

Regular Meeting

June 18, 2009

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Regular Meeting at the Otero County Administration Building in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m., June 18, 2009; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

Ronny Rardin	Chairman
Doug Moore	Vice-Chairman
Clarissa McGinn	Member
Timothy Smith	County Manager
Dan Bryant	County Attorney
Ray Backstrom	Assistant County Manager
Lynn Estrada	Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

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

1. Unscheduled Citizen Communications:

a. Tom Burns, a Boles Acres resident, approached the Board to continue to ask for support from the Commission for the Boles Acres Lions Park. We are looking for guidance from the Board on what we need to do in order for the Bureau of Land Management not to take the park back. Mr. Burns stated that Tony Rodgers, Maintenance Supervisor, came out to the park and did an evaluation to give to the

Commission.

Commissioner Moore briefed the audience on the history of the park. Where we left it at the last discussion, we needed the Boles Acres residents to give us a vision of what they wanted the park to be. Mr. Smith, County Manager, stated that he met with Mr. Burns a month ago. What the Commission needs from the community is specifically what do you want to do with the property. Mr. Smith stated that BLM is requesting a plan of what we are going to do. Commissioner Rardin stated that BLM is not going to come and take it back over any time soon since we are interested in the park. Mr. Burns stated that originally we asked to just get the ball field back up and useable and a way to secure it. This is still our first priority.

Commissioner Moore stated that we will help the community get a grant for the park. Most of the grant opportunities require match money. If you can organize your group and give us the vision you want for the park, we can help apply for a grant. The grants usually require an in-kind contribution, so the work that is done on the facility needs to be documented. Proof of hours worked will need to be submitted with the grant application. Mr. Burns stated that he will get the documents to the Commission.

b. Tom Burns, a Boles Acres resident, was irritated at the County Road Department for putting a new culvert across the Old El Paso Highway where it had been previously graded. We have 2 culverts in Boles acres that were pulled out by the County about 3 years ago. He has heard stories about the South West Economic Development District funded some \$200,000 for a study. Mr. Burns has heard of several different ways this was going to be funded to replace the culverts that were removed, but nothing has been done. Commissioner Moore gave a brief history from the floods in 2008 and why those culverts were taken out. We did get some FEMA funding to replace both of the culverts at the cost we estimated, we lost on the existing structure. Once we got the FEMA funding, which took 18

months to get the funding, we had engineers come in to evaluate what's the best case scenario for the rebuild. Paul Quiaroli can address this better for us. Mr. Quiaroli stated that the FEMA Declaration that we applied for, their recommendations were to put 2 low water crossings of concrete based which did not give a good escape for some people. That's where we have been doing other engineering studies. Ray Backstrom, Assistant County Manager, stated that we are working with CDBG monies for this project right now. The engineers originally looked at this as a low water crossing, they have come back and recommended that we go to box culverts in this area. That is the engineering process that is going on right now. We are waiting for paperwork back from CDBG on an extension on that grant. Commissioner Moore asked, "Do we have CDBG funding in place in conjunction with the FEMA money, enough to build both crossings once the engineer is complete?" Mr. Backstrom stated that there is enough funding in the CDBG alone to cover that. Commissioner Moore asked, "Do we have an anticipated delivery date to begin construction?" Mr. Backstrom stated that we do not, but we are waiting for the paperwork to come back from the state on the extension of the CDBG grant. Commissioner Moore wanted to know how long we have been waiting for the paperwork. Mr. Backstrom stated that it has been about 3 weeks. Commissioner Moore instructed staff to expedite the query on this paperwork and report back to the Commission at the next meeting in order to give Mr. Burns an estimated time for construction dates.

2. Elected Officials, Department Heads:

Paul Quiaroli-Request approval to schedule and advertise a public hearing for July 16, 2009 to hear public input on the Otero County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Quiaroli stated that due to the flooding in 2006 we received a grant for a Hazard Mitigation Plan to be created and sent to FEMA. It creates a baseline so if we do have any future damages,

flooding events, or any other kind of catastrophe that baseline is there and we have identified numerous locations and areas that we know we want to have fixed. This plan also allows us to apply for a half of a million dollars annually for other projects.

Commissioner Moore stated that this needs input from all three Commissioners and there are some questions that we need to answer. Mr. Quiaroli stated that yes, we would first like to get the Commissions input and then on the July 16th meeting, have a public hearing.

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to approve the schedule of a public hearing for July 16, 2009 to hear public input on the Otero County Hazard Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore.

Commissioner McGinn amended the motion to have the public hearing at 6:05 pm. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages

3. Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 2 through 14. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGinn. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages

4. Commission Discussion/Action items:

a. Ronny Rardin-Interim Budget Adjustment.

Commissioner Rardin stated that we might make a decision on this item tonight after our Executive Session.

b. Commissioner Moore gave an update on the mid-year conference that was held in Hobbs, New Mexico.

1. Commissioner Moore reported on the Elk meeting that was held yesterday with the Forest Service and stake holders to try to work within the boundaries of some NEPA Projects, to build some new experimental land management programs in the forest service that will address the needs of livestock growers. One enlightening thing from this elk meeting was they thought they had a herd of about 14,000 head and their target was to reduce to about 1,000. The Game & Fish started flying surveys and the estimate for the last 5 years has always been around 25,000 head. They realized their survey was inaccurate and went to another survey. Mr. Kirkpatrick from the Game & Fish believes they have a herd in game management unit 34 of about 45,000, based on their new monitoring techniques. They are striving to stabilize the herd and bring the number to about 38,000.

Commissioner Rardin would like to mention that Congressman Teague has asked for office space at the County Administration Building. Mr. Smith stated that there will be an open house on July 2nd for Congressman Teague.

5. Executive Session:

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss A. Collective Bargaining, B. Pending Threatening Litigation, C. Personnel, D. Land, E. Roads, F. Detention Center, G. Contracts-PSAP, Sheriff's Office Communication Equipment and also Resource Management Plan review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. Roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioner Moore	yes
Commissioner McGinn	yes
Commissioner Rardin	yes

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to come out of Executive Session having discussed A. Collective Bargaining, B. Pending Threatening Litigation, C. Personnel, D. Land, E. Roads, F.

Detention Center, G. Contracts-PSAP, and Resource Management Plan review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. Roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioner McGinn	yes
Commissioner Moore	yes
Commissioner Rardin	yes

Commissioner Moore stated that based on discussion in Executive Session he would like to make a motion to instruct staff to file a revised 60 day notice of intent to sue U.S. Fish and Wildlife on the de-list petition for the Thistle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGinn. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moore stated that he spoke with Ms. Korth on the alternative energy source. We are looking at possibly putting out a bid. Dan Bryant stated that we need to do a request for proposals for a pilot project. Commissioner Rardin asked the other Commissioners if they would be interested in pursuing the project and spending \$20,000 on the pilot project. Commissioner Moore stated that he is fine with the project and so is Commissioner McGinn.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ronny Rardin, Chairman

ATTEST:

Robyn Holmes, County Clerk

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