



**Nathan Ruybal**  
**CONEJOS COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
**6683 COUNTY ROAD 13 PO BOX 127**  
**CONEJOS, COLORADO 81129**  
**TELEPHONE: 719 376 5422 FAX 719 376 5997**  
**nruybal@co.conejos.co.us**

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**Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners Board Room, 6693 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129**

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**1) ROLL CALL**

Roll call reflected the attendance of Comm. Mitchell Jarvies – Chairperson - present, Carlos Garcia - Vice Chair – present and Joseph Baroz – Vice Chair – present, Nathan Ruybal - Clerk and Recorder, Connie Ricci – HR Manager, Tressesa Martinez, County Administrator - Nick Sarmiento – County Attorney - present

**2) CALL TO ORDER**

October 17th, 2024, a regular monthly meeting of the Conejos County Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 am beginning with the pledge of allegiance led by Comm. Jarvies and a prayer led by Comm. Jarvies.

**3) AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL**

The agenda was reviewed, Tress has asked to add Certification of Housing Authority and Conejos County Library Board opening discussion. Linda from Land Use has asked to remove DOL for Lester Yoder, a motion was made by Comm. Baroz to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Comm. Garcia, the MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No Minutes to Approve.

**5) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

**6) ADMINISTRATORS' CORRESPONDENCE**

Courthouse update, adjusters still do not have a scope of work to the County, Attorney Sarmiento contacted state justice with no reply. Comm. Jarvies will reach out to the adjuster to ask if they can speed up their process so that we can work on moving on to the next step to fix the courthouse. Next the BOCC and Tress discuss Russell Engineering in regard to the survey for the County and Martinez property that will be used for the Ambulance Headquarters. Attorney Sarmiento discusses the correspondence between Russell Engineering, and the survey will be completed soon and presented to

the BOCC once it is completed. Attorney Sarmiento asks Clerk Ruybal for a recorded document for the Antonito housing authority; however, it is determined that the recorded document had to have been submitted and recorded with the Town of Antonito and not the County of Conejos Clerk and Records office. The BOCC discusses the opening in the Conejos County Library Board after the passing of one of its board members. Tress specifies that she will advertise the opening and will wait for letters of interest to be submitted and will at that time notify the BOCC of the interested parties to fill the open seat. Tress next notifies the BOCC that the Preliminary Budget will be presented soon, so that they can approve the 2025 budget. Tress and Connie share with the BOCC that the insurance cost will increase by at least 5% for 2025, no decisions were made at this time.

#### **7) DSS REPORT – NICK BARELA**

Nick presented and asked for approval for Administrative and Program cost of \$350,731.69, a motion was made by Comm. Garcia to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Baroz, the MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Nick next presented and asked for approval for Accounts Payable of \$13,869.97, a motion was made by Comm. Baroz to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Garcia, the MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Nick presented the monthly Case Load Report to the BOCC, next Nick notifies the BOCC that he will need to auction off three vehicles and a few other items, Nick will coordinate with Connie to upload those vehicles and items on the Public Surplus Auction Website.

#### **8) FIRE AT COURTHOUSE – NICK SARMIENTO**

Attorney Sarmiento will meet with the Judicial Adjuster to discuss the process of getting the work completed so the County can ask for bids from contractors to begin repair work at the Courthouse.

#### **9) OEM REPORT – RODNEY KING**

CEPA (Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment), Final Plan was approved by the State DHSEM sent to the BOCC. Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO) Community Catalyst Fund as part of the Community Navigator Program. Conejos County agreed to be the fiscal agent for this one-year grant, Conejos was awarded \$49,999.40 not the \$96,000 which was asked for, Rodney is completing the forms for the contract. Rodney traveled to Montrose on October 14<sup>th</sup> to attend the Salamander class on the 15<sup>th</sup> from 0830 to 1530 to complete a full day of training for the Midwest Card program, which includes our Salamander Credentialing, Rapid Tag, Inventory apps along with the new apps available. Conejos will host this class on March 4 of next year so the region can acquire the updates and knowledge, then decide if we need the Events app. The renewal of all apps will be in March 2025. Christopher L. Frost, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, Hydrology & Hydraulics Section, US Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District Army Corp of Engineers has awarded a contract to map the Conejos River Corridor, using a LiDAR system.

## **10) MST SERVICES – ANDREW JARVIES**

Andrew has a presentation ready for the BOCC regarding a new program that he is beginning here in the San Luis Valley, no decisions were made at this time.

## **11) SANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER – ARIEL RUVULO**

Ariel presents plans for the Town of Sanford to apply for grants to develop and build a Community Center in the Town of Sanford for any citizen in Conejos County. Mrs. Ruvolo is asking the BOCC for a letter of support that can be submitted when requesting grants from the EPA and other agencies. Comm. Jarvis, Garcia and Baroz all agree that the County will submit a letter of support for the Town of Sanford.

## **12) AMBULANCE REPORT – ERNEST ABEYTA**

Ernest presents to the BOCC that over 1025 calls for 2024 year to date, which is already over 50 more calls this year than 2023. Ernest states that he will receive a \$63,993.58 supplemental Medicare grant and that he also received a donation of \$11,000 from the Health Care Foundation.

## **13) PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – DENISE JIRON**

Denise presents that there are no changes in Public Health for this Month, regarding environmental health discussion, three staff members will attend a FEMA food safety training in November. Continuing to provide harm reduction items to the community; Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, condoms, Covid tests. Commodity service has seen an uprise in service with 409 individuals' total participation increased by 33 individuals, home deliveries to the homebound 2 days monthly; 38 people, 278 households (including TFAP) increased by 7 households and curbside delivery continues 2 (T/Th) days weekly.

## **14) BOARD OF HEALTH – DENISE JIRON**

Marburg Disease, CDC and WHO have reported an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in the Republic of Rwanda. MVD is a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF). Currently the risk of MVD in the US is low and no confirmed cases of MVD related to this outbreak have been reported in the US or other countries outside of the Republic of Rwanda. Marburg is a rare, severe viral hemorrhagic fever which affects both people and other primates, like apes and monkeys. Caused by infection, Marburg virus or Ravn virus, the disease can lead to serious illness or death Marburg virus disease is named for the German city where scientists became ill with the disease's first known cases in 1967, while handling monkeys imported from Africa. Symptoms can appear suddenly and may include fever, rash, and severe bleeding. Initial Marburg symptoms include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Rash with both flat and raised bumps, often on the torso
- Chest pain
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

As the disease advances, symptoms can become more severe, including liver failure, delirium, shock, bleeding (hemorrhaging), and multi-organ dysfunction.

As of October 2, 2024:

Districts affected in Rwanda - 7

Total Confirmed Cases - 36

Healthcare Worker Cases - 19

Deaths - 11

CDC has issued a travel alert related to the outbreak and has published guidance for health care personnel returning from Rwanda. Returning travelers with health care exposures in Rwanda will need to be monitored by public health for 21 days from their last exposure. Any community resident returning from Rwanda will also need to be monitored for 21 days. All Public Health agencies have designated a primary and secondary person who will conduct this monitoring. CCPH has designated Denise Jiron and Annarae Smith at this point.

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#### Pertussis Update

##### Rising Pertussis Cases in Colorado, 2024


Trends in Colorado. Cases of pertussis in Colorado decreased during 2020 and remained very low through 2022 with an average of 126 cases a year 2020-2022. However, an increase has been observed since fall of 2023. As of August 31, 431 cases of pertussis were reported to public health during 2024, compared to a five-year (2015-2019), pre-pandemic average of 676 cases a year. It is likely pertussis cases are returning to these pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, during the 2023-2024 school year, 21 outbreaks were reported in school and childcare settings. These occurred in childcare (1), K-8 (4), high schools (15), and universities (1). Setting-specific pertussis guidance is available on the CDPHE website for health care providers, school settings, and local public health agencies. Antibiotic treatment is recommended for all pertussis cases and their symptomatic close contacts (if they have been coughing for less than 21 days) to render them non-infectious. Infected people may still be contagious during the first 5 days of antibiotic treatment. For people experiencing a cough of less than 4 weeks duration, PCR is the preferred diagnostic test. For people whose cough has persisted longer than 4 weeks, is  $\geq 11$  years old, and has not had a pertussis-containing vaccine in the previous 6 months, serology (i.e., acute IgM) may be performed. Find more information on the Pertussis webpage. Pertussis is a reportable disease in Colorado and must be reported by healthcare providers, laboratories, people in charge of schools, and licensed daycare centers. Cases should be reported within 24 hours of positive laboratory test or clinical diagnosis (if no laboratory test is performed). Pertussis can be reported to CDPHE at 303-692-2700 or to local public health departments.


#### **15) WSB AUDIT REPORT – JESSICA BOGNER AND KIM TEMPLE**

WSB presents the BOCC with the 2023 Audit for Conejos County, the main finding is that Internal Controls need to be improved and monitored. WSB also found that Cash and Expenditures did not reconcile. The Accounting department will work on internal controls and adhering to a tighter process to reconcile all accounts for 2024. Tress specifies that Gary Gurule has left the County and that Jessica Holtcamp, Staci Tuner, Cheryl Ruybal and along with Connie Ricci and the Treasurer's office will work together better to improve on accounting internal controls. A motion was made by Comm. Garcia to accept the audit as presented. Second by Comm. Garcia, the MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 11:25 am

ATTEST:

  
Nathan Ruybal  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mitchell Jarvies  
Chair of BOCC