

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

May 25, 2001

Chairman Alicia Aguilar called the Meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Alicia Aguilar, Chairman	
	Aurelio H. Padilla, Vice-Chairman
	S. T. Frank Pando, Member
Gary Daves, Member	
Helen Baca, Member	
James Fernandez, County Manager	
Thomas Garde, County Attorney	
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sheriff Juan Julian.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Baca made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Daves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action Item:

A) Preliminary Budget Hearing and Consideration for Fiscal Year 2001/2002

Carlos Montoya, Valencia County Fiscal Officer, told the Commission the Preliminary Budget is due in Santa Fe on the 1st of June 2001. The Department of Finance and Administration requires the County to have a cash reserve at the end of the next fiscal year equal to 3/12 of the counties expenditures. This year revenue is projected to be 8.3 million dollars. Mr. Montoya is projecting next years revenue to increase 5% to 8.9 million dollars. The problem the Fiscal Office is with the budget, is in 1997-1998, expenditures were 6.9 million dollars and 1998-1999 expenditures went up to 7.9 million dollars. Any of the increase was the cost of running the jail. In 1999-2000 expenditures were 7.9 million. This fiscal year the Fiscal Office is projecting revenues of 9.4 million dollars. Currently the county has spent 8.6 million dollars on expenditures as of May 23, 2001. The Fiscal Office is projecting next years expenditures to be 9 million dollars. If the County projects a beginning balance of the projected 1.6 million dollars, the Fiscal Office is predicting revenues of 8.9 million dollars and transfers must be done out of the general fund. One of the biggest departments the general fund funds is the Road Department. The Fiscal Office is anticipating a cash input of about \$386,000.00 to the Road Department.

The general fund also helps out the Sheriff's Department in addition to budgeting for the Sheriff's Department. The general fund contributes \$138,000.00 for the Cops Program, which is a federal program that the federal government pays 75% of officers; the County submits 25% of that. This is a 3-year program, and there are about 15 people in the Cops Program. In the next couple of years, these officers are going to have to be paid from the general fund at 100%. According to Mr. Montoya, the federal government is going to discontinue the Cops Program.

The general fund also transferred to the Senior Citizens Program. Out of the general fund, the county submits \$100,000.00 to help the Senior Citizens in Valencia County. On this negative transfer the expenditures are \$9,000,000.00. The Fiscal Office is anticipating next year, June 2002, that the cash balance will be \$1,353,774.00. In order to meet the 2/12 that is required by DFA, the County needs to get a cash balance of \$1,501,000.00. Mr. Montoya told the Commission the County is about \$150,000.00 short on cash reserves that are required by DFA.

Mr. Montoya told the Commission the expenditures budgeted in 1997-1998 was \$6,964,000.00 and \$6,927,000.00 was spent. In 1998-1999 \$7,964,000.00 was budgeted and \$8,107,000.00 was spent. In 1999-2000 \$7,900,000.00 was budgeted and \$8,300,000.00 was spent. In the current year, \$9,400,000.00 was budgeted and up to date the County has spent \$8,400,000.00.

Commission Chair Aguilar mentioned before the County gets to operate, there are mandates from the State that the County has to satisfy, such as housing District Court, housing and maintenance of the District Attorney, responsible for one Health Department as the County has two Health Departments, Probation and Parole, and all of the services such as the Treasurer, Clerk, Assessor, and Animal Control.

Clerk's Office

Recording & Filing

Tina Gallegos, Valencia County Clerk, has two budgets, Recording & Filing and Bureau of Elections. Ms. Gallegos told the Commission that with the Recording & Filing Department, the budget is close to what she submitted to Mr. Montoya except for a couple of changes. With Printing & Publishing, Ms. Gallegos originally put in \$500.00 but currently Ms. Gallegos would like to increase that because Triadic has a marriage license program that will now audit the Clerk's marriage licenses through the computer. Currently, the Clerk's Office is hand typing and handwriting all the information. There is now a system that Triadic has done that didn't cost the county anything but allows the Clerk's Office to do it through the computer automatically. In order to follow through with that, Ms. Gallegos needs to order some new marriage license forms. Those forms, with a bid from Ink Impressions, including envelopes and the new hardcover book is going to cost the Clerk \$900.00. With their \$500.00 Ms. Gallegos was given, she will not have enough to cover that one bill. Ms. Gallegos will look at getting cheaper prices but still believes the \$500.00 is going to be a little bit low, so Ms. Gallegos asked for \$1,000.00.

With the Record Books, Ms. Gallegos told the Commission she has gone through one County Commission book in two months. Usually the Clerk's Office will go through two books in a year. One County Commission book will cost Ms. Gallegos \$195.00. Ms. Gallegos would like an increase from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for books.

Ms. Gallegos said the telephone line item was zeroed out because the County Clerk's Office has a Clerk's equipment fund and that comes from recording fees. Out of that the Clerk's Office can buy equipment. If the telephone bill is taken out of that it will bring down the cash balance. Ms. Gallegos believes her cash balance is \$53,000.00. Last year \$4,500.00 was taken out of Recording & Filing and \$1,500.00 taken out of Bureau of Elections. If this is taken out of the Clerk's Equipment fund, Ms. Gallegos will go along with it, but hopes the Commission will use the general fund for this.

Another request Ms. Gallegos asked of the Commission, is that in Recording & Filing, the Clerk's Office is down to minimum staff right now. There is a vacant position in Recording & Filing, which has not been filled yet as there is a hold on those positions. Ms. Gallegos needs this position filled. This position would be a Deputy Clerk, and the entry level would be \$7.00 an hour. There was a transfer from Recording & Filing to Bureau of Elections. BOE has had a vacancy for three months.

Bureau of Elections

Ms. Gallegos told the Commission with overtime salaries in Bureau of Elections, the only time the Clerk's Office pays overtime is for the last 3 days prior to a big election. The Clerk's Office gets comp time for any other overtime during the forty days of an election cycle. From the General Election in 2000, there are 6 members in the Clerk's Office that have over 100 hours of comp time still. Ms. Gallegos asked for the \$2,099.00 that Ms. Gallegos originally requested for overtime salaries be put back into her budget.

One other thing was taken out was the Clerk's computer software. Ms. Gallegos originally proposed \$13,000.00, which was brought down to \$10,400.00. Ms. Gallegos originally agreed to this deduction, however, something has come up that Ms. Gallegos thinks will benefit the office during this redistricting cycle. There is a software called Maptitude for \$2,900.00, which is going to map out what the Clerk decides in the redistricting process and will give some printouts, street indexes, etc. GIS has the streets in the computer already, but does not have the precinct layer in the computer. Ms. Gallegos asked that the \$3,000.00 that was taken out of her budget be put back, which will go up to \$13,400.00.

Ms. Gallegos asked that mileage & per diem and office supplies be taken out of the Clerk's existing budgets and be put under the Commission Control or Manager's Control. Ms. Gallegos said each department, especially with mileage and per diem has different time frames when they go on their trips. For instance, Voting Machine Technician and Election School prior to the Primary, a lot of that runs later into the year. Ms. Gallegos's concern is that by that time, that line item is dwindled down to not much. With office supplies, Ms. Gallegos has no problem with that, but there are some items that are unique to the Clerk's Office which would be liquor licenses, plotting paper, and envelopes for voter cards.

Road Department

Louie Pena, Road Department Superintendent, told the Commission the Road Department is short on Road money, as money was transferred. Helen Cole, Project Coordinator, told the Commission that every year, funds the Road Department receives from the state gets smaller and smaller. In the past, the Road Department used to get 100% of state funds as far as financial aid type of waiver. The Road Department no longer gets that, so that started to hurt the Road Department with their budget. The Road Department went from \$500,000.00 to \$300,000.00 receiving the money from the state. The Road Department has projected for the school bus program \$131,819.00, the Cap \$177,442.00, and the CO-OP \$80,885.00.

The money the Road Department is short on was expenditures that were not planned or budgeted for road projects. One of the projects that was not planned out of the budget was the paving of a parking lot which cost the Road Department \$13,000.00. The Road Department had to put in 5 drainage ponds on some roads such as Tavalopa, Goodman, Silva, Miller, and Rallier, which came out to \$4,800.00. What hurt the Road Department is building roads in Highland Meadows, which was \$30,000.00. The Road Department did not budget for striping Mesa Road, which was \$3,000.00. The Road Department did not budget for speed humps, which was \$5,700.00. A guardrail was put on Miller twice, Edeal twice, and Gabaldon Road. Another thing the Road Department did not plan

for was construction that required purchasing culverts, which were \$8,000.00, each, for \$16,000.00. The overspending on the Manzano Expressway was \$142,000.00, which comes out to \$223,000.00, out of the Road Department budget.

Due to the rising costs of paving, oil, and asphalt, that hurt the Road Department as far as roads costing more money. Commission Chair Aguilar asked Mr. Pena, as far as over expenditures and exceeding the budget, if work was continued without coming to the Commission? Mr. Pena said that a memo was sent a few weeks ago to Carlos Montoya, County Fiscal Officer and James Fernandez, County Manager; to tell them the Road Department was short. Commission Chair Aguilar stated that by Law, any expenditure above the budgeted items must be approved by the Commission, and now there is a \$300,000.00 shortfall the County has to deal with.

Ms. Cole said that with signs, the Road Department used to budget \$9,000.00 and it's down to \$5,000.00. Ms. Cole said that "with graffiti and just everything with the County, I guess we're just going to have to let the residents know that that sign will have to stay up. There's no way like to get around that, that's a \$4,000.00 cut. As far as that, a lot of the residents would call in and they would just like for us to replace the signs with graffiti, I think we're just going to have to make do."

Commission Chair Aguilar asked, "The paving of the roads for the money from 2001-2002, have we received that money?" Ms. Cole answered, no. Commission Chair Aguilar asked, "Dairy Road and some of these others, though that's for this year, you're saying we're getting the money for this year, the next fiscal year?" Ms. Cole answered, "The way our budget works, it's different from the State, we will receive the money from the State."

Mr. Montoya stated that what management plans to do because of shortfalls on the roads, which is \$323,000.00, and if the budget gets approved, is to transfer from the general fund to the Road Department. As soon as the money is transferred into the road department, it is Mr. Montoya's recommendation to complete the roads that have not been completed for the fiscal year 2000-2001 before the county gets into the situation of receiving the money for next year's roads. Commission Chair Aguilar stated, "That's what I'm getting at, like Vista de Las Cruces, Camillo, Murphy, we've received that money, but we haven't done that work, and we've already sent a list saying these are our roads for 2001-2002. What I'm concerned about is not using that money for these roads, because they've already given us the money." Mr. Montoya said, "What I would suggest Commissioners, is that we revisit next years project that we sent it to the Highway Department and explain to the Highway Department what we're doing before we receive any other funds. I think it's imperative that we do that. And we tell them, the general fund is going to put the money in there and we pave the roads that we've received the money for, get that completed hopefully in July or August. Then go to the Highway Department and submit or resubmit a re-do of the roads that you've already submitted."

Commission Chair Aguilar said, "If we get the money, you get the money. The money came in, but we don't have the money to pay for these roads, the Vista de Las Cruces. Well if the money came in, why don't we have the money to pave the roads?" Mr. Montoya answered, "Because we used that money, like Helen said on those old roads, especially on the Manzano Expressway. That was \$158,000.00 on the over budget." Mr. Montoya said "The Highway funds us per calendar year and we're budgeted through a fiscal year, so we have until December to pave the roads." Commission Chair Aguilar replied, "What I'm looking at is the statutory liability on a Commissioner that if we receive the money and we didn't use it for that intended purpose and we used it for something else, that's the question that needs to be answered." Mr. Montoya said, "Right, but we have until December to complete the project." Commission Chair Aguilar told Mr. Montoya, "But you're taking the money from the general fund because the road money was used for something else." Mr. Montoya said that's completely legal, "As long as we finish the roads that we submitted and got our revenues for by December." Commission Chair Aguilar stated, "Those are transfers that need Commission approval." Mr. Montoya said, "When the final budget gets approved, the transfers in here, that will be the approval that we need." Commission Chair Aguilar said, "you have a budget, you've budgeted so much, you got money from the state that says this is the money were going to use for. Somebody used that money for something else, and you're telling me, well yes, you could've used it, it was for good purposes, striping, culverts, and all of that. But before it was expended, it needed to come to us for permission to transfer the money over because it's not for the intended purpose. You can't take from that kitty to pay for this other kitty and say we'll fix it at the end." Commission Chair Aguilar asked, isn't it true that statute says, whenever you have budget transfers they must be approved by DFA before they are done? Mr. Montoya said, "Transferring from the general fund to the road, yes, inter-budget from the road, I mean." Commission Chair Aguilar said, "But you transferred." Mr. Montoya said, "It was approved last year Commissioner. When they approved last years budget, the transfer was in there, we transferred last year. I'm talking about this upcoming year when we transfer, that's what you're going to decide on. The last transfer that we transferred was approved last year when we approved the final budget, it was in the transfer." Commission Chair Aguilar said, "So you're telling me we approved last year that we were going to have a shortage of \$323,000.00." Mr. Montoya said no. Commissioner Daves asked, "you're suggesting the general fund will pay for the roads that would've been funded from the other lines of overrun money, is that correct?" Mr. Montoya said "We have put in the preliminary budget, a transfer to the road department to pick up the roads that still need to be paved." Mr. Montoya said the Road Department has been behind for the last 2 or 3 years, this is a way the County can catch up.

Commissioner Daves said that Mr. Pena suggested to him that if he had a belly dump he could haul a lot of good material to put on roads that will make them a lot better before they were paved.

Commissioner Daves would like to see that done on a lease/purchase. Commissioner Daves thinks this will be an efficient way of hauling quantities of the right kind of stuff rather than whatever is there, but putting something better on the roads of gravel or something that would help the County. Commissioner Daves asked if this could be worked in the budget or what kind of impacts it would have on the budget. Mr. Montoya said it's not budgeted right now, but it will be looked at.

Ms. Cole said that a lot of spending was requested by Commissioners on stuff they wanted in their areas where it was not budgeted. Ms. Cole suggested in the future budgeting for those expensive culverts. Ms. Cole also suggested not paving so many roads and to do a lot of buildup. Commission Chair Aguilar asked Ms. Cole to put that in writing and submit it to the Commission.

Gloria Richard from the audience, had some comments about how the money for roads was being spent and suggested that if an emergency comes up like roads getting washed out, to come before the Commission.

Ms. Cole said that a lot of these expenditures were due to disasters as far as the \$30,000.00 in Highland Meadows. When Valencia County was hit with that tornado, a lot of the money was spent trying to clean up the County. Ms. Cole said when the Road Department goes over the budget it's for safety reasons.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Juan Julian told the Commission of his concern for the law enforcement budget. This year the budget was cut to \$1,517,000.00, which is about an \$80,000.00 cut from last year. Mr. Julian said this year the Sheriff's Department will be short about \$60,000.00 by the time this fiscal year ends. The reason is because when a budget is submitted, there's no way to project gasoline going up 30-40 cents a gallon, and that transportation of prisoners was over \$16,000.00 from what was projected last year. Also, there was a 9% salary increase for the deputies out of the Sheriff's budget that was done without additional money. The Sheriff's Department is budgeted for 80 hours and officers work 80-86 hours. Overtime does not start until after 86 hours and a pay period has been completed. Mr. Julian has been addressing this 80-86 hours since he's been the Sheriff and still has not been able to get a budget that works with the 86-hour range instead of the 80. This is the third year that the clerical staff has not had a raise. Last year the salary raise was only given to the officers. Mr. Montoya said with the Cops Program, law enforcement has about a \$2,000,000.00 budget. Mr. Montoya stated the County built the Sheriff a brand new property and evidence room connected to the new jail, that was a cost of \$200,000.00. Mr. Montoya also added that last year the County opened up an El Cerro Mission substation. The County Commission paid \$19,000.00. The County Commission pays the expenses for that substation.

Mr. Julian said last year he had a vacancy where he promoted an individual from a deputy to sergeant without an additional salary increase. Mr. Julian put that in the budget this year and that was denied. This would be Sergeant Rod Johnson. Mr. Montoya said a starting officer that is certified makes \$10.90. Last year the Commission gave them an increase of 9%. Mr. Julian said this increase of 9% was done last year within the Sheriff's budget with no additional funding.

Rodney Jones, Detective for the Valencia County Sheriff's Department, was involved in a tragedy where he got shot. Mr. Jones was off for a little over a year and has been back about a year now. Mr. Jones told the Commission he's here on behalf of his brothers and sister, and the County Deputies that work for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Jones said statistics show that New Mexico is one of the most violent states in the Nation, and Valencia County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State. Mr. Jones has first hand knowledge of the violence here. Mr. Jones said it has been two years since he was shot at least five times. Mr. Jones mentioned a deputy John Gordon, who took over 20 rounds two years ago also. Floyd Montoya had to shoot somebody years ago. Mr. Jones said it's not just El Cerro Mission or Meadow Lake that is violent, its everywhere. Mr. Jones said he was shot several years ago in Bosque. Mr. Jones told the Commission that Valencia County has lost over 20 deputies since 1999. Mr. Jones distributed yellow clasp envelopes with pictures inside to the Commissioners and County Manager. (Request of pictures back see page 5). Mr. Julian stated he lost 3 officers this fiscal year.

Rod Johnson, Sergeant of the Valencia County Sheriff's Department, stated that since 1990 the population grew 46%. He stated calls are increasing to 1,200 reports and 6,000 calls for assistance every month. Mr. Johnson said this makes it a very dangerous place to work, and Mr. Johnson said the Sheriff's Department increased in the civil process, restraining orders, transports, and sex offender registrations, which are also straining manpower and resources. He also stated that a twelve-year veteran in Valencia County makes less than a cadet. According to him, 50% of the Sheriff's Department have second jobs. Mr. Johnson said he is proud to be a member of the Valencia County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Johnson said the 911 Emergency Personnel have been neglected far too long. They run 911, fire rescue, ambulance, sheriff, and monitor six other channels for 8-16 hours a day. Mr. Johnson asked the Commission to give the 911 Personnel extra pay incentive benefits even if its extra days off. Mr. Johnson asked the Commission to consider this when considering the budget. Commissioner Daves stated that at the meeting where the budget is adopted he would make a motion that the employees at the Sheriff's Department get a dollar an hour raise. Commissioner Daves rode with a Sheriff's Deputy one evening and was impressed with the professionalism and responsibilities they have. Commissioner Daves also spent one evening with the dispatchers and was impressed with their responsibilities and skill.

Treasurer's Department

Danielle Jony, Bookkeeper for the Treasurer's Department told the Commission their budget is \$35,000.00 less than what was operated on last year. The Treasurer's Department is one employee short but did put in to hire somebody for that. At the spring time next year the Treasurer's Department will have to request intra budget transfers because during the busy tax time, there are usually 2 part-time employees who go full time because it is such a busy time. There is usually also a temporary employee, which the Treasurer's Department does not have in the budget this year, so there is expected to be some transfers.

Assessor's Office

General Fund

Beverly Gonzales, Valencia County Assessor, told the Commission, regarding the General Fund from what the Fiscal Office prepared for Ms. Gonzales to what Ms. Gonzales submitted to the Commission, 6 full time employees have been transferred to the reappraisal fund. At last years budget some employees were transferred from the reappraisal fund to the general fund because it came down from DFA that the Assessor cannot have full time employees coming out of the 1% fund. They can be hired to do reappraisal but cannot put existing employees into that fund. The state is requiring that each County in New Mexico get 85% of a value and Valencia County fell short of that so therefore the County has to have another reappraisal. Ms. Gonzales stated she requested a vacancy for an appraiser trainee be filled and it was denied, and the vacancy is not on the budget. In order to complete the reappraisal the way it should be, Ms. Gonzales needs that vacancy filled. Ms. Gonzales stated she is willing to transfer 2 employees to that fund which will be a total of 3 employees, which are the GIS Coordinator, the GIS Operator, and an Appraiser 2.

Ms. Gonzales stated that mileage and per diem was taken away, office supplies, capital outlay, membership dues, and appraisal increment. On microfilm, it's budgeted for \$1,000.00. The Assessor's Office was trying to do their own CD's now with their new software they have received from Triadic, but Larry Mervine has not been able to give Ms. Gonzales the right format to create them. The Assessor's Office is going to have to go out and pay for that. Ms. Gonzales requested \$2,000.00 instead of \$1,000.00 until Mr. Mervine or Triadic can give the Assessor's Office the right information. Ms. Gonzales doesn't think her reappraisal fund should be used to run her whole office. Ms. Gonzales said after going over her reappraisal plan with the state, depending on where the Assessor's Office is at with the reappraisal process, she may have to lease cars and bring in temporary employees just to finish it.

Valuation Fund

Ms. Gonzales thinks it should be up to the County to provide her office with telephones.

As far as office supplies, Ms. Gonzales originally asked for \$10,000.00 and would like to take that down to \$5,000.00 for the fact that Ms. Gonzales does not think it's fair that the Assessor did not get office supplies in their general fund, therefore everyone else is going to get their office supplies out of that. Ms. Gonzales does not think it's fair the Assessor's Office has to pay for their own.

Ms. Gonzales requested to take the telephone down to \$8,000.00.

In Capital Outlay for computers, Ms. Gonzales stated she did not ask for \$10,000.00 for computers. Ms. Gonzales would like that item to go to \$15,000.00, \$3,600.00 for desks for appraisers as their desks were purchased second hand a long time ago. For computers, Ms. Gonzales asked for \$7,500.00. Instead of going through the Commission, Ms. Gonzales was willing to pay for that out of her appraisal fund. Ms. Gonzales also asked for a vehicle, which is not on the budget. Ms. Gonzales stated the Assessor's Office needs a copier in the Appraisal portion of the Department.

Computer software is shown on the budget at \$4,000.00, in a packet Ms. Gonzales handed to the Commission, one of the Assessor's licenses is close to \$3,200.00. Ms. Gonzales would like that to go up to \$5,000.00.

Ms. Gonzales moved three employees, which comes out to a salary of \$73,104.80. Right now the County would like Ms. Gonzales to have 6 or 7 employees salaries come out of that fund for a total of \$170,768.00, which is about \$120,000.00 more than last year.

Ms. Gonzales stated that insurance rates went up 15% and asked if County employees will be getting raises. Commission Chair Aguilar said that is brought up at the Final Budget Hearing. Commissioner Daves said there is a meeting on June 5, 2001 where the Commission will approve the preliminary budget and thinks there will be opportunity to amend whatever is in front of the Commission.

Detective Jones Asks for Pictures Back

Rodney Jones asked the Commission for the pictures back that he gave to the Commission. Commission Chair Aguilar said "They become part of the record, because this is a public meeting and you submitted them to us. And your testimony was part of it." Commission Chair Aguilar told Mr. Jones he can go ask the Sheriff, but she will keep them for the record.

Probate Judge

Sally Perea, Probate Judge, told the Commission that there are conferences coming up this next budget year and would like to be assured she can attend them. There is one NACO conference in Philadelphia, one in January and the summer conference for next year. Commission Chair Aguilar said by law if you're not going to run for office, after filing date March of next year, there can be no travel. James Fernandez, Valencia County Manager said in your final year of an elected term, Ms. Perea is unable to travel.

Extension Service Budget

Out of the Commission budget is where the County helps fund Cooperative Extension Agents. In the past, the County has budgeted up to \$58,000.00 for their operating budget. In addition to that, the County has paid their rent for an additional \$950.00 a month. In the past, total contributions given to the extension office has been about \$68,000.00. This year with the budget shortfall, the County still wants to continue to help the Cooperative Office. In order to make the budget work, the County has budgeted \$25,000.00 to give to the extension office.

Frank Holguin said their total request for this year was \$64,426.00, which is an increase of approximately \$1,600 over last years budget. Commission Chair Aguilar said the budget stayed at \$58,000.00. Mr. Olguin said it was his understanding that they were at \$62,7998.00 so they have a deficit from last year already of almost \$5,000.00. Mr. Holguin stated in October the Commission agreed to fund the entire budget. Mr. Montoya said the County said they would fund \$62,000.00 if the Extension Service got the help of other municipalities, in the event that they wouldn't, the County would go back to the principal budget of \$58,000.00.

Gerald Chacon, District Director, said there is a very serious dilemma with the extension budget. Mr. Chacon said that when the Cooperative Extension Service budget is reduced \$1.00, the extension service loses \$2.00 from the match from the State and the Federal side. The way the Cooperative Extension Service works, is they bill the County for the first 3rd of funding to maintain the cooperative extension service budget. The budget request is \$64,426.00, which maintains the salaries, benefits, and operations for travel for extension agents to provide a service to the County. Mr. Chacon said if you give the Extension Service a budget of \$25,000.00, the County will be matched \$1.00 per 2 more for the state and federal source, so essentially the total budget would be \$75,000.00 rather than \$193,000.00 which is what the extension service requires to maintain the budget for the existing program. What that will cause essentially is for the extension service to close the office, as they will only be able to maintain one agent in the office, and possibly one support person. Mr. Chacon told the Commission they have also denied funding for rent for office space. So if the extension service has no office space, they essentially have no office. Besides the base budget of \$193,000.00 the extension service requires to maintain the total of 3 agents in the office and support staff, the County receives an additional set of grants for other programs that the County will not have to match and will lose those also. There's \$51,244.00 the extension service gets for expanded food nutrition education programs for low-income audiences and nutrition education. There is a \$15,000.00 grant for Youth at Risk Program and the Share Care Program and there is \$2,750.00 that is used for diabetes education for low income and other audiences in the County. Mr. Chacon told the Commission there are tremendous numbers of volunteers that the Extension Service uses. Mr. Chacon asked the Commission for consideration of something close to the full request. In 1997 the Extension Service asked for \$58,415.00 and today they asked for \$64,426.00. Mr. Chacon requested the base budget for salaries and operations of extension agents in the office. Mr. Chacon said it is a historical tradition in County government that County government provides the office space for the extension service programs, it's been done like that since 1915. According to Mr. Chacon, every County in the state does this. Mr. Chacon said the extension service would make attempts to find alternative housing that is not so costly to the County budget. Mr. Chacon told the Commission every County in the state funds 1/3 of the salary, the benefits, the operations for the base program and the extension office, and the housing is on top of that.

Dale Jones said this Commission has been outstanding in an attempt to maintain agricultural activity in this County. Mr. Jones said without Frank Holguin, agriculture would really suffer in this County.

Lisa Encinias, 4H Mom, told the Commission she has been involved with her children for about 10 years and before that in 4H in Torrance and Lincoln Counties. Ms. Encinias said her daughter learned a lot through 4H and has helped organize leaders and children. Ms. Encinias said 4H is not just about animals it's about leadership, citizenship, and makes them better kids. Ms. Encinias said 4H kids are very respectful. With kids in trouble, 4H can help keep them out of trouble.

There are currently 3 extension agents. Frank Holguin is the Agricultural Agent and does community development urban horticulture, and is Administrator. Carolyn Sanchez Wilson is the Extension Home Economist and does the Adult Program, Expanded Food Nutrition and the 4H Youth Program. The 4H Agent is Julie Hutchins. Commission Chair Aguilar asked Mr. Chacon where the Extension Service could cut. Mr. Chacon said there is 85% or 87% of their budget in salary and benefits. According to Mr. Chacon, there is very little room to cut as the other money in the office is for the extension agents to travel in the County and to travel to events such as the State 4H conferences. There's about \$6,800.00-\$6,900.00 per agent that buys paper, supplies, mileage, and per diem. Mr. Chacon said the Extension Service does not have room to cut. Mr. Chacon said the increase this year for salary is in the request for the \$64,000.00. Commissioner Daves feels the Extension Service is an obligation of County Government and the program needs to go forward. Commission Chair Aguilar stated if she could fund everyone, she would.

YDI

Kathy Chavez, Deputy Director of Youth Development Incorporated, thanked the Commission for prior years the County has helped YDI in funding and placing young people in work places. Last year YDI was funded \$10,000.00 from the County, which helped 20 students in different work areas. These students work 100 hours, which YDI pays for the first 100 hours at a work area and hopefully they are picked up from those placements by the different businesses as permanent employees. Due to their really good job they have done, the job site supervisors requested they get extended hours, so YDI extended some hours for approximately 8 students from Century High. YDI works with Century High, Belen High School, and Los Lunas High School students. With YDI, services available to students are drop out prevention programs, youth and family counseling, art therapist, case management for higher education, community mobilization through community policing programs, substance abuse prevention education, and 5 scholarships were given out by YDI, 3 to Belen High School, 2 to Century High, and 1 to Los Lunas High School. Ms. Chavez requested to continue working with the same \$10,000.00. YDI has been fortunate to go through the workforce Investment Act and YDI was funded for a short period of time from April to June. YDI is going for the funding again this year. Ms. Chavez has previously requested for municipalities to participate in this program, but they have not. YDI is funded through state and federal grants.

Currently the corporate office has been in existence for 38 years in Albuquerque and they have over 50 components where they serve youth. The Valencia County office has been in existence for 14 years and now has 8 components that are state and federal funded. One component is the workforce program. Others are dropout prevention at the High School, which YDI is in partnership with the Los Lunas Schools to help fund that. Through the Work Development Program with the County money, YDI has a job developer and a case manager that is working in a timely manner to place these students.

Zoning Department

Steven Chavez, Valencia County Planner, asked that this Commission in good faith make every reasonable attempt in obtaining more revenue for the various departments, as well as the Zoning Department, and for this County. The Zoning problem is quite severe at this time. Zoning violations have gone up considerably, population has gone up, and Zoning is short two staff members. The Planning & Zoning Department is planning to request to publish for an increase in subdivision fees, a substantial increase for engineering costs, which will generate quite a bit of revenue.

Mr. Chavez told the Commission that he is dissatisfied with the status of animal control. Mr. Chavez feels the current situation is inadequate for they staff they have. According to Mr. Chavez, Animal Control is in need of more staff; they don't have any overtime hours, and are working a lot of comp time.

Planning Department

Steven Chavez, Valencia County Planner, thanked the Commission for the budget they gave for the Planning Department. The Planning Department was cut a few thousand and appreciates they weren't cut anymore.

Soil Conservation

Marcel Reynolds, from the Soil Conservation District, told the Commission that the District is a state agency that depends for its funding primarily on the County. Last year, the District was funded at \$13,000.00. In the preliminary budget, the District is at \$10,000.00, so that's a substantial reduction from last years budget. The District will look at what that effect is in the responsibilities of agriculture in Valencia County. The Soil Conservation District worked with the County in the Land Use/Planning Regulations and tries to attend many Commission Meetings in support of farmland preservation within the County. The District also has activities to improve habitat for endangered species along the Rio Grande. In the budget request, the Soil Conservation District requested \$15,000.00, which is a \$2,000.00 increase over last year. This increase is basically because the District has a new program that is being investigated to establish a wildlife area just north of Belen. This will be a 95-acre wildlife area that is more suitable to that purpose than for subdivisions. It is a possibility that land may be deeded to the district for the purpose of a wildlife area.

District Attorney's Office Request for Pictures

Ron Lopez, Deputy District Attorney for the 13th Judicial Station in Valencia County, asked for the pictures that were provided to the Commission by the Detective Rodney Jones of the Valencia County Sheriff's Department. The pictures were released from the District Attorney's Office. The individual is pending an appeal of 1st degree murder. Mr. Lopez's concern at that point is "they had asked us to utilize the photographs at this point in an effort of cooperation, we've tried to cooperate with, you know, Valencia County Commission when it comes to prisoners, things of that nature. You know, we're just, more than happy to try to do a reciprocal type of cooperation situation. I went ahead and released them, they signed off for those photographs to the Valencia County Sheriff's Department with the intent that they were to be returned back to us. We do not want to jeopardize anything. By releasing them to them, it does not jeopardize the appeal because they were the officers in charge of the investigation and things of that nature. I am more than happy to provide any copy of any photograph at this point. Madam Chair, I do not want to have to call you in as a witness. I don't think you want to be called in as a witness at this point, and to get chain of custody on these photographs. Do we handle it differently next time? Probably so, you live and learn. But again, we're more than happy, mark the photographs that you wish to have copied and we'll provide them to you."

Commission Chair Aguilar gave the photographs to Mr. Lopez and said “these photographs should have never come to us from the Sheriff’s Department. And with the understanding, and you know that when documents come to us, it becomes a public document. So I can’t just turn them back, so this way there is an explanation on the record that it’s an ongoing investigation and we wouldn’t want to jeopardize that.” Mr. Lopez said he disagrees with when it becomes a public record. Mr. Lopez is willing to give the Commission a copy.

Older Americans

Carlos Montoya, Valencia County Fiscal Officer, told the Commission the County’s contribution is \$100,000.00 that may transfer from the General Fund into the Older American Program. The Senior Citizen’s Program might have a shortfall of \$4,000.00-\$6,000.00 this fiscal year, so that will have to be made up through the general fund to help them out this year.

Mary Anne Gonzales said the Senior Citizens Program does have a shortfall, which is due primarily to the increase in gasoline prices and food. Ms. Gonzales met with the County Manager and County Fiscal Officer a month and a half ago as they anticipated this. The Senior Citizens Program suggested at that time a fundraiser. Ms. Gonzales called the State Agency on Aging and told them what the predicament was, and they helped the Senior Citizens with \$4,000.00 more. The Program is attempting to raise that money and has been working hard at it. Ms. Gonzales is confident they can raise the money.

Ms. Gonzales said the Senior Citizens Program could live with the budget the Commission gave them. This program has worked well with the County Manager and Fiscal Officer and appreciates that. This Program is primarily funded through the state and federal government and the program usually goes to them first, then to the County. The only concern Ms. Gonzales has on this years budget, is that the Senior Olympics Budget has been cut to zero and would like to know what the Commission’s wishes would be as to continuing with the program without funding or is there an agreement with the state agency to provide those services. The County took this program over a year ago from the City of Belen as the City had it for 18 years. Commission Chair Aguilar suggested Ms. Gonzales go back to Los Lunas and Belen and try to get funded. Ms. Gonzales told the Commission of an increase the program received from the State of \$37,000.00, which is for in-home services and to hire 3 people to do homemaker services.

This program has a Title 5 Program, which is a senior employment program. The state reimburses the program for what is paid for senior employment enrollees. Therefore PERA is not taken out from any employees, because this is an employment program.

Data Processing

Larry Mervine, Data Processing Manager, told the Commission the Clerk’s Office had this new voter software and their training is not going to take place until July, so Mr. Mervine needs his training increased to cover that expense, which is \$3,000.00.

Mr. Mervine asked, since he had no capital outlay, if emergencies for equipment come up, would it come out of the Manager’s or the Commission? The Treasurer’s Office has printers that might need to be replaced; Mr. Mervine has no money for that.

Mr. Mervine told the Commission there was a Data Processing Committee that will meet once a month. This Committee will work on procedures and methods of how the Committee would like the Data Processing Department to be run. Mr. Mervine requested sometime in September or October to come back with a workshop for the Commission to go over what the Committee is doing.

County Commission

Commission Chair Aguilar recommended for Administration to go back, as there were comments made, they may not be able to be fulfilled now, but to work it out, as there’s still \$150,000.00 that needs to be cut. Carlos Montoya, Valencia County Fiscal Officer stated there’s no tax increases in this budget, no personnel layoffs, no raises, and there’s an increase of 15% in insurance and benefits that every employee of the County will see a smaller check because of the insurance rates. All vacancies were removed from the budget, and none are being filled except one police dispatcher. Commission Chair Aguilar said regardless of what the Commission wants to do, in order to meet their obligation by statute, the County has to cut \$150,000.00. Commission Chair Aguilar stated at no time would she ever agree or allow County employees to go to 32 hours.

A question was asked as to how the departments in the County were cut as to the Extension budget?

The final approval on the preliminary budgets will be June 5, 2001 at the 10:00 A.M. Meeting.

The next Regular Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commission will be held on June 5, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. in the County Commission Room at the Valencia County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Baca made a motion to adjourn at 1:07 P.M. Commissioner Daves seconded the motion.

NOTE: All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the, May 25, 2001 Special Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**ss/
ALICIA AGUILAR, CHAIRMAN**

AURELIO H. PADILLA, VICE-CHAIRMAN

S. T. FRANK PANDO, MEMBER

**ss/
GARY DAVES, MEMBER**

**ss/
HELEN BACA, MEMBER**

ATTEST: ss/

TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: June 19, 2001

For an official signed copy of these minutes and attachments see Book 40 Page 404.