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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Payroll Meeting held on July 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM in the Conejos County Board Room, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos, CO. 81129

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**Call the meeting to order**

Chrmn. Jarvies called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Roll Call:** Mitchell Jarvies- Chrmn.- Present  
Steve McCarroll-Vice Chair-Present  
Carlos Garcia-Vice Chair-Present  
Tressesa Martinez- County Admn- Present

Also present were: Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney, Connie Ricci- HR Director and AnnaBelle Gomez-Deputy Clerk and Recorder.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chrmn. Jarvies led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Prayer:** Comm. Garcia gave the opening prayer.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the FSR Road 256 discussion: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 02, 2020 Regular Meeting: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

**Administrator's Correspondence**

Tressesa, County Admn. stated that she sent the board all the financials. All departments are a little bit under budget except for the Nursing Service in the PCP Program; they are doing good as far as revenues.

Tressesa mentioned that they got the wiring done for the ambulance department. They ordered a stove; and will get the showers installed.

Tresesa stated that they have applied for an extension on the audit because of COVID the auditors are behind; they will probably start the last week of July. They are given up to 60 days.

#### **County Attorney- Nick Sarmiento**

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that Lynn and Milo from the Forest Service had talked about Cliff Lake. For years they have accessed FSR 256 which has been through a piece of private property and it has always been allowed. That is in the John Petty Trust but now there are 3 people involved and they don't want people going in through there. He stated that maybe we can do a RFT 477 on that road and then the Forest Service would go in and build a parking area and people could go in.

Comm. McCarroll stated that there are two ways to enter. He was hoping the Forest Service would open the other one then they wouldn't have to go through private property.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that according to Lynn and Mylo they don't want people in there until they have something in place.

#### **Project for Centauri High School**

Tressesa-County Admn. stated that concerning the project for Centauri High School Misty was approached to see if they can go in behind the library for two weeks. They are going to be taking big trucks of heavy cement in and out.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they had discussed it before and they told them it was okay. The Board's concerns were the sewer lines; they will have Donnie check it out.

#### **Executive Session**

Motion to go into executive session as per 24-6-402(b) conference with the attorney: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

The board came out of executive session at 9:47 AM and no decisions were made.

Nick Sarmiento: It is the opinion of the County Attorney that the discussion had an executive session constituted an attorney/client privilege therefore no record was kept.

**Mary Ann Gallegos-County Line Liquors- License Renewal**

AnnaBelle Gomez-Deputy Clerk and Recorder presented the application for Mary Ann Gallegos/County Line Liquors license renewal. Mentioned that Mary Ann brought in the application to the Clerk's Office on June 23, 2020; it was posted on the premises on that day. There were no comments, violations or complaints; also mentioned that Mary Ann presented a letter why she was unable to be here today.

Motion to approve the Mary Ann Gallegos/County Line Liquors license renewal as presented: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

**Nick Sarmiento/Maria- Conejos Library Closing**

Maria DeHerrera and Celina Espinoza from the library district were present.

Nick Sarmiento stated that the Board had previously agreed to sell the Conejos Library building along with a certain track around that building. The library district went along with the subdivision. Nick stated that they are going to sell them tract 2 of the tract 1 of the subdivision. The subdivision was approved by the county. The purchase agreement for tract 2 states that the purchase price is \$50,000; there are other terms in the agreement. Nick explained the reason why they are giving them a Quit Claim Deed which was because the original deed was destroyed in the fire. The County will be retaining an access and utility easement as described in Exhibit A. Nick stated that the county will have a right-of-way over their property which will be on the Quit Claim Deed.

Maria stated that there are no liens against the place and they are not getting title insurance.

Nick stated that the county has been the sole owner.

Maria brought the invoice for the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey.

Tressesa, County Admn. will take care of that; the amount is \$543.00.

There was a short discussion on grading of the road. Nick stated that they have the right to but they are not obligated.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they have always tried to help where they can and they will continue to do so.

Motion to approve the purchase agreement for the Conejos Library, Access and Utility Easement, and the Quit Claim Deed as presented: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Tressesa stated that there has been water damage at the Little Treasures so they got ahold of Steven Sorensen to take care of that.

#### **Nick Barela-DSS Report**

Nick presented EBT expenditures in the amount of \$369,186.93 and Accounts Payables in the amount of \$33,860.47.

Motion to approve EBT and Accounts Payables as presented: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Case Load report was as follows:

Child Support-335	Child Welfare-11	Adult Financial-124
Colo Works-56	Food Assistance-835	Medical Assistance-1661

Conejos County Employment First- Nick submitted the Conejos County Employment First plan for the federal fiscal year 2021. He went ahead and chose option # 3 Waive Operating and Employment First Program which was based of their conversation from last month.

WIOA Contract Amendment-Got the WIOA Contract Amendment with the majority of the signatures. There were a few amendments. The primary one was that they did the current contract expiration date to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

SLV Transportation Letter- He submitted the response in regards to the SLV Transportation e-mail that was sent to them. Wanted to know if the Board had any questions to the response; there were no questions from the board.

Nick stated that they will have a meeting with the SLV Transportation Council to let them know the perspective of the department to let them know that they are able to help out with transition in any way.

SLV Behavioral Contract- This contract is paid out of CORE Services for Behavioral Contract which is not to exceed \$100,000, Substance Abuse Contract not to exceed 100,000, Sex Offender Treatment Services not to exceed 20,000. Alamosa County is the fiscal agent.

Citizens Review Panel- He did submit the Citizens Review Panel Annual Report to the state. They didn't have anyone that filed a grievance. This is in regards to child welfare grievance. They do share their citizen review panel with Costilla County. There are two members from Conejos County and one from Costilla County that will be serving on the board again.

HCPF IGA Medicaid Incentive- They received their incentive contract. This year they did it via-doc sign. Nick stated that there were not a lot of changes. They will still have the eligibility performance and those that were impacted by the Corona Virus continue to be eligible. Mentioned those that have to participate in a quality assurance meeting; talked about the Cyber security safeguards; stated that he did sign the contract.

Nick stated that they are open to the public. They are screening clients as they come in. They check their temperatures and have them complete the questionnaire concerning the COVID and encourage the staff to wear the masks; also the staff that chose to work from home one day a week are continuing to do so.

#### **Mack Crowther- Semi Annual Treasurer's Report**

Mack presented the semi-annual report which will be published in the Valley Courier on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that the collections are pretty good, talked about the amount that they received from PILT.

Mack stated that he has sent an amended proof of claim which would have had July's interest concerning the railroad's bankruptcy.

Motion to accept the semi-annual report as presented: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

#### **Denise-Public Health-Board of Health Report**

Present with Denise were Marietta Clark and Joleen Trujillo.

Denise presented her Commissioner's Report as follows:

Public Health: They officially closed OLTC on June 30<sup>TH</sup>, mentioned the personnel that they have.

Immunizations- They have been open by appointment only, preparing supplies in case a COVID 19 vaccine is found.

EPR Training in August- via zoom.

Personal Care Provider- PCP Program- June 72 clients, Hours worked 1786.8

Electronic Visit Verification- Clock in Clock out- They are having complications with that. Jessica- assistant PCP is monitoring and training the application.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program- 347 total participation- reducing food issuance to 2 days weekly due to COVID-19 this includes delivery to the homebound; other 2 days closed to public to prepare food boxes. They have drive-up services only.

OLTC- will have the close out financial audit in August 2020 by HCPF; that has been scheduled with Gary. On the items that they are going to purchase it will be on a fair market value.

Chrmn. Jarvies opened up the Board of Health Report.

#### **Board of Health Report**

COVID 19- Numbers in the SLV - Conejos has 24 confirmed cases, 1 hospitalized, 20 have completed isolation, 4 active cases; there have been people that have chosen not to be tested. They have 386 tests that have been completed, 3 pending, 359 negative and 24 confirmed positive.

- Standing Public Health Order- Do not have any standing health orders, we are following Governor Polis' Safer at Home phase. On July 10, 2020 Protect Our Neighbor application process became available state wide. We have not taken any action on that.
- Preparation and Response- are collaborating with the SLV regional partners, CDPHE, and Emergency Manager.

- CCPH-EOC- They have their weekly meeting.
- Protect Our Neighbors Certification Form Guide- Denise stated that this came from the CDPHE, this is the check list of the process. They have said do not apply until they meet the criteria, some of the components have been incorporated such as the suppression and mitigation plan, surge numbers, health care facilities. It is based on the metrics. What is taken into consideration are:
  - Sufficient hospital bed capacity.
  - Sufficient PPE supply.
  - Stable or declining COVID 19 hospitalizations.
  - Fewer new cases.
  - Sufficient testing capacity.
  - Ability to implement case investigation and contact tracing protocol (for at least 85 % of assigned cases within 24 hours).
  - Documented surge-capacity plan for case investigation and contract tracing-a plan to be able to investigate and contact trace up to 8.7 cases per 100,000 population per day.
  - Documented strategies to offer testing to close contacts-in conjunction with health care systems and other testing locations, to close contacts of outbreak-associated cases. They have been going to Valley Wide Health Services (here at the Guadalupe Clinic 3 days a week or Convenient Care in Alamosa or SLV Health in Alamosa.
  - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of re-opening in which certified and approved counties/regions can open to 50% capacity across all sectors and gatherings up to 500 people. We would have to look at that as a county.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that he doesn't feel like we could meet the metrics as a county it would have to be a region because of the shared hospitals, etc.

Denise stated that this is not a final product; this is a regional approach.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked as a region how close are we to meeting those metrics?

Denise stated that we are not ready; because so much of our resources are based regionally. Our epidemiologist, our PIO lead have added a second epidemiologist to help give us more concise numbers more consistently and more frequently. That is something that we hope to write in or hoping it will be approved. If our numbers go up then it

won't affect Costilla because their numbers remain low. Alamosa is always going to remain high. We have to rely on Alamosa for that communication because of SLV Health and Valley Wide Health Systems because they are based in Alamosa. This is combining two things, last time she talked to the board about contributing 10,288 to the region to bring in that extra person to get more concise statistical information. That was before Protect Our Neighbors, this document combines the two. Denise stated that tomorrow there will be someone representing the directors at the Commissioner's Meeting and answer more specific questions. The San Luis Valley Region has experienced a later surge, we are behind; there have been county-to-county differences in the timing and degree of case increases and decreases; we are a shared community in every aspect.

The next phase of Colorado's response, Protect Your Neighbor, acknowledges that local control and local data measures are a key to moving forward in the way best suited for each community. We have no clear timeline for a vaccine, herd immunity, and/or an effective treatment. This proposal outlines a long-term approach intended to build familiarity with the status of local risk levels and associated response activities in our counties, our region, and the state.

Denise explained the measurement tool- when it is in green we don't have a threat. **Blue-** is cautious county or region has the capacity to test, LPHA can investigate 85% of cases and contacts within 24 hours, has a documented surge-capacity plan to be able to investigate and contact trace up to 8.7 cases, and has documented strategies in place to offer testing, in conjunction with health care systems and other testing locations. **Yellow-**PH can investigate 85% of cases and contacts within 24 hours; hospital cannot increase current capacity by 20% either because of number of beds or staffing limitations. **Orange-** LPHA has 20 cases to investigate in 14 day period-Similar to Safer at Home, hospital cannot increase capacity beyond 15%, hospitals have 10 day supply of PPE with regular use. **Red-** Severe (Much like Stay at Home) 30 or more individuals self-report as symptomatic on any single day, regional transfer hospitals are unable to receive COVID patients, hospitals have 10 day's supply of PPE with regular use, 10 or more new cases on any day, etc.

Denise talked about case investigation and contact tracing; it is unpredictable and explained why. She mentioned that they could bring in additional staff who would assist any given county with those type of situations. They can handle investigating 2-4 cases. The last time they had 5 it took all four of them because of so many contacts that will bring in some financial contributions; that could exceed what she had already proposed. The \$10,000 that the board approved was for the



additional epidemiologist and assist. The epidemiologist works with both hospitals in the clinics to gather information, comes back and relays it to them. They should be getting updates almost daily specific to our county.

Denise stated that Joleen is the COVID response and grant manager.

Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney stated that he spoke to Ed Lobato-Attorney concerning the OLTC records; those records belong to the state. He will send an e-mail out to Yasmine Gardner. He stated that we could hold on to those records but eventually the state has to pick them up which includes the 6 years prior that we are holding.

Denise stated that under Board of Health they have a grant opportunity that we want to speak about briefly which Marietta Clark will talk about.

Marietta Clark- talked about the following:

- Health Resources & Services Administration has provided the funding opportunity for rural communities about opioid response and prevention.
- This grant was proposed to them by Pueblo County public health to get that funding and they would serve as the fiscal agent for us and oversee some of the tasks.
- We do need approval from the Board if we do proceed with it but at this point no contracts have been signed.
- It is an 18 month grant and in that time they will create plans, gather data information and attend and host trainings around opioid response; it can be prevention or response related.
- After the 18 months is over there are additional funding to continue moving on that. After that we would be our own fiscal agent.
- In the past Pueblo has done this same outline for Huerfano and Las Animas County and they were really successful with that; they are trying to help the rural communities that don't have the capability to handle such a large grant.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked if there are any matching funds required.

Marietta said no.

Denise mentioned that she has asked why our county and the answer was that Conejos had a high opioid response and use through the medical field as well as first responders, EMS, and Sheriff's Department.

Motion to approve to enter into a grant application with Pueblo County in the amount of \$39,157: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Joleen Trujillo stated that she has been sending everyone their minutes and report. She has included alot of what Denise is talking about such as the dashboard which includes the number for Conejos County. She adds a lot of information when she sends it out.

Tressesa, County Admn. stated that Joleen will be working with them on the Care Act Funding.

Denise talked about Conejos County Rotary donating food boxes to Conejos County Public Health. This week they delivered to a family who was quarantined who has under age children.

Joleen stated that stigma talks about LPH which asks them how are they on resources; they ask if they have enough cleaning supplies, food, etc. they ask them what they can deliver to them.

The board went back into the Regular Board Meeting.

#### **Rodney King- OEM Report**

Rodney talked about the 2020 EMPG Grant which is the grant that funds his office by 50%. They were reimbursed \$30,000; next year it will probably be a little less. He has an agreement for signature; this is a 5 year contract.

Rodney mentioned that he sent the 2-0109 letter. He stated that the coalition does a great job he thinks it would be a great fit.

Rodney stated that it is going to get harder to get supplies. He received information that they are using 4-6 million pair of gloves a month and prices will increase by 4%; if they have an account with a supplier then they have a priority.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked Rodney to work with Tressesa on ordering supplies.

Rodney stated that he can work with Emergency Managers also.

Comm. Garcia asked if they could partner with the local groceries stores, Family Dollar and Dollar General to get cleaning supplies.

Rodney talked about the Soapbox- The Emergency plan for the county. They are supposed to have a depth on positions. They need to have some training; our public health really got hit. If it hits for 2 weeks they can handle it but if lasts for 2 months. They need to talk about what positions they would fill if they had a fire. It would be nice to get someone in the county that would do a little bit of training; it has been almost 8 years that they have done a full scale exercise. Rodney stated that the sheriff mentioned that they would like to have him do a training for a fire up the canyon.

Rodney stated that they talked about a policy group as far as the emergency manager is concerned. There are 4 counties of the 6 that have signed. That would tell them what they can do and give them authorization. Conejos, Costilla, Mineral and Saguache County have already signed and said yes the other 2 can join any time they want to.

He would like to have something set up for September; he would like to include the homeowners group so they can participate.

#### **Linda- Land Use Report**

Chris from Land Use presented the following:

**CASE NO:** CCLU-0125

**REQUEST:** Lot Consolidation

**APPLICANT:** Eric and Tami Degolyer

**ZONING:** Rural

**SURVEY BY:** Reynolds Engineering Co.

**BACKGROUND:** An application was filed with the Land Use Office on June 23, 2020 for a Lot Consolidation. The property is legally described as two parcels located in a fraction of the East Half of Section 30, Twp. 33, N R 7 East, NMPM, Conejos County Colorado.

The consolidation will create the following:

A parcel containing .50 acre.

The applicants propose to consolidate the two lots to make one larger lot. The owners propose new construction with new utilities. The lots are still less than 1 acre but are larger than two quarter acre lots.

Land Use Administrator review/approval: 07/16/2020

Motion to approve Resolution C-28-2020 Lot Consolidation as presented:  
Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

**Naomi Keys- County Assessor-Abatement**

Sandra Deputy Assessor presented the following abatement:

Schedule Number	Name	Year	Amount
571909200069	Joshua Watters	2019	\$42.96

Motion to approve the abatement as presented: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

As per Naomi's request the Schedule Number should be 400053-Mobile Home and not the property in the amount of \$62.54 for the year 2019 for Joshua Watters.

**AGREEMENT-NEGOTIATION- DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Motion to approve County Attorney Nick Sarmiento to enter into negotiation with a case concerning a Department of Human Service's former employee: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chrmn. Jarvies declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:   
 NATHAN RUYBAL  
 CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
 MITCHELL JARVIES  
 CHRMN. BD OF COUNTY COMM.