

Regular Meeting

September 17, 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 Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m., September 17, 2009; and he announced that reasonable notice of 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
Ray Backstrom	Interim County Manager
Pamela Heltner	Commission Liaison
Christina Nuno	Deputy Clerk

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

1. Proclamation: Designating September 22, 2009 as Sgt. Willie N. Estrada Day. Commissioner Rardin read the proclamation, proclaiming Sgt. Willie N. Estrada Day on September 22, 2009. Stg. Estrada is the only recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross from Otero County for all time and one of only 27 for the entire state of New Mexico. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Sgt. Estrada for extraordinary heroism in the vicinity of Bongowal, Korea.

2. **Public Hearing.** The time being 6:05 p.m. A public hearing was held to discuss the Otero County Hazard Mitigation Plan as per FEMA requirements and approval of Resolution 09-17-09/08-12 adopting said plan for Otero County.

Paul Quairoli, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Doug Scott, from Ecology & Environment, approached the Board to discuss the possible approval of the hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Quairoli stated he recommends approval of this plan to establish a FEMA approval hazard mitigation plan that will establish a baseline accessible to the State and FEMA prior to an emergency and would protect the citizens of the county. This will also allow the county to ask for mitigation money from FEMA up to \$500,000 a year to fix some of thing they have identified in the plan as true hazardous.

Janet White, resident of Otero County, approached the Board to discuss the possible approval of the hazard mitigation plan which she hopes the Commission will not approve until they have looked further into the plan before adopting it. Ms. White stated what she is questioning is the wisdom of the county being involved in producing documentation for the purpose of receiving further grant monies . It concerns her that this plan will have to be updated in another five (5) years and is sure that Ecology & Environment, like any big business, will have this on their calendar to come back to update for a set fee. Commissioner Moore stated his motivation for this plan is not to get government money. He stated they have studied the plan and the background of Ecology and they had exceptional credentials. Commissioner Moore stated he doesn't necessarily agree on how they prioritized their hazards and not everyone is going to agree; however, they (Ecology) have captured by in large natural anomalies that could be threatening to

the county and at least the county has a foot print and an outline of how the county intends to address those natural disasters and issues.

Commissioner Rardin stated the way he understands the plan, for instance, when the flood that occurred a couple of years ago and flooded the street of Abbott, FEMA had no authority to help because there was no plan in place. If there were a plan with FEMA, the county's management and FEMA could have participated together for faster service on behalf of those citizens. This plan will allow FEMA to come in and help.

Mr. Quairoli stated if there's an unidentified issue not addressed on the plan, they can go back to the living document and recognize the issue that was missed and recognize it as a priority in the plan. "There's nothing that says we can't add a disaster or an event verbally to FEMA once they arrive" stated Mr. Quairoli.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution 09-17-09/98-12 of the Otero County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner McGinn. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to approve on the Consent Agenda items 2-11 and 13-23. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to table item #12 from the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Ambulance Service. Ms. Sally Roberts, Don Luth, and Ann Barnes, from Holloman Air force Base, approached the Board to discuss the possibility of joining the county with their ambulance service. Commissioner Moore stated Holloman Air Force

Base has shown an interest in joining the county's licensure for ambulance services and having the county's contract provider American Medical Response to provide service to them and their personnel for a fee for service base until such time they can build enough data and establish a rate that's more consistent with what the county currently has, which is a population base. Mr. Don Luth stated they know their average calls and population that they need to cover. He stated they have spoken with AMR (American Medical Response) who gave them a price. According to Commissioner Moore, the agreement they have with AMR is based on population and there's a certain fee per person. He stated the arrangement they have with AMR does not fit. Ms. Sally Roberts, asked do they go directly to the contractor? Commissioner Moore stated the county holds the license, but the county operates the license through a Board that they are a member of, just as the Village of Tularosa and Cloudcroft and the City of Alamogordo, which are administered through that Board. He stated the County Commission will recommend to the Board (Ambulance Board) to include you (Holloman Air Force) in the agreement and give you (Holloman) a seat on that Board. Ms. Sally Roberts, Don Luth and Ann Barnes all were in agreement.

Commissioner McGinn made a motion to include Holloman Air Force Base on the Ambulance Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to go into executive session to discuss items A-G under the County Manager's report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGinn. Roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioner McGinn yes

Commissioner Moore yes

Commissioner Rardin yes

Commissioner McGinn made motion to come out of executive session having only discussed items A-G and no decisions were made. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioner Moore yes

Commissioner Rardin yes

Commissioner McGinn yes

There being no further business before the Board the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Approved:

Ronny Rardin, Chairman

Attest:

Robyn Holmes
Otero County Clerk