2010.

Chief Deputy Assessor Joe Martinez stated that from now until the last day of February they have rendering of personal property. Joe stated that they are also accepting applications for exemptions until the end of April and stated this is for 65 and over for value freeze. Joe stated that they are finishing up certifying their values and notice of values will be sent out on April 1, 2024. Joe stated that new construction value is over 26 million dollars and the taxable value is 8.6 million dollars. Joe stated that their office has been working with Chairman Trujillo and grant writer Tarin on getting the GIS mapping system online. Joe stated that their chief draftsman is retiring, and his last day is May 31, 2024, and he will be replaced by Derrick Garcia who is an appraiser, and they will need to hire a new appraiser. Joe stated that in December all the appraisers did education and training classes. Commissioner Kern asked if the water leak and the hole had been repaired in their office. Joe stated that it has not been repaired. Chairman Trujillo asked where the Assessor was because he believes it is the Elected Official's responsibility to be present and answer questions.

County Treasurer Garcia stated that they had a property tax sale on December 13, 2023, and stated that the State is still there and they are working on selling residential next. Treasurer Garcia stated that they have had good collections and they collected about 60% of taxes in December. Treasurer Garcia stated that they are working on PID properties. Treasurer Garcia stated that they opened an interest bearing money market account and they are averaging around \$ 30,000.00 in interest. Treasurer Garcia stated that she has called Forte about handheld credit card machines for the Clerk and Sheriff's offices. Treasurer Garcia stated that they are short-handed and hiring. Treasurer Garcia stated that the City of Raton has not paid taxes on properties that they bought and herself and Alfonso are going to meet with the City of Raton Manager to see if they can get the taxes paid and if they can't get them to agree she will work with the County Attorney to get a property tax lien.

County Clerk Trujillo reported that there were 9 marriage licenses issued, sent out 94 business registrations and have received 34 back, 7 probates, and 1108 documents recorded. Clerk Trujillo stated that they are attending Commission meetings and doing minutes. Clerk Trujillo stated that the carpet and the flooring have been installed in the new building and she is waiting on a quote from the security company for the bullet proof glass and she is waiting on a PO for the switch for the computers. Clerk Trujillo stated they finished the Regular Local Election. Clerk Trujillo stated that on December 31, 2023, Josette Encinias retired and Jackie Ortiz transferred from the Treasurer's office to the Clerk's office. Clerk Trujillo thanked the Road Department and the Sheriff's Office for their help during the election. Clerk Trujillo stated that they should be receiving their documents back by the end of the month and thanked the Commission and Manager Gore for approving the digitization and they will be going to the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office next. Commissioner Wier asked what the estimated time frame is for the documents to be accessed and when she would be moving to the new building. Clerk Trujillo stated that she is hoping that within the next couple of months the documents can be accessed and stated that they can't move into the building until they get the switch and Baca Valley has been doing drops and she is hoping to move mid-February.

Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that he has been following up on old e-mails and all business and transactions are current. Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that he received a copy of the pre-ISO inspections, and all the Fire Departments are in good standing, but Ute Park needs attention because the Chief is going to retire and there is not enough members and it was suggested that this department merge with Philmont VFD. Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that a review of the Fire Protection Fund was conducted by the State Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that four trucks have been purchased for various Fire Departments, one class A type truck waiting to be picked up from Eddy County, and one side by side waiting to be picked up from Kiowa Colorado. Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that he is moving forward with the process of constructing the Fire Administration building. Fire Marshal Sandoval stated that four departments were awarded grants for this year which are as follows: Philmont \$84,472.96 for communication, Vermejo \$300,000.00 for apparatus, Farley \$300,000.00 for fire suppression water supply, and Miami \$ 300,000.00 for fire suppression water supply.

Warden Slade stated that they are continuing to work toward accreditation and the goal is to be accredited by March. Warden Slade stated that the out of County holds for the quarter is \$ 128,278.31.

Emergency Manager Tom Vigil stated that the Miami watershed project has received full payment from the NRCS in the amount of \$ 627,000.00 and all reporting requirements have been met. Tom stated that the reseeding has been completed. Tom stated that the Rayado bridge project will now include the Morris Creek bridge and La Maquina Creek and the completion date is September. Tom stated that work has been started on Rayado bridge. Tom commended the Road Department and Sheriff's Office for their actions during the snowstorms. Tom stated that we are coming up on fire season and it is going to be April through July. Tom stated that the snowpack for the Cimarron River is at 89% and the Sange de Cristo is at 104%. Tom stated that if we keep having warmer weather and wind, he predicts that by February or March we could be down to 60% snowpack. Tom stated he is keeping an eye on the legislative stuff pertaining to his office which is mostly funding bills. Tom stated that he has been working with North Central Economic Development for the revision of the Hazard Mitigation plan for Colfax County. Tom stated that he will be attending conferences in February, March, and April.

26. Managers' Docket

Manager Gore stated that his office is fully staffed. Manager Gore thanked the Commission for his raise and the confidence that they have in him. Manager Gore stated that they have been successful with grants. Manager Gore stated that next Tuesday there will be a meeting with himself, Mike Provine, Scott Mathews, and Chairman Trujillo to discuss how to move forward quickly with the Event Center since the grant is on a short timeline. Manager Gore stated that the low water crossing is still waiting on an easement to be able to move forward. Manager Gore stated that Rocky Road, who is the contractor for the Chicorica Bridge project has not obtained their insurance or bond. Manager Gore stated that he wants to minimize advertising costs by utilizing the webpage and social media. Manager Gore thanked the Road and Maintenance Departments for their efforts during the recent snowstorms. Manager Gore stated that he will work with Arthur Rolloff and the County Attorney on a contract for the solid waste. Manager Gore stated that IPRA requests are increasing. Manager Gore stated that he would like to comment on the allegations from earlier in the meeting and spoke about his education, credentials, and work history.

27. Commissioners' Docket

Commissioner Kern stated that she would like to have on the next agenda a discussion about an in-house attorney.

Commissioner Wier stated that when he was first in contact with the DOT about the Rayado bridge he was told this would be a quick fix but in the process other bridges on Highway 21 were identified as needing to

be repaired so it was decided to have one big project to be completed by September 2024. Commissioner Wier stated that he heard back from project manager Joeseph Ledger from the DOT and the Rayado bridge is first priority to be completed in the next two months and then the other two bridges will be worked on with one lane open while being repaired and be completed by September 2024.

Chairman Trujillo stated that he posted on social media and went on the radio about the City of Raton meeting tonight to discuss the 132 acers south of town that could possibly be transferred to the Picuris Pueblo, and this was just to inform the public. Chairman Trujillo stated that he will be attending the meeting, and he will support whatever decision they make. Chairman Trujillo asked about an estimated time for a safety policy. Manager Gore stated that he will work with Maintenance Supervisor Fred Martinez and County Clerk Trujillo to get a policy in place as soon as possible. Chairman Trujillo stated that he is frustrated with the contractor for the Chicorica Bridge and if they can't fulfill the contract then the Commission needs to look at a new contractor to do the work. Chairman Trujillo stated that he would like to know about the bonding by Thursday and as to when the construction is going to start. Manager Gore stated he is working with Mike Provine on the low water crossing. Chairman Trujillo stated that he wants the Tiger Grant on the next agenda as and action item and he would like the history and where we currently stand. Chairman Trujillo stated that he would like to see the whole county on the same system if possible and he would like to have Tyler, Triadic and any other vendor come to the Commission to do a presentation. Chairman Trujillo stated that he believes the county owns to much property and requested a list of county building and who occupies them and suggested that some of them could be sold and asked Manager Gore to follow up with this. Chairman Trujillo requested that a discussion of the attorney be put on the next agenda. Commissioner Kern stated that the county sponsored the CDBG grant to build those buildings and then subsequently ended up owning them and they did look at selling in the past.

28. Adjourn

Commissioner Wier made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Trujillo 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 1:23 p.m.

COLFAX COUNTY BOARD COMMISSIONERS



Si Trujillo
Chairman

Mary D. Kern
Vice-Chairman

[Signature]
Member

Raydon Trujillo
Clerk of the Board