
Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2021 at 9:00 AM in the Conejos County Board Room, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos, CO. 8119

Call the meeting to order

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

Roll Call: Mitchell Jarvies- Chrmn.- Via Zoom
Carlos Garcia- Vice Chair-Present
Joseph Baroz- Vice Chair- Present
Tressesa Martinez- County Admn.-Present

Also present were Connie Ricci-HR, Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney, 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.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Comm. Baroz/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motio carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 07, 2021 as presented: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. Baroz, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Special Meeting: Comm. Baroz/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Administrators Correspondence

Tressesa, County Admn. stated that she has accounts payables for COVID Funds. She added \$44,706.29 for the Town of Antonito, \$25,000 for Toltec Catering, \$10,000 for Antonito Seniors, \$1,894.61 Antonito Fuels, Dutch Mill Restaurant \$6,311.68, Vincent Barber Shop \$1,500, and South Conejos Fire Protection \$775.38.

Comm. Garcia asked if most of those were for lost revenues.

Tressesa said that some were; South Conejos Fire Protection was for PPE, gloves, etc.

Motion to approve accounts payables for COVID as presented: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. Baroz, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Board Meeting Zoom Update

Tressesa stated that Comm. Garcia had inquired into the zoom meetings. They can put the ZOOM address and they can watch and listen to the meeting, she has talked to WSB and they can set that up.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they can put the link on the website.

Comm. Garcia stated that he supports it; Comm. Baroz stated he supports it was well.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they can try it and see how many people are following.

Tressesa stated that she will have it set up.

Ambulance

Tressesa stated that the ambulance has over spent about \$5,000 on the first payroll.

Connie stated that they had cut from 48 hours and they went down to 40 hours; some people had overtime, so the only cut they did was the 48 to 40 hours.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked if they could go back to 36 hours.

Connie HR stated that it's a moving target compared to last year.

Tressesa can look at it and give her a comparable.

Tressesa stated that they could pay some of those people with COVID dollars; they have a time sheet for COVID.

Connie stated that those that are sitting at the bay have separate time sheets.

Comm. Garcia asked to bring it before the board after every payroll and they can also check it in the middle of the first quarter.

There was a short discussion about business incentives. Comm. Garcia stated that he did not know if they could get a tax break for 3 years.

Tressesa stated that they looked at it before; she will visit with Naomi-County Assessor and discuss it at the next meeting.

Comm. Garcia stated that they could look further into it and see what creative ideas and other cuts they can do to see if they could bring in at least 5 employees and above.

Connie-HR stated that Tressesa is working late hours and weekends; it is totally unfair to her she has asked the Town to help her.

Tressesa stated that she is trying to clean all the files for COVID.

Tressesa stated that she is trying to clean all the files for COVID.

Comm. Baroz stated that they are serious about staying on budget.

Tressesa stated that they can talk to Ernest/Ambulance Director on February 04th.

Ambulance District

Nick Sarmiento County Attorney talked about the Ambulance District, asked if the commissioners would like to start working on that; DOLA will be presenting information to the Commissioners.

Tressesa stated that she wanted to get ahold of Kristi. She will send all the information that we need; she will send that information to the Commissioners; the board also wanted to know if they should go for one or try to do both.

Nick Sarmiento stated that on the sales tax issue they still have time for the legal process; they would have until June; also asked how much do they want and if they want it as a Special Fund or do they want it to go to the General Fund.

Comm. Garcia asked if they would want both on the ballot the same year.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated to move forward with the Ambulance District.

There was a short discussion on creating the committee and whether the board should be on the committee.

Tressesa stated that she should have a plan for February 4th.

Nick Sarmiento suggested having a work session next week.

Tressesa stated that she will get ahold of Dr. Nelson; she really wants to help.

Comm. Garcia stated that they should decide if they want to go for a sales tax.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they need to get more citizens involved.

Nick Sarmiento stated that the deadline to decide is late April; that will give him time to work on the language.

Nick Sarmiento- Model Traffic Code

Nick stated that they will have to amend the title to 2020-2 to 2021-01.

They are extending today's public hearing which was published in the Valley Courier. They will have the Public Hearing today and continue it to February 04th.

Nick stated that they need to have a binder available at the Clerk and Recorder's Office; they will give time and opportunity to the citizens. The Model Traffic Code was published on January 05 and January 12th.

Nick Barela-DSS Report

Nick presented EBT expenditures in the amount of \$393,204.04 and Accounts Payables in the amount of \$26,848.44.

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

3-0 Motion carried

Case Load- APS-4 Cases, Child Care-30, Child Support 398 Cases, Child Welfare 13 Cases, Adult Financial 125 Cases, Colorado Works 42 Cases, Food Stamps/Assistance-720 Cases and Medical Assistance 1,736 Cases.

School Scholarships- DSS will be awarding a total of (6) six scholarships to graduating seniors from the Conejos School Districts. The scholarships will be awarded to participants in the amount of \$1000. They will have to be TANF eligible, answer questions and do an essay. There is a scoring process.

Comm. Garcia asked if there is a lack of applicants from certain school districts.

Nick Barela stated that he doesn't know why; Sanford has been proactive.

Comm. Baroz stated that he will be reaching out to Mrs. Thomas.

CCCAP-29 Policy- Nick stated that this allows for a higher pay for a provider of a facility for those with additional care needs who have a physical and or mental disability that need a higher level of care. There are not a lot of kids maybe 2 or 3. They can go higher, but it wouldn't be fair to have different rates, they will keep it the same.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked when does it take effect?

Nick stated the effective date was July 1, 2019.

Motion to approve the CCCAP Policy as presented: Comm. Baroz/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried

Nick stated that the Child Care Policy is posted on the web page.

County Personnel and Merit System- Nick stated that DSS was under the umbrella under the state merit system. They transitioned from the

state to county. He talked about recruitment, knowledge, skills, training as needed and annual performance. The County Director is exempt from the County Merit System per the Transitional Plan submitted to the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Office Space Rental Agreement- This contract is between Conejos County DSS and Conejos County Government effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. DSS agrees to pay the contractor the sum of \$227.00 per month not to exceed \$2,724.00 per contract year payable on the 10th of the month.

Service Contract for Accounting Services- The contract between Conejos County DSS and Conejos County Government. DSS agrees to pay the contractor the sum of \$300 per month, not to exceed \$3,600 per contract year.

SNAP- Nick stated that the SNAP Program has added a COVID Food Stamp higher amount which goes by household size; that will change month to month.

Linda- Land Use Report

Linda stated that she has some plans and goal for 2021. They want to finalize all amendments; they need to adopt a zoning map. Mr. Sarmiento suggested having a comprehensive plan and also adopt a building code; they feel it is necessary. The Planning Commission is not in favor of a building code. They can see residential but not for agriculture. The contractors would like to see a building code; also it is good for insurance companies. The state does follow a code. She feels it is needed because our county is growing.

Linda also talked about political sign regulations. The landowners need to be responsible. She has gotten several calls concerning that. She will get ahold of Max DeHerrera concerning his trailer that says Conejos County is broken. She will suggest that he paint over it.

Linda stated that the Planning Commission is in support to the County Commissioners concerning our financial situation; wants to know what their plans are for the sales tax. The Planning Commission has offered their support so asked that they keep them in mind.

Linda also stated to let her know if there is anything pressing in the Land Use Office.

Tressesa-County Admn. stated that they will be having a work session on the 28th at 9:00 AM concerning the Ambulance District and the sales tax.

Nick Sarmiento stated that he would like to see the flood mapping.

Linda stated that they have tried it in the past; also stated that concerning FEMA mapping they are on their own.

Linda stated they could seek funding from the Army Corp of Engineers; they might have funding left over from their projects.

Comm. Garcia asked about wind turbines in Conejos County.

Linda stated that there was a company that came to do a study.

Tressesa, County Admn. stated that when the study was done the wind was not consistent it is not seasonal.

Linda will find that study and share it with the board. We have good gusty winds but they are not consistent.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that those turbines need a smooth breeze all the time; they can't spin that fast.

Comm. Garcia asked about the flood mapping.

Nick Sarmiento stated that allows people to get flood insurance and hope we don't have big disasters.

Linda stated that the flood hazard they have had that for 100 years. We don't have FEMA; people will send a parcel number to Thomas Brinkley at the Assessor's Office. It is not precise but people do use it.

Nick Sarmiento stated that people do want to build by the river even though it puts people in a harm's way.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that in Manassa in the SE Corner there is a flood plain.

Linda the mentioned that she doesn't know if people could afford flood insurance.

Comm. Garcia talked about amendments on RV's; asked if they are going to update the comprehensive plan. He said he was fine with the

building code. He said there were positives and negatives in his talk with some contractors.

Linda stated that Chris is very supportive of the building code.

Tressesa-County Admn. asked if there is a way to maybe exempt agriculture because some do need it and some don't.

Linda felt it is necessary because some build a nice shop and later change it to a living quarter for the ranch hand.

Linda stated that Chris has had people submit an application but do not submit proper codes.

Linda will do a break down on statistics on constructors, new septic's, replace septic's and provide more data. She invited the Board to attend the Planning Commissioner's Meetings.

Linda mentioned that Chris has been working with the schools. He does not have an architectural inspector's license. He has a lot of knowledge. Chris can continue to earn his points and send him to training.

Tressesa asked if he can do those continued education classes through ZOOM.

Linda talked about MHIP which is a Mobile Home Installation Program. She is working with Larry Zaragoza and the other towns. They can be licensed on their own. Those permits are \$500.00.

Comm. Garcia asked if the total fees get forwarded to other agencies.

Linda stated that only 20.00 is remitted to the State of Colorado.

Linda gave a short discussion on RV's such as Canon Bonito RV, Josie's in Mogote and Twin Rivers.

Linda mentioned that if they ask someone to remove the presidential flag are they taking away their rights or is it political.

Comm. Garcia asked what the status is on the Robin's Bridge.

Linda stated that they are ready. Mr. Montgomery will report on what they are doing.

Linda went ahead and explained to newly elected Comm. Baroz concerning the Lazaro Bridge. She said that they will pay for the bridge in place of impact fees.

Linda stated that that they received notice concerning Larry Mondragon. He has been moving dirt to other properties. He has applied for a 110 Mining Permit. He will be cleaning junk and rubbish.

Rodney King-OEM Report

Rodney stated that he has sent out his report to the board. He report is as follows:

1. 2021 EMPG-LEMS Grant Activities- has been completed.
2. Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)- The Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment Guide will review all the Core Capabilities for Conejos County. 2021 Completion.
3. 2021 Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)- He will be training with the SLV Region Emergency Managers to accomplish the training tasks we have outlined in the 2021 TEP.

SLV LEPC- ZOOM meeting will be on Monday Jan. 25th.

Conejos County MAC-AOP Meeting Jan. 27 -Zoom or in person, MAC-Multiagency Coordination-AOP-Annual Operation Plan.

4. COVID- Upgrade to Conejos County Policy/Coordination Room.
5. EMPG COVID-19 Special Project Grant (2nd Opportunity) 5 year Hazard Mitigation Assistance Plan for Conejos County 2021-2022. He will meet with the towns and come up with a plan. Last year the project cost 5,000 for each county; they will be able to do in-kind.

Model Traffic Code

Nick asked Tressesa if she received any phone calls concerning the ZOOM meeting.

Tressesa said no; she talked to Garth and he hadn't heard anything; stated that the meeting is today at 6:00 PM.

Chrmn. Jarvies opened up the Model Traffic Code at 11:00 AM and turned the time over to County Attorney Nick Sarmiento.

Nick stated that it had been posted in the Valley Courier on January 05 and January 12, 2021 and today they are having the hearing. They did post on line at Conejos County.org and the sheriff posted on his own website. They published the ZOOM meeting with the phone number 376-5772 Ext 1 for Tressesa Martinez.

Tressesa stated that she never did get any requests concerning the ZOOM Meeting or otherwise.

Nick Sarmiento stated that they had no written comments sent to him or Tressesa.

Chrmn. Jarvies asked if they had adequate notice and asked the board members if they had any questions.

Comm. Garcia stated that he saw both legal notices in the newspaper.

Nick Sarmiento Mentioned that they could not get it published in full; the requirement is (10) ten days before adopting. The commissioners will reset a later date in February or March to give the citizens 30 days. They could have it the 2nd meeting in February; that would give them time to notice once and then notice it again.

Nick stated that it would be better practice to adopt later and not continue it. It would be set up for adoption.

Nick stated that it should be published as soon as possible.

Chrmn. Jarvies opened it up for public comment; asked if they received anything by e-mail.

Nick stated that not to his knowledge.

Tressesa stated that she did not receive anything either.

Chrmn. Jarvies opened it up for anyone in the room for or against, for or against, for or against.

There being none he closed the public comment portion.

The board recessed for a few minutes.

The board came out of recess.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they will continue the hearing in February. They will not accept verbal comments whether it be via zoom or in person.

Motion to continue the hearing on February 18, 2021: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. Baroz, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried

Comm. Garcia stated that after a statewide zoom meeting the two legislators still submitted a bill before the legislature and the commissioners had received an email with the new version of the bill. He is not in favor of the new version of the bill and wants to further discuss an option. He stated we might want to pass a resolution opposing the bill and contact Representative Valdez and Senator Simpson.

Tressesa County Admn. stated that Lorie Lopez will be present at the February 04th meeting to talk about opioid problems.

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM and will continue at 6:00 PM.

Model Traffic Code-6:00 PM Public Hearing

Chrmn. Jarvies called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Mitchell Jarvies- Chrmn.- Present
Carlos Garcia-Vice Chair- Present
Joseph Baroz- Vice Chair- Present
Tressesa Martinez-County Admn.-Present

Also present was Annabelle Gomez-Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Nick Sarmiento via Zoom.

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

Prayer: Chrmn. Jarvies gave the opening prayer.

Nick Sarmiento stated that they published the notice twice. It includes exactly where it is published and it includes Tressesa's e-mail.

Tressesa stated that they will notice it on February 02nd and on the 9th and they will put the whole code on the 2nd.


Comm. Garcia stated that he did see the notice which was posted in the Valley Courier.

Nick Sarmiento stated that he sent the new revised portion.

Chrmn. Jarvies declared the hearing adjourned at 6:25 PM.

ATTEST:


NATHAN RUYBAL
CLERK OF THE BOARD


MITCHELL JARVIES
CHRMN. BD OF COUNTY COMM.