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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on September 7th, 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
Joseph Baroz – Vice Chair – Present

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

Not Present: NONE

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

Opening Prayer: Comm. Baroz gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

- Add Donald Valdez under Public Comment.
- Add Executive session under County Attorney regarding easement with Excel Energy.
- Add 1041 Regulations under County Attorney open session.
- Add OHV discussion under County Attorney open session.
 - Comm. Garcia First Motion
 - Comm. Baroz Second Motion
 - Motion Carries 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

- Special Meeting 07/31/2023 Board of Equalization
 - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.
 - Comm. Garcia seconded that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0
- Regular Meeting 07/31/2023
 - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.
 - Comm. Garcia seconded that motion.
 - Motin Carries 3-0
- Regular Meeting 08/03/2023
 - Comm. Baroz makes motion to approve minutes as presented.
 - Comm. Garcia seconded that motion.
 - Motion Carries 3-0

Public Comment:

- Peggy Bell introduces Ellie (Eleanor) Smyth as new contact person for the Rocky Mountain Estates, Mrs. Smyth is a resident of El Paso Texas but has had property in the Subdivision for many years. Mrs. Smyth would like to continue working with the County to work on the road and bridge that leads into the subdivision. BOCC and Tressesa encourage good communication and conclude that both parties need to also work with Andrea Jones from the US Forest Service regarding the road and bridge which allows entry into their property.
- Doanld Valdez discusses Senate Bill 22-2-38 and how it will affect Conejos County, Mr. Valdez is asking BOCC to write a letter either for or against the Bill. Mr. Valdez would like to present at the next BOCC meeting in September proving more discussion regarding Bill. If Bill passes it will allow Proposition HH on the November ballot.

Administrative Correspondence – Tressesa Martinez:

- No Administrative Correspondence

County Attorney – Nick Sarmiento:

- 1041 Regulation work session is scheduled for September 21st after the Regular Meeting.
 - BOCC needs to schedule a public hearing for OHV for date before next BOCC meeting, posting for Public Hearing will be placed for September 20th at 6pm.

Gun Barrel Road Discussion – Phil Eicher:

- Mr. Eicher is asking BOCC advice to get County Road 6 in better shape then in better condition.
- Comm. Baroz discusses possibility that Forest Service and Rio Grande County along with Conejos County Road and Bridge generate funding to fix the road into better condition.
- Donnie from Road and Bridge comments \$156,000 of material is needed to lay material on road, labor and materials will be above current year budget.
- Donnie mentions that it will take over two million dollars to pave six miles of County Road 6, which is way more than then the entire budget for Road and Bridge.
- Comm. Jarvies comments that County Road 6 is a rough road like many of our dirt roads in the County. *with MORE than 50 employees*
- Comm. Garcia adds that grants are available if a business is on that road.
- Donnie comments its so dry in that area and wind is a major factor in road erosion, also 6 to 7 years ago the County overlaid the entire road with new material.
- Mr. Valdez comments that funding is a problem and that the County Road 6 and Highway 15 need a road management plan.
- Comm. Jarvies comments Conejos County does have a road management plan for all roads in Conejos County. Road and Bridge has also improved year after year processes and procedures to better improve our roads and the BOCC and Road and Bridge will continue to improve moving forward.
- Lonnie Yoder who lives in County Road 6 speaks on the extreme rough road condition of the road, road condition is hard on the horses and the buggies.
- Mr. Armando Valdez in official capacity as State Director for USDA and Rual Development adds that economic and infrastructure development for the County do exist and the BOCC can utilize Mr. Valdez to help find ways to create funding to improve our roads and in particular our County Dirt roads by either grants or loans.
- Mr. Bob Archer speaks on the general safety concerns that arise from such rough roads; Mr. Archer discusses the four vehicles that have ran through his fences due to the rough road's conditions in that area.

- Jeff Peterson from Road and Bridge has a concern that drivers may increase their speed on the County roads as better improvements are made to them, Speed Control of these vehicles will keep the roads looking better for longer if only vehicles slow down on the dirt roads.
- Lavern Coleman who lives on County Road 6 believes that there can be improvements made right now that will make the road safer and easier to travel.
- Guadalupe Cruz also lives on County Road 6 comments planning solutions need to be found to improve County Road 6.
- Donnie states that traffic has increased in that area because of more businesses opening in that area on County Road 6.
- Tressesa comments that Revenue for Road and Bridge does not increase year to year and Conejos will need to find alternative measure to fund the Road and Bridge to fix these dirt road conditions.
- Attorney Sarmiento states Master Plan does not cover the businesses that we have now, he will ask the planning commission to look at impact costs of roads when approving businesses that are down dirt roads.

Sheriff's Report – Garth Crowther:

- 677 calls for August
- 50 calls for Antonito
- 3 death investigations
- 6 search and rescue.
- Forest patrol is complete, grant was given to Conejos Sheriff's Department to patrol campgrounds in Conejos County.
- \$41,000 grant for Star link and other expenses.
- Fence around Sheriff's office is complete for the exception of the power gate which will be done soon.
- Town and County will be working on replacing bad engines, not eta of completion.

Sangre de Cristo Heritage Area – Confirmation on the Plaza – Julie Chacon:

- Julie and Brandon Gonzales ask for permission to have Conejos Plaza as a designation under historical sites.
- BOCC are all in favor of the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Area to seek a historical designation for the Conejos Plaza.
- Julie and Brandon will work on this project and return to discuss progress with the BOCC.

Guadalupe Water Project Report – Maria White Buffalo:

- Water Association working with Atencio Engineering to create engineering plans that will upgrade their current water plant for the Village of Guadalupe.
- Maria has secured a DOLA grant that will provide funding for engineering plan.
- Atencio Engineering firm has drafted a letter that Maria will present to the BOCC.
- Maria is asking the BOCC to be administrative agent for the DOLA grant funds.
- Comm. Garcia comments that Conejos can be the pass through for the grant funds.
- Tress comments that this will add additional work for the Admin. Office but will help with this project.

Motion to enter Executive Session 24-6-402 Sub Section B Conference with an Attorney to Discuss Legal Counsel regarding easement with Excel Energy.

Comm. Garcia first motion

Comm. Baroz second motion


Motion Carries 3-0

Comm. Jarvies - Let the record reflect that we are coming out of Executive Session conference with an Attorney, no decisions were made, and it is 10:47 am.

Attorney Sarmiento – It is the opinion of the County Attorney that the discussion had an Executive Session constitute Attorney and Client privilege and therefore no record was kept.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 am

ATTEST:


Nathan Ruybal
Clerk of the Board


Mitchell Jarvies
Chair of BOCC