

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Work Session at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chair person at 9:00 a.m., February 23, 2005; and she announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

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| Clarissa McGinn | Chair person |
| Doug Moore | Vice-Chairman |
| Michael Nivison | Absent |
| Ruth Hooser | County Manager |
| Dan Bryant | County Attorney |
| LaDonna Perry | Department Assistant |
| Bill Lee Parker | Road Superintendent |
| Lynn Estrada | Deputy Clerk |

DRAFT

Commissioner Moore gave the invocation. Commissioner McGinn led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

1. Consent Agenda:

- a. Personnel- Promotion:** Michael S. Mullikin-Computer Network Specialist (p/t to f/t).

Commissioner McGinn had some questions about Mr. Mullikin’s priorities. John Blansett, Sheriff, stated that his main duties will be at the Detention Center and the Sheriff’s Office. Ray Backstrom, Data Processor, assured John that Mr. Mullikin’s main duties will be with the Sheriff’s Department.

2. **Citizen Communications:** Jim Hengstenber, Director of Sacramento Methodist Assembly- Discuss paving of approximately 1.5 miles of single lane road through the campgrounds to accommodate the guests coming to the newly built 24-room lodge.

Mr. Hengstenber stated that with the new lodge the dirt roads are muddy and a liability to our guests. He is asking the County if they can do anything to help them pave the roads. Bill Parker, Road Superintendent, stated that the county road ends right at the entrance to the campgrounds. Commissioner McGinn stated that anytime a road is on private property it would go against the anti-donation clause for the County to use taxpayer money to make any improvements on a road that is on private property. In similar situations other residents have pooled their money together, gotten bids and go out and make the improvements on the roads within their own private property or subdivision. Commissioner Moore stated that another way is to improve the road to county standards and give it to the county. This would make other programs available to you. Mr. Hengstenber will meet with Bill Parker to get the information on the programs that are available to them.

2. **Purchasing:**

a. Consider approving a Cooperative Purchase with Eddy County in the amount of \$263,752.000 to American LaFrance in Albuquerque, for a 2005 Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting Apparatus for Sunspot VFD.

Commissioner Moore would like to know what we are doing here. Ruth Hooser, County Administrator, stated that Sunspot VFD has received a grant to purchase, with Eddy County, a new Fire Truck. By doing this together they will be getting a better price. Commissioner Moore would like to see a picture of this truck. Ruth will obtain one for him.

3. **Resolutions & Agreements:**

a. Consider approving Resolution No.03-01-05/93-95 regarding mandating the adoption of the National Fire Codes by Otero County Volunteer Fire Departments.

Commissioner McGinn stated that the codes need to be adopted by the governing body in order for the codes to be enforced. The Fire Chiefs in the county run their departments in accordance with the National Fire Codes.

b. Consider approving Resolution No.03-01-05/93-36 regarding authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for a new 2005, 3500 gallon tanker apparatus for La Luz VFD.

Wayne Glidden, La Luz Fire Chief, stated that this would be a 10 year lease.

c. Consider approving a Professional Services Agreement between Otero County and New Mexico State University Range Improvement Task Force.

Ruth Hooser, stated that this contract is between the County and the State University Range Improvement Task Force, John Faller. Last year we were to pay \$25,000.00, but this has not been paid yet. We are making this contract for \$50,000 in order to pay them for last year and this year too when they are finished with their project for the county. Commissioner Moore clarified the project that the Task Force is working on. We have never had our own science to fall back on. We have always had to depend on the Forest Service. This Task Force is monitoring the range for the county and gathering data. We now have 12 months of up to date data for the range.

4. Elected Official/Department Heads:

a. Consider approving New Mexico Department of Transportation Projects for the coming year 2005/2006 including the School Bus Route, Cooperative and County Arterial Projects.

Bill Parker stated that all the roads that he has chipped sealed this summer he will go back and fog seal

them all next summer. This will extend the life of the roads for another 3 or 4 years.

5. Citizen Communications:

a. Norval Bookout/Dan Abercrombie - Discuss conserving the water aquifer at Tularosa and requesting Otero County to be involved by writing a letter to the State Engineer to immediately take action. Mr. Abercrombie presented the State Engineers decision on Alamogordo versus Tularosa Community on the water aquifer. He read parts of the decision that he had problems with. On page 7 it states that 18 wells will go dry or be significantly impacted. There were several other conclusions that have resulted in the residents of Tularosa to file a protest. Language was taken from the un-approved Comprehensive Plan and misinterpreted. Dan Bryant, County Attorney, stated that there are several things that the Commission can do. A water model can be done and incorporated into our subdivision ordinance and the State Engineers Office would have to take this into consideration. Right now we don't have any basis for criticizing what's going on because we don't have an independent result. Dan stated that we can do a resolution by this Board that says this language has been misinterpreted, we want to fix it, here's the fix, this is the way the language should be interpreted. The Board agreed that this would be a quick fix for right now.

6. Unscheduled Citizen Communications:

Becky Lane, Zia Therapy, approached the Board with two other employees from the transportation department of Zia. The State had given Zia money in their contract and it was left in there. Mescalero approached Zia about transportation to the Inn of the Mountain Gods. An arrangement has been made with the State, Zia and the Tribe for public transportation up to Mescalero starting March 1. This will include stops in La Luz and Tularosa also. Zia Therapy wanted to notify the Commission of this service and invited them to try out the Z-Transportation.

There being no further business before the Board the Chair person adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

Clarissa McGinn, Chair person

ATTEST:

Robyn Silva, County Clerk

Work Session Feb. 23, 2005