



Nathan Ruybal

**CONEJOS COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**

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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on May 4th, 2023, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners Board Room, 6693 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129

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**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 via Phone**

**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. Jarvies gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Add Title Three agreement discussion with Adam Moore from US Forest Service.

Comm. Garcia First Motion

Comm. Baroz Second Motion

Motion Carries 3-0

**Approval of Minutes:**

- April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Meeting
  - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.
  - Comm. Garcia seconds that motion.
  - Motion Carries 3-0

**Public Comment:**

- Sharleene Farmer thanks the BOCC for moving forward with the lease agreement on the Museum.
- Next online class cataloging, and inventory is next week.
- Would like to start an inventory of the items that belong to the museum.
- Sharleen is alarmed that the Sheriff is down eight deputies.
- Voices her displeasure that there has been little progress with the Ambulance Headquarters.
- Discusses ways to entice new recruits to Conejos County Sheriff's office.
- Sharleen would like to see a new compensation program to show appreciation for those that are loyal to the County.
- Sharleen asks the BOCC to add shower to the Arena location for the EMT's per her previous request from 2022.
- Mentions that hiring a new Grant Writer is a decision that the BOCC needs to make right away.

**Administrative Correspondence – Tressesa Martinez:**

- Veteran recommendation for outstanding Military and Community service, Tressesa asks the BOCC for any recommendations of who they would like to nominate.
- Award ceremony will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- IGA for Council of Governments (COG)
- Attorney Sarmiento asks if the BOCC has fully read the IGA and understand that the IGA will create jurisdiction issues and will be giving up some powers as a county.
- Attorney Sarmiento does believe that Conejos should sign IGA but wants the BOCC to appreciate and understand the details of the IGA.
- IGA covers the details regarding a county deporting water to an outside establishment.

**County Attorney – Nick Sarmiento:**

- Nothing to present.

**Sheriff's Report – Garth Crowther:**

- Sheriff voices appreciation of the \$30,000 in body armor from Shield 616 presented on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Guadalupe Parish Hall.
- Sheriff Crowther discusses call numbers and points out that there has been roughly 56% increase in cases filed from the previous year.
- Cases filed have seen an increase in homicides, sexual assaults and violent crimes.
- Sheriff highlights how difficult it has been to retain deputies, hoping to recruit directly from the academy.
- Nextiva phone system upgrade has been a working process, update should be completed soon.
- Sheriff is keeping a close eye on rising rivers and ditches to keep flooding damage under control.
- Working with dealership to get a few more vehicles.
- Sheriff would like to increase security at the courthouse for upcoming homicide cases.
- Air conditioner replacement bid is close to \$10,000, would like to get another quote that is less.
- Sheriff discusses wages are much higher at other counties and that's what drives deputies away from Conejos.
- Comm. Garcia asks questions about the new DA Anne Kelly and back log cases.
- Sheriff Crowther comments that he believes that she is close to completing the back log cases that she inherited from previous DA.

Comm. Baroz had to leave the BOCC Meeting.

#### **Forest Service Report – Adam Moore:**

- Forest health report is more concise and easier to read from previous years.
- QR code made available that will link to in depth information on the Forest Service website.
- Drought and warmer temperatures are proving stress for the trees which is exacerbating the insect and disease issues.
- Mountain Pine Beetle is popping up in a small area near the Big Horn state line area.
- Western Balsam Bark Beetle has affected roughly six acres in the Trujillo Meadows area.
- Spruce Beetle has affected 20 acres a top Sheep Creek Mountain, since 1996 over 100,00 acres of tress have been killed by the Spruce Beetle.
- Douglas Fur Beetle 5 acres affected in the Alamosa Canyon area.
- Western Spruce Bud Worm on going for over 10 years affecting 1000 acres on the west side of La Jara Reservoir.
- Aspen defoliation has hit roughly 610 acres in the La Jara Reservoir area hard as well.
- Engraver Beetle hits White Fur and Sub Alpine Fur which we do not have a lot around Conejos but has affected 6 acres near Terrace Reservoir.
- Comm. Garcia asks if there are any plans that will help kill by spraying or something else to deter the insect infestations in Conejos County?
- Sam with the FS states that these infestations are naturally occurring, and the Forest Service does not like to spray in these cases.
- Sam is working on an Aspen firewood sale bid in the La Jara Reservoir area.
- A company out of Mexico won the bid for the Aspen and is cutting and hauling to El Paso and finally to Mexico.
- Mike Hostetter a citizen from Conejos comments that the Aspen sale, discussion continues about future Firewood sales from the Forest service.
- Discussion advances to projects with special districts and areas inside Conejos County and the U.S Forest Service.
  - Comm. Garcia makes a motion to enter a title three agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.
    - Comm. Jarvies seconds that motion.
    - Motion Carries 2-0

#### **John Rogers – Public Comment – not on agenda**

- Mr. Rogers asks about land use resolutions and how to obtain them, would like to get more involved with the County.
- Discussion topics are listed below.
- Time and date of BOCC Meetings.
- Adoption of 2018 energy code.
- Taxes and land values.
- Rito Hondo land valuation.
- Valuations regarding vacant land, AG land, residential.

Abatement – Sandra Cordova:

Decision of the County Commissioners

Section IV  
(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:  
Month Day Year

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 \_\_\_\_\_ (being present--not present)

Petitioner: Guadalupe Parish Credit Union Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (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/fund as follows:

2022	15,918	1,413.24
Year	Assessed Value	Taxes Abolished

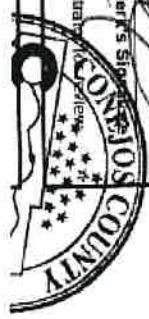
*Mitchell Jarvics*  
Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners' Signature

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 4th day of May 2023  
Month Year

*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.



Comm. Garcia makes motion to approve Abatement as presented.  
Comm. Jarvics seconds that motion.  
Motion Carries 2-0

Meeting Adjourn at 10:50 am

ATTEST: *Nathan Ruybal* Nathan Ruybal Clerk of the Board  
*Mitchell Jarvics* Mitchell Jarvics Chair of BOCC