

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

JULY 24, 2000

MINUTES

CHAIRWOMAN ALICIA AGUILAR Called THE MEETING TO ORDER ON JULY 24, 2000 at 4:00 PM.

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

Valencia County Assessor Beverly Gonzales-Dominguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Valencia County Clerk Kandy Cordova read the Agenda for the Special Budget Meeting as presented. Commissioner Pando made a motion to accept the Agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Giron. Motion carried.

Final Budget Approval for the 2000/2001 Fiscal Year.

County Manager James Fernandez begins the review by calling on County Clerk Kandy Cordova. He requested that elected officials voice any concerns, comments or anything they wish to make the Commission and Staff aware of.

Mrs. Cordova stated that she has reviewed her budget and gave her approval.

At this time District Judge William Sanchez advised the Commission that he cannot remain for the meeting but wishes to make them aware a new District Judge will be appointed for the 13th Judicial District Court next year and he is putting the County on notice that facilities for that Judge will have to be provided. He mentioned the present facilities for the judiciary are inadequate and they have been patient with the Commission thus far because of other critical priorities but the time has come to address adequate facilities. After inquiries by Chairman Aguilar, Commissioners Giron and Pando, Judge Sanchez stated that the Commission needs to consider a judicial complex to better serve the County and cautioned them that “a band-aid approach” is no longer feasible with the growth in the County. Chairman Aguilar assured him that Administration would meet with him and the other judges to address the issue. Judge Sanchez thanked the Commissioners and stated that he knew Judge Pope was on the agenda to speak for their needs.

Valencia County Clerk Kandy Cordova addressed the Commissioners. She stated that for the record she wanted to point out that for her department, in the Bureau of Elections, if some unforeseen emergency or requirement would require additional funding, and she understands that at that time she would need approval from the Commission, it might be necessary for her to make a request. She stated that her budget appears to be adequate but she wanted to make them aware of this possibility because of the coming election.

County Manager Fernandez stated that this is an understanding his office has for all the elected officials, if they are, for some reason unforeseen, mandated to provide additional services. He also stated that Mrs. Cordova might want to comment on the soft ware from the Secretary of State’s Office. Mrs. Cordova replied that she had submitted a proposal prepared by Larry Irvine and Mr. Fernandez for funds from the Secretary of State’s Office. She stated further that the sum of \$50,000.00 would be provided with the County providing some soft ware and hard ware. This money will be used for the voter registration upgrade, which will be seen in the data-processing budget. Mr. Fernandez stated that these costs and funding are incorporated in the existing budget.

County Assessor Beverly Dominguez-Gonzales stated that there were a couple of items in her budget she had inquired about but it appeared satisfactory.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Dorothy Lovato stated the approval of that office for their budget.

Sheriff Juan Julian addressed the Commissioners and expressed his thanks to the staff for their hard work, support and understanding. He stated that he does give his approval of the budget for his department. County Manager Fernandez stated that they had worked with the Sheriff and with restructuring of the law enforcement budget and the COPS Grant, and by doing that they were able to provide the deputies with a 9% increase, and again this is only for the deputies positions. Chairman Aguilar stated that this is a 9% salary increase and the 3% PERA increase, for a total of 12%. Commissioner Giron stated for clarification that the rest of the staff would be getting the 3% PERA increase only. County Manager Fernandez replied that this amount, 3% PERA, would apply to the rest of the staff as well as all county employees. Commissioner Pando stated he was very happy the Administration had worked out these increases for employees who are most deserving because of their particular responsibilities. County Manager Fernandez stated that his staff was just following the mandate of the Commission and expressed his gratitude for their direction. A brief discussion continued on the salary scale for deputies.

Mr. Michael McCartney, County Zoning Administrator, addressed the Commission regarding possible increase in salaries for some employees in his department. Chairman Aguilar reviewed the names of employees in that department. Commissioner Pando stated that he is aware of the requirements and at times adverse conditions under which these employees work and agrees with what Mr. McCartney has proposed. Discussion ensued among Commissioners and staff regarding tenure, responsibilities, comp time and pay scale for time and a half. County Manager James Fernandez cautioned the Commissioners that any additional pay increases would require an increase in benefit payments as well. County Clerk Kandy Cordova stated that it was her understanding that county officials, because of budget constraints had agreed to forego any salary increases but instead support the Administration's proposal on the increased payments on PERA. Mrs. Carol Anaya, Mr. Carlos Montoya and Mrs. Monica Mireles stated that that too was their understanding. Chairman Aguilar stated that the 3% increase in PERA would increase the amount of money taken home by employees because of the higher percentage of PERA being paid by the County on behalf of the employees. Commissioner Pando stated that this was like comparing oranges to apples and recommended the increases for the employees as enumerated by Mr. McCartney, adding that Mr. McCartney as well should be given a \$1.00 per hour increase. Chairman Aguilar expressed her sentiments that all employees warranted an increase, regardless of what job they hold and asked her fellow commissioners to respect the County Manager's proposal. County Clerk Kandy Cordova referred to her certified employees in the Bureau of Elections who receive very low wages as well. Discussion continued and Commissioner Giron withdrew a recommendation on salary increases because of his feeling that it would adversely affect morale. Discussion continued on how the budget had been prepared with input from the officials and on comp time and overtime. Commissioner Pando stated that he doesn't wish to create discord among employees but feels Mr. McCartney is underpaid. On further inquiry and discussion, Mrs. Anaya reads the ordinance on comp time. County Manager Fernandez states upon inquiry of Chairman Aguilar that Mr. McCartney's compensatory time is being compensated at time and a half already. Commissioner Padilla inquired as to the policy on pay for administrators. In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Giron on a hypothetical question that if he would be given \$1.00 per hour increase would he waive any request for compensatory time or overtime, Mr. McCartney agreed. Mr. Fernandez then inquired on the same hypothetical question if the job description would be modified. Chairman Aguilar states that that is correct. Mrs. Anaya inquires of Chairman Aguilar on how other county employees who work overtime will be compensated. Discussion then ensued regarding Mr. McCartney's increase in responsibilities for which he earlier received a .75-cent increase in salary. Commissioner Pando made a motion to give Mr. McCartney a salary increase of \$1.00 per hour, which was seconded by Commissioner Giron. Chairman Aguilar clarified that there will now be no compensatory time or any overtime and the job description will be amended to reflect that. Motion carries. Chairman Aguilar then inquires as to the original request made by Mr. McCartney for raises for Carlos Perea and Edward Gonzales. Commissioner Pando states that he doesn't know if there is money or resources. County Manager Fernandez cautions again that any revisions to the budget need to be looked at very carefully because of economic constraints.

Probate Judge Sally Perea stated her approval of the budget.

Larry Mervine, Data Processor, stated his approval of the budget. Chairman Aguilar stated that in this data processing budget there are computers for planning and zoning. County Manager Fernandez stated that what is talked about there is Capital Outlay funds in the amount of \$5,000 for computers. He stated that it was brought to their attention that there is a difficulty in the planning department when they try to run maps and the budget reflects that. Commissioner Pando inquires as to the \$85,000 for upgrades. Mr. Fernandez clarifies the expenditures

Chairman Aguilar requests a report from that Department at the end of August. She cites various questions, correspondence and inquiries on which the Commission would like an update.

County Manager Fernandez stated that the next department would be the Adult Detention Facility and points out that the budget only reflects a budget that would run until October 1st. He stated that the amount of \$455,000.00 is only for that 3 month period..

County Manager Fernandez stated that the School Bus budget reflects monies received from the State School Bus Act and Co-Op Program and the County's 25% match.

County Manager Fernandez reviewed the budget for CAP, \$177,442.00, Co-Op, \$80,840.00. Farm and Range, basically determined by grants or actual Federal dollars allotted and stated that nothing has changed on that since the preliminary. Chairman Aguilar states that Mr. Montoya needs to be aware that any expenditure in this department has to be approved by Mr. O. F. Baca and that another letter to that effect had been received this week. Mr. Fernandez continued his review. He stated that recreation was determined on grant monies, which is the primary source of funding, as well as the cigarette tax. Discussion ensued on the large cigarette lawsuit settlement and whether or not the County will benefit. County Manager Fernandez continues review.

County Manager Fernandez stated he is now ready for any questions on the Commission Budget. Commissioner Giron stated that at the last meeting Mr. Frank Holguin had come before the Commission asking for an increase of something like \$4,000.00, and he would receive a matching from New Mexico State University. County Manager Fernandez states that based on the last direction received from the Commission, it was their understanding that an effort was going to be made to go to the different entities, with the County contributing \$1,250.00. He stated further that Bosque Farms has committed but doesn't know about the other entities. Chairman Aguilar inquired of Commissioner Giron and he replied that he had gone to Bosque Farms who agreed to give a fourth, but when he met with the other entities and when he brought up the Senior Olympics it then begin to backfire so he backed off. Commissioner Giron stated that he feels at this time that there is more than enough in the Commission budget to undertake the funding. Chairman Aguilar referred to a letter to the editor she said gave the impression that the Commission doesn't give them any monies. She stated that the County already funds Extension Service at about \$58,000.00 per year. She stated that the County also pays the rent of \$950.00 a month. She stated that she didn't question the validity of the program but that other services including Youth Employment are getting zero. She stated that Valencia Soil and Water came and requested \$3,000.00. She stated that before any action is contemplated she would like to hear from Kathy Chavez. She stated that she had followed up with the entities of Belen and Los Lunas and had been advised no requests had been made of them. Mr. Holguin then addressed the Commission and stated basically that unless the County agrees to the increase they will be losing close to \$15,000.00 He stated he was ready to receive questions about the programs offered. Commissioner Pando stated telephone inquiries had been made to him regarding testing programs by Mr. Holguin's staff in Belen only and questioned the appropriateness. He referred to what he believes are duplications of programs. Mr. Holguin continued with his presentation to the Commission. After discussion, Commissioners Pando, Giron and Padilla, agree to approach the entities of Belen, Los Lunas and Bosque Farms to request participation in the funding and with the expectation they will all cooperate, a motion is then made by Commissioner Giron to fund the County's portion. Chairman Aguilar seconds the motion. Motion carries.

County Manager Fernandez advised the Commissioners that under land purchases, there was a Legislative grant for \$100, 000.00 received for the fire department in Los Chavez and the other which is for the Courthouse, west Courthouse property, which the Commission has already approved.

Kathy Chavez, Director of the Youth Development Inc., addressed the Commission and advised them she had sent letters and made telephone contact with other entities in an effort to obtain collaboration from them in funding her program. She received a reply from Bosque Farms but was unsuccessful in obtaining any contribution to the funding from any of the governmental entities. She said that Belen Mayor Ronnie Torres had been receptive to the idea but never did give her an exact amount. Monica Mireles, on inquiry of Chairman Aguilar related her contact with officials. Commissioner Pando inquired of Mrs. Chavez as to her contacts. County Manager Fernandez clarified the position of the Village of Los Lunas in granting \$53,000.00 for youth employment but did not indicate if any of this amount was directed to YDI. Discussion continues on availability of grants. Chairman Aguilar inquires of Mr. Carlos Montoya regarding a previous request for a report on the youngsters being serviced. Mr. Montoya said that had reports been made they would have been made available to the Commission. Mrs. Chavez indicated that a report for each youngster had been sent to the County Manager's Office. Commissioner Giron makes a motion to approve \$10,000.00 for the program which is seconded by Commissioner Baca. Motion carries.

Chairman Aguilar states that as a last request she would like to see County Soil and Water get at least \$1, 000.00. She stated that they had made a \$3,300.00 request and she stressed the importance of that entity in getting out information on water. Chairman Aguilar then

moved for the allocation of \$1, 000.00 which was seconded by Commissioner Baca. Motion carried.

County Manager Fernandez concluded his presentation by stating that he wanted to make them aware that in the County Manager's budget there were minor changes. He stated that two positions have been added, one of which is an additional plant operator and well as an El Cerro Community center coordinator. Discussion ensued on salaries for the position. County Manager Fernandez then pointed out a change in the Road Department budget regarding speed humps. There was an inquiry from Chairman Aguilar on the \$8,000.00 budget for speed humps and referred to the Ordinance which requires other measures to be Exhausted first. There was additional discussion on the cost of speed humps.

County Manager Fernandez presents the Resolution 42-2000 approving the budget. Chairman Aguilar inquires of Administration the necessity of DFA approval for the land purchase before closing on the transaction. County Manager states that he doesn't believe they do but will seek clarification. Motion to approve the budget with changes made was made by Commissioner Giron. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carries. Mr. Carlos Montoya, County Business Manager, expressed his appreciation to Wilma Abril and Patricia Peralta for their excellent work on the preparation of budget documents. He stated that they had given many, many hours of overtime for which they were not compensated. Commissioners joined in expressing their appreciation to them and all of the employees of the County. (Resolution 42-2000 marked as Exhibit A)

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commission will be held on July 24, 2000, a 6:00 PM in the County Commission Room at the Valencia County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Giron made a motion to adjourn the July 24, 2000, Special Budget Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NOTE: All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the July 24th, 2000, Special Budget Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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: August 7, 2000

For an official copy of these minutes or attachments see Commission Book 37 Page 582.