



Nathan Ruybal

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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on March 2nd, 2023, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners Board Room, 6693 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129

Comm. Jarvies called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Mitchell Jarvies – Chairperson – Present

Carlos Garcia - Vice Chair – Present via Zoom

Joseph Baroz – Vice Chair – Present

Present: Nick Sarmiento – County Attorney, Tressesa Martinez-County Administrator – Connie Ricci – HR Manager -- Nathan Ruybal-Clerk and Recorder – **PRESENT**

Pledge of Allegiance: Comm. Jarvies led everyone on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Prayer: Comm. Baroz gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda as presented.

Comm. Baroz First Motion

Comm. Garcia Second Motion

Motion Carries 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

• 01/19/2023 Regular Meeting

○ Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve minutes as presented.

○ Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.

○ Motion Carries 3-0

• 01/24/2023 Special Meeting

○ Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.

○ Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.

○ Motion Carries 3-0

• 02/02/2023 Regular Meeting

○ Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve minutes as presented.

○ Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.

○ Motion Carries 3-0

• 02/16/2023 Regular Meeting

○ Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.

○ Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.

○ Motion Carries 3-0

Public Comment:

- There are several land owners in the meeting today that would like to make comments regarding the Excel Transmission line from Alamosa to Antonito.
- County Attorney Sarmiento discusses with everyone in the boardroom that today's agenda will only cover the discussion on Excel Energy's contract regarding a parcel of County property on the proposed route and nothing else. Attorney Sarmiento also discussed that Conejos County has not received a Special Use Permit that is required of Excel to begin the project.
- Comm. Jarvies explains that once Conejos receives the Special Use Permit request that the BOCC will hold public meetings so that every citizen from the North to the South can have the opportunity to speak on this project.
- Chuck Finnegan resident of Conejos and landowner on the proposed transmission line route speaks out against the proposed route and suggest to the BOCC that Excel use the existing route.
- Mark McCarroll resident of Conejos and landowner speaks out against the proposed transmission line route speaks out against the proposed route. Mr. McCarroll has two properties that both would be affected by the proposed route.
- Curt Wilson resident of Conejos and landowner speaks out against the proposed transmission line route, Mr. Wilson would encourage Excel Energy to have better communication with land owners and not be arrogant with the processes that must happen in order for the project to begin. Mr. Wilson reminds the BOCC that Excel already has a good route that landowners have operated around for many years.
- Randa McCarroll speaks out against the proposed transmission line, would rather have Excel use the existing route.
- Virgil Valdez resident of Conejos and landowner on the proposed transmission line route speaks out against the proposed Excel Energy transmission line. The proposed line will affect his well, reservoir and irrigation of his ranch. Mr. Valdez recommends that Excel use their current transmission line.

Administrative Correspondence – Tressesa Martinez:

- Letter of support for Adams State seeking state government funds.
 - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve letter of support.
 - Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0
- Appointment of the Rio Grande Conservation District
 - Comm. Garcia makes motion to appoint Elliot Salazar to the RG Conservation District.
 - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0

County Attorney – Nick Sarmiento:

- Excel Energy Contract Agreement
 - Att. Sarmiento discusses that we have received a letter from Excel requesting an easement from Conejos regarding property belonging to Conejos County.
 - Att. Sarmiento asks the BOCC what type of agreement they would like to get into with Excel.
 - Sarmiento asks the BOCC to allow him to discuss specifics about agreement for purposed power transmission line.
 - Comm. Baroz suggest that the BOCC should allow Attorney Sarmiento to enter negotiations with Excel Energy.
 - Discussion can only be regarding Conejos County property.
 - BOCC did not agree on the Excel's contract and will enter discussions regarding the parcels in question.
 - Comm. Garcia makes motion to allow Attorney Sarmiento to negotiate with Excel Energy contract agreement.
 - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0
- Redistricting Commissioners Districts
 - The BOCC and redistricting commission have agreed on two maps.
 - Both maps have been posted for at least two months in from of the Clerk and Recorders Office
 - Main goal of the maps is to better even out the population for each district.
 - No comments or concerns have been brought forward.
 - Maps were posted on the County Website.
 - Public Hearing meeting on January 24th, 2023, the commission recommended Map 1.
 - Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve Map One for the new Commissioners Districts as presented.
 - Comm. Baroz seconds that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0

Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Crowther:

- Jail night lights at the jail cells are going out and Sheriff will need to replace soon.
- A/C units are going out, will need to obtain quotes and get back with BOCC.
- Sheriff is low on deputies.
 - Four have left in the past month.
 - Step raises for the loyal deputies are being considered.
- 366 cases from January 1st to February 28th.
 - Two major cases are taking a lot of man hours inside the department.
 - Homicide of 24-month-old child.
 - One major case that will send shock waves through the County.
- \$1000 donation to Search and Rescue from anonymous donor.
- Heating issues at the jail – will work on repair or replace.
- Two search and rescues in February.
 - One search was successful.
 - One search unfortunately found the body of a lifetime Conejos Citizen Kevin Gray.

Grant Reporting – Curt Wilson:

- Curt discusses the need for the County to publish a press release regarding an FRP for the engineering of the Conejos County Ambulance Base.
- Curt has been working with Randi Sneed regarding grants for Ambulance Base.
- Curt is working with Randi to get a monetary figure to obtain to get the project shovel ready.
- Randi suggest that the County look into \$250,000 to start with Architect to get the project ready to break ground on construction.

Conejos County 4H Program, - Larry Brown and Chance Canty:

- Mr. Canty gives a report on his role as Youth Program Coordinator and the tasks completed over the past year of employment.
- Chance reads a letter of appreciation from Dawn Sammons.
- Chance also provides the BOCC with a completed tasks list and is provided below.
 - Logan Smith Memorial Jackpot (To be discussed further after this report).
 - San Luis Valley 4H County Fair.
 - 4H Project Assistance with Conejos County Youth through the summer including all Livestock and Indoor Projects (Shooting Sports, Cooking, Leathercraft, Wood Working, Cake Decorating are just a few).
 - Increasing State Fair Participation with Livestock and with Indoor Projects submitted.
 - Meat Quality Assurance Program
 - Improving the efficiency and productivity of our 4H Clubs Meetings through education and explanation
 - Attended Fair Board Meetings to be a voice for the people and youth of Conejos County
 - Assisted with Ag Fest to educate all 5th Graders on the importance of Agriculture and the diverse aspects within.
 - Established a working relationship with Centauri Middle School: Ag Club with Nikol Kelley
 - Currently in the middle of establishing programs with Sanford Elementary, Sanford Middle School, Sanford High School, and Centauri High School. At this time, the other 3 schools (La Jara, Manassa, Antonito) have not committed to programming with us this spring.

- Mr. Brown discusses finding ways to fund the Youth Coordinator position.
- BOCC and Mr. Brown will be looking for someone to replace Chance.
- BOCC wants to keep the program thriving and will work with Mr. Brown.

Transfer Station Discussion – Griffin Peterson:

- Mr. Peterson owner of SP Services bought Silver Mountain Disposal.
- Mr. Peterson discussed the desire to buy the DeHerrera Junk Yard and create a Transfer Station.
- Mr. Peterson asked for the help from the BOCC in any capacity they can.

Boundary Line Discussion – BLM

- Dario Archuleta – Acting Field Manager for the SLV Office
- Shawn Nuneen – Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Leon Montoya – Realty Specialist.
 - BLM SLV Field Office would like to communicate better and have a Monthly update.
 - Solar Zones inside Conejos County expressed interest in Antonio and Mogote areas.
 - Rio Grande Trespassing Issues.
 - BLM will no longer use the criminal but the administrative process to issue citations.
 - Managing grazing through citations, fines and possibly impoundment.

Boundary Line Discussion – BLM

- Rio Grande River Boundary Line Discussion
 - Boundary line should be in the middle of the river according to the BLM.
 - New Mexico and Colorado used different locations to set boundaries.
 - Colorado should have used the middle of the river just like New Mexico used.
 - Leon Montoya states that boundary line adjustment should not affect the County Boundary.
 - Att. Sarmiento mentions that once the Cadastral Survey is completed it will affect landowners.
 - Assessor Martinez, Attorney Sarmiento and BLM will work together to work on the issues with the Cadastral survey.
 - Lobato’s Bridge
 - Outdoor project at the Lobato’s Bridge to educate people on the history and cultural aspects of the Rio Grande Area.
 - Project includes boating access and cultural interpretation of the area.
 - BLM is asking the County to be an applicant for the August GoCo funding.
 - Comm. Jarvis is worried that the project would be destroyed with gun fire and theft.
 - Shawn from BLM speaks on how the Rio Grande River area deserves an area like this project.
 - Shawn says that “We” change the culture in these underserved areas.

Abatements – Assessors Office:

Section IV: Decision of the County Commissioners
(Must be completed if Section III does not apply)

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Conejos County, State of Colorado, at a duly and lawfully called regular meeting held on / / , at which meeting there were present the following members:

with notice of such meeting and an opportunity to be present having been given to the Petitioner and the Assessor of said County and Assessor Naomi Martinez-Keys *(being present--not present)* and

Petitioner Justin & April Dunn *(being present--not present)*, and WHEREAS, the said Name

County Commissioners have carefully considered the within petition, and are fully advised in relation thereto, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board *(agrees--does not agree)* with the recommendation of the Assessor and the petition be *(approved--approved in part--denied)* with an abatement/refund as follows:

Year	Assessed Value	Taxes Abate/Refund	Year	Assessed Value	Taxes Abate/Refund
2021	3,549	307.84	2022	3,447	298.88

Matthew Duvick
Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners' Signature

I, Nathan Ruybal County Clerk and Ex-officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners in and for the aforementioned county, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing order is truly copied from the record of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this 02 day of MARCH, 2023

Nathan Ruybal
County Clerk's or Deputy County Clerk's Signature

Note: Abatements greater than \$10,000 per schedule per year must be submitted in duplicate to the Property Tax Administrator for review

Section IV:

(When the completed, if Section III does not apply.)

Decision of the County Commissioners

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of _____ County, State of Colorado, at a duly and lawfully called regular meeting held on _____ / _____ / _____ at which meeting there were present the following members:

with notice of such meeting and an opportunity to be present having been given to the Petitioner and the Assessor of said County and Assessor _____ (being present--not present) and

Petitioner Alfred & Samantha McTeague _____ (being present--not present), and WHEREAS, the said

County Commissioners have carefully considered the within petition, and are fully advised in relation thereto NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board (agrees--does not agree) with the recommendation of the Assessor and that the petition be (approved--approved in part--denied) with an abatement/refund as follows:

2022	3,036	226.84
Year	Assessed Value	Taxes Abate/Refund

Mitchell Jarvies
Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners' Signature

I, Nathan Ruybal _____ County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners in and for the aforementioned county, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing order is truly copied from the record of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this 02 day of MARCH 2023.

Nathan Ruybal
County Clerk's or Deputy County Clerk's Signature

Note: Abatements greater than \$10,000 per schedule, per year, must be substantiated in duplicate to the Property Tax Administrator for review.

Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve Abatements as presented.
Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
Motion Carries 3-0

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 am

ATTEST: *Nathan Ruybal*
Nathan Ruybal
Clerk of the Board

Mitchell Jarvies
Mitchell Jarvies
Chair of BOCC

Federal Funding Legislation Overview

The three primary pieces of legislation the Regional Grant Navigators will focus on are the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

On March 11, 2021 [The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill, was passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law. The purpose of the bill is to send relief to states and local governments affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic allowing them to better respond to the resulting public health needs and economic hardships that communities continue to experience nationwide.

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)

The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021. This legislation will rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind. By the numbers IIJA will provide:

- \$1.2 trillion over 5 years
- Over 370 separate programs; 210 of which are competitive
- 90% of funding to be spent by states, territories, localities and tribes
- By sector, IIJA includes:
 - \$560 billion for transportation
 - \$74 billion for energy
 - \$65 billion for water
 - \$65 billion for broadband
 - \$39 billion for resilience
 - \$22 billion for environmental remediation

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) into law, marking the most significant action Congress has taken on clean energy and climate change in the nation's history. It will lower energy costs for households and businesses, create manufacturing jobs for American workers, and deliver a clean, secure, and healthy future for our children and grandchildren. Investments include:

- \$60 billion in clean energy manufacturing
- \$20 billion for smart agriculture practices
- \$10 billion for community block grants, access to transportation grants, port and heavy duty vehicle emissions reduction grants
- \$100 million to support completion of project environmental reviews
- Direct consumer tax credits for electric vehicle adoption
- New Federal Green Bank to leverage private sector capital