

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

MAY 23, 2000

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of May 23, 2000 was called to order by Chairman Alicia Aguilar at 10:25 AM.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Alicia Aguilar, Chairman	
Aurelio H. Padilla, Vice-Chairman	
S. T. Frank Pando, Member	
Eloy Giron, Member	
Helen Baca, Member	
James Fernandez, County Manager	
	Thomas Garde, County Attorney
Kandy Cordova, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sheriff Juan Julian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Clerk Kandy Cordova read the agenda as presented. Commissioner Eloy Giron made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Frank Pando seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW FOR THE 2000/2001 FISCAL YEAR

County Manager James Fernandez said, “Before you, you have the proposed preliminary budget for the years 2000/2001. One of the requirements from the Department of Finance and Administration is that we have 3/12 of our operating budget in place as a reserve. This budget will not be approved by the Department of Finance and Administration without 3/12 being in place. The only other department that has that similar restriction is the Road Fund and they have 1/12 of their budget in place. It is basically a very flat budget. At this time we are attempting to meet our 3/12 requirement. There are no increases in salaries for the departments. There are salary adjustments per the Commission’s request for the Department of Detentions as well as the Sheriff’s Office. The majority of the items of submittal that you receive from other agencies have been left flat. You have individual’s here from some of those agencies, such as Soil Conservation, the YDI, you also have the Extension Service and they would like to give you presentations.”

Carlos Montoya explained the budget. He thanked Pat Peralta and Wilma Abril for the extra work they did in preparing the budget as well as each department for their cooperation.

Discussion was held on the staffing of the new Adult Detention Facility with Jail Administrator Edwin Esquibel and the Commission.

Commissioner Eloy Giron suggested that the issue of staffing at the Detention Facility be brought up in Executive Session.

Commissioner Frank Pando said he noticed that there were salary adjustments for the Sheriff’s Dept. and the jail personnel. He said, “I have no quarrel with that at all, but I requested that the P & Z people be included in that request and I noticed that they are not here.”

Carlos Montoya said in one of the budget workshops, they were instructed to try and improve the salaries of the Detention and the Sheriff’s due to the idea that it is hard keeping these people after training them. They thought that if they would get in line with the surrounding counties they might be able to retain them as employees of Valencia County.

Commissioner Pando said, “I agree wholeheartedly with you. My concern at the time and still is, you know the people that are in P & Z, they have just as dirty a job as anybody else and there is only five of them. It’s not like we’re looking at a million dollars, we’re looking at the bare minimum. I think if we’re going to be fair in enforcement, I think it should be provided equally across the board.”

Discussion was held on the budget with the Commission.

Steven Chavez said he hasn’t had a chance to review the budget fully because he just received a copy. He applauded the Commission for creating a planning department in itself. He said he believes there are quite a few problems with the budget. He said if you look at the full-time salary for the County Planner, it has been cut 11%. He said, “I don’t know if you all are aware of that. It’s either a mistake or it creates a rather difficult situation for myself.” Chairman Aguilar suggested that this issue be taken into Executive Session.

Mike McCartney questioned the wages of the Rural Addressor. He said he does mobile home permits; he has additional tasks brought on by the GIS System. He also questioned the wages for the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Solid Waste Enforcement.

Carol Anaya suggested that these items be discussed in Executive Session.

Carlos Montoya said the Agriculture Agent is funded in the amount of \$58,000.00 per year plus the County furnishes their rent for office space. The County also provides funds to the Soil Conservation Service in the amount of \$12,000.00 per year.

Mr. Holguin, the County Extension Agent requested an increase of \$4,798.00. He said their total budget is approximately \$230,000.00. About 80% of that amount goes to administration and about 20% goes to operations. He then explained the process of how his department works.

Discussion was held on the budget for the Agricultural Agent with the Commission and Frank Holguin.

Marcel Reynolds from the Soil Conservation Service requested an increase of \$3,000.00 in their budget. They want to establish a new program regarding conservation education.

Kathy Chavez from Youth Development requested \$30,000.00 to help in putting the youth to work. She explained the services that they provide.

Elizabeth Sanchez said she was a high school dropout when she came to YDI. She said she gained a lot of work experience and is now a 3.9 grade average student at the University of New Mexico. She said without YDI she would not be where she is today. She thanked the Commission for the already funded money.

Discussion was held on the program.

Chairman Alicia Aguilar said the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments Regional Planning requested \$15,302.00 for the fiscal year 2000/2001. It is for a regional water plan that was mandated from federal to state without the resources.

Chairman Aguilar said there is a balance due from Bernalillo County on the Juvenile Detention Center. The County Manager said they have sent notification through the County Attorney to Bernalillo County indicating that they are disputing the dollar amount they are requesting because they were paid an administrative fee for handling these situations and some of them go back to 1995-96. It is the County's contention that they should not have to pay it. The dollar amount is \$108,000.00.

There was no decision made on this issue today.

Carlos Montoya said there are two old bills on corrections that are out there. These will have to be addressed also.

The County Manager said there is a request from Animal, Plant & Health Inspections Service Wildlife Services. They are asking for \$4,500.00. Chairman Aguilar said, "We can go ahead and say yes to \$4,500.00 because it is not costing us anything. We're providing it, but we're being reimbursed."

Mary Ann Gonzales stated her concern about the maintenance of the buildings.

Louis Pena said the Road Dept. is in need of equipment specifically a front-end loader. Carlos Montoya said he suggested to Mr. Pena that they wait and see if they can get it on a lease purchase agreement.

Sheriff Juan Julian asked what the \$100,000.00 earmarked for land purchase in the County Commission budget was for. The County Manager said there are two legislative grants that were received for the Los Chavez Fire Dept. This amount is reimbursable.

Sheriff Julian said he had a couple of concerns on the Sheriff's proposed budget. He said he heard discussion on the salaries for Planning and Zoning. The only salary increases in the Sheriff's Dept. was to the deputies. There was no increase to the clerical workers or the staff at Dispatch. The only salary increase was to the deputies that are out on the street. He said, "I want to make that very clear because my people thought it was an across the board raise for the Sheriff's Dept., but that's not so."

Chairman Alicia Aguilar said, "Let me clarify that when you're saying they are not getting any type of increase. That is a premature statement. What we're doing is, you came to us and you mentioned and this Commission has been trying to work to restructure the salaries at entry level for the officers because it was so low. They were coming in and once they were trained they were going to other counties. We were having a retention problem and because this is law enforcement and also the scope of work in detention, what this Commission has done is restructured the salary schedules." Sheriff Julian said, "At the entry level, that's all I was talking about." Chairman Aguilar said, "No, it's not only at the entry level. What it is is officers will now start at \$9.50. When they are certified they go to \$10.00. That's what's going to happen with the deputies. In detention they will start at \$8.50 and when they are certified they will go to \$9.00. When you're talking anything else, it hasn't been agreed upon."

The County Manager said, "Any individual's under the COP Grant, the additional amount that had been reported as the part the County is going to be contributing also has increased because of this."

Chairman Aguilar said, "I think it is important to state now that our officers, at the entry level, is there not one county that is less than ours? We're competitive." The County Manager said with the restructuring of the salary schedule, it is competitive.

Sheriff Julian said there were two items cut in his budget and they were not items that he was in agreement on. Carlos Montoya said when the instructions were given that everyone was to cut their budget by 3%; he never received anything from the Sheriff so he took it upon himself to cut the budget where he felt it was beneficial.

Chairman Aguilar said, "Last year I asked the question because we have one officer that we pay the salary for Drug Enforcement. There was about \$150,000.00 out there and I thought that Valencia County was entitled to. What are the reimbursements for all of these drug raids?" Sheriff Julian said, "All we get reimbursed for is the overtime."

Carlos Montoya said, “We don’t have anything to do with that. It is strictly handled by the Sheriff’s Dept. The only thing that we get reimbursed for is the overtime that he puts in and he gets a check for reimbursement. As far as the goods and the confiscation, that is strictly done by the Sheriff.”

Chairman Aguilar said, “That is still revenue that is supposed to come in. What do you use it for and how much has come in?” Sheriff Julian said, “I’ve never seen \$150,000.00 in revenue come in.” Chairman Aguilar said, “We’re paying for this officer and I thought we were supposed to get a percentage of whatever is confiscated.” Sheriff Julian said, “That is correct. It goes into the drug fund. It is used for drug buys and for the drug operation.” The County Manager said, “The only place this appears on the financials is a separate line item as a bank account. That is the only way it is reported. The only requirement is that we list it on the financials so that it can be tracked back to a specific checking account.”

Chairman Aguilar said, “It is my understanding that we’re participating with these other entities and as a result, there are funds that come in because we’re providing an officer.”

Sheriff Julian said the money is used to purchase illegal drugs to make a case. It cannot be used for salaries. It is all confidential. The State Auditor keeps track of that.

Chairman Alicia said, “I’d like to make a request from administration, seeing that we don’t have the answers and the Sheriff doesn’t know, can we ask the State what the percentages are for Valencia County as revenues and what they can be used for? I think this Commission will be informed specifically on, if there are funds coming in and where they have been spent and if they can be used for equipment or whatever. At least we’ll know.” Carlos Montoya said, “If you allow Anna to help me out on this.”

Sheriff Juan Julian said the Law Enforcement Protection Fund is the fund that the Sheriff’s and the Chief’s lobbied the legislature for. The amount per county depends on the county population plus \$600.00 per man per year. Valencia County gets \$30,000.00 per year, but their increase is on the number of certified officers. They used to get \$300.00 and it doubled to \$600.00.

The County Manager said, “In terms of the Assessor’s budget, Beverly Gonzales was not able to be here for the meeting because one of her staff members passed away and the services were this morning. We did review her budget with her and she said she was fine with the questions that were made to her.”

The County Manager said, “Mrs. Cordova had to leave for a doctor’s appointment, the only comment that she wanted to be made was that if she fell short in the election expenses for the General Election that she would be able to come to the Commission to make up those differences. Those are mandated.”

Danielle Jony from the Treasurer’s Office said they were satisfied with the budget as it is. Carlos Montoya said under Professional Services they have their Lock Box Service. Brinks are charging \$185.00 per month to pick up the deposits. When they went out for RFP it was stipulated that the deposit would be picked up between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM each day. They are arriving for pickup at 8:15 AM every morning, making it very difficult for the staff to have the deposits ready that early. They talked to the management and were told this was the last pickup. Dorothy, a member of the staff had to take the deposits anyway. The contract will expire June 30, 2000.

The County Manager said one of the items that they will look at is one of the financial institutions that the County deals with; this cost might be incorporated into their cost.

The Probate Judge’s budget is fine.

John Cherry said he had no questions on his budget.

Larry Mervine asked about the budget for the telephones. James Fernandez said it would be incorporated into the Manager’s Budget. Mr. Mervine also asked where the fee for the repair of the PC’s was going to come from. The County Manager said that was placed into each department’s budget.

Mike McCartney spoke about the need for cars in the Building Department, Animal Control and the Zoning Department. He also said the registration fee had been cut and they have four people to get certified in Planning and Zoning Training. The Animal Control Officers have to go to Colorado for training because they don’t have schooling in the State of New Mexico. The Building Inspectors are required to go through training with FEMA every year.

Discussion was held on the transfer of monies within the budgets.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Al Padilla made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Eloy Giron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Alicia Aguilar said during the Executive Session we did discuss personnel matters and other budget matters.

County Manager James Fernandez said the items discussed specifically were staffing patterns, the need for certain numbers of personnel. Nothing was decided specifically.

Chairman Aguilar said before approval of the preliminary budget there were some people that came before the Commission with requests. She suggested they go back through them one at a time.

**Animal & Plant Health Inspections**, USDA, a request from the wildlife service for \$4,500.00. Chairman Aguilar said this is a reimbursable item.

Commissioner Frank Pando made a motion to approve the amount of \$4,500.00 for Animal & Plant Health Inspections. Commissioner Al Padilla seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Council of Governments**, asking for \$15,302.00 for regional water plan.

Commissioner Frank Pando made a motion not to fund this item at this time. Commissioner Helen Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**YDI**, requesting \$30,000.00.

Commissioner Frank Pando made a motion to deny funding at this time for Youth Development Inc. Commissioner Al Padilla seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Valencia Soil & Water Conservation**, requesting a \$3,000.00 increase in their budget.

Commissioner Al Padilla made a motion to deny the increase in the budget. Commissioner Eloy Giron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Bernalillo County**, request for approximately \$108,000.00 for bills from 1995-96.

Commissioner Al Padilla made a motion to deny the request of \$108,000.00. Commissioner Eloy Giron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**County Extension Service**, request an increase of \$4,798.00 in their budget.

Commissioner Eloy Giron made a motion to approve the increase. Chairman Alicia Aguilar seconded the motion to bring it to discussion.

Commissioner Frank Pando asked if the second was to approve the motion or for discussion. Chairman Aguilar said, "I am saying it was discussed in Executive Session and like each one, I am going to go ahead and ask for a vote in a public meeting. I know it was discussed privately and I'm giving it the same benefit as the others. Commissioner Giron made the motion to approve and I didn't want it to die for lack of a second. I feel we need to bring it out and take a vote on it."

Commissioner Giron said, "At this time I feel this organization, not only helps out the youth, Mr. Holguin stressed at the time there are three different groups that he works with and I feel it is very important that this four thousand be funded. I feel it is very necessary at this time."

Chairman Aguilar called for the vote. Commissioner Pando voted no. Commissioner Giron voted yes. Commissioner Padilla voted no. Commissioner Baca voted no. Motion failed to fund the \$4,798.00 to the Extension Service.

#### **Preliminary Budget**

Chairman Alicia Aguilar said, "There were a couple of changes that administration will be correcting that were discussed." James Fernandez said there was a correction in Indigent in terms of the number of the pay periods and the only other was a movement from the Building Inspector to Zoning in the amount of \$500.00. Chairman Aguilar said, "As far as the salary cuts and all of the other changes, they stay the same, as per the budget, as per discussed."

Commissioner Frank Pando said, "The only thing that I asked and I hope it does come out, we discussed bringing up the salaries of the Planning and Zoning Officers to the same level as the jailer. I would like to see that happen if possible."

Commissioner Frank Pando made a motion to include Planning & Zoning in the salary increases for the enforcement officers to \$8.50. Commissioner Helen Baca seconded the motion if the money is there.

Chairman Aguilar said, "We've been at it since 10:00 AM and we've just turned down every request that has come to us because the money isn't there, not at the preliminary stages of this."

Commissioner Helen Baca said she thought any raises, no matter what department it was would have to be discussed later for the final budget.

Chairman Aguilar called for the vote. Commissioner Pando voted yes. Commissioner Giron voted no. Commissioner Padilla voted no. Commissioner Baca voted yes if the money is there. Discussion was held on the intent of the motion.

Commissioner Helen Baca withdrew her second to the motion. Commissioner Frank Pando withdrew his motion. He said, "You confuse the issue. We just sat here and voted for \$4,700.00 for the Soil Conservation deal. It was defeated, fine. Now, we're asking for two people to go to a fair wage that is not even going to come close to \$4,700.00. You're talking maybe \$500.00 for the whole year. I didn't want to create this controversy so let's just forget it."

Commissioner Al Padilla made a motion to approve the Preliminary Budget. Commissioner Helen Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(See Exhibit A)**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Al Padilla made a motion to adjourn the May 23, 2000, Special Budget Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Helen Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the May 23, 2000, Special Budget Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.</p>
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**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SS**  
**ALICIA AGUILAR, CHAIRMAN**

**SS**  
**AURELIO H. PADILLA, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**SS**  
**S. T. FRANK PANDO, MEMBER**

**SS**  
**ELOY GIRON, MEMBER**

**SS**  
**HELEN BACA, MEMBER**

**ATTEST: ss**

**KANDY CORDOVA, COUNTY CLERK**

**DATE: June 5, 2000**

**For an official copy of these minutes and attachments see Commission Book 37 Page 171**