

Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials (VALEO)
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – 6:00 PM
City of Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd, Rio Communities, NM

1. Call to Order – Rio Communities Mayor Joshua Ramsell

Mayor Ramsell called the VALEO meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Tabet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Introductions

City of Rio Communities Joshua Ramsell invited all present to introduce themselves. The following individuals were present:

Joshua Ramsell, Mayor City of Rio Communities, Lawrance Gordan, City Councilor Rio Communities, Jimmie Winters, City Councilor Rio Communities, Dr. Martin Moore, City Manager, Rio Communities, Joseph Bizzell, County Commissioner, Tommy Sanchez, VRECC, Victoria Archuleta Village of Los Lunas Economic Development, Art Apodaca City Councilor Rio Communities, Andrew Tabet, Fire Chief Rio Communities, Philip Sublett Valencia County Planning and Zoning, Peggy Gutjahr City Councilor Rio Communities, Tracy Armijo City Councilor Belen, Robert Noblin Mayor City of Belen, Clara Garcia Valencia County News Bulletin, Greg Martin, Administrator, Village of Los Lunas, Steve Holdman, City Councilor Belen, Rosanne Peralta City Manager, City of Belen, Charles Griego, Mayor Village of Los Lunas, Frank Ortega, City Councilor, Belen, Lisa Adair City Clerk, Rio Communities, Amy Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager, Rio communities, Lalena Aragon, Deputy Clerk, Rio Communities.

4. Review of Past Minutes

City of Rio Communities Mayor Joshua Ramsell referenced copies of minutes from the last VALEO meeting on May 23, 2023.

New Business

➤ Animal Control

Mayor Ramsell went over the Valencia County animal shelter and explained that the language isn't matching up municipalities are saying one thing and County is saying something else.

Tommy Sanchez (VRECC) went over the portal call for afterhours policy and said that they are constant and most of law enforcement are following it. Councilor Gutjahr said the most problem Rio Communities is having is with dangerous dogs and some residents can't go out of their homes. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell said the state of NM is a fence in fence out not sure about dogs. It is the owner's responsibility to keep them on their property. Councilor Gutjahr asked about the safety of the residents and having something consistent. Philip Sublett said it is hard to ask consistency when you have different municipalities Los Lunas and Belen have their own animal control. The county is used to their own guidelines. It is hard for them to change their guidelines we need to get the rules the same for the County and the Municipalities. The discussion continued.

➤ Homelessness

Mayor Ramsell went over homelessness. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell explained that every Wednesday on the first of the month we have a meeting at 3pm. He explained that police and other agencies don't go to the river because the homeless are creating traps. He said he has contacted homeland security. Tommy Sanchez talked about dispatch classifying the area and letting our first responders know where the traps are at. County commissioner Joseph Bizzell said the biggest concern is the children that are going out to fish or play we don't want them to get hurt. Tommy Sanchez said his premise hazard would be shared with homeland security. Mayor Noblin asked what can elected officials do to put pressure on the conservancy this is their territory. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell agreed that we need to put pressure on the conservancy and if they don't want to trespass them and keep them out then they are responsible for the damage. Councilor Ortega asked what we are doing about the four wheelers on the river if we don't have jurisdiction, we have to call State Police. We need to have a MOU with MRGCB. Philip Sublett said that he didn't want to get recreational stuff confused with homelessness. The discussion continued on confusion with the jurisdiction. Councilor Ortega said that is why we need a MOU with the MRGCB. Philip Sublett talked about holding the conservancy responsible. He then asked Chief Tabet how long did it take to get reimbursed. Chief Tabet said that they were reimbursed 100% in 60 days. Councilor Ortega said the Albuquerque shut their bosque off and they are coming here. Chief Tabet said that people from Albuquerque are coming here because they are blocked off. He continued to explain that the traps are not intended to harm first responders they are intended to keep their stuff safe. I feel that we need to get together and ask why it is blocked off in Albuquerque and not here it is a double standard. Philip Sublett said I want to focus on the homeless and explained that MRGCB is on a tight budget, and they can't be here. Mayor Griego explained that Los Lunas will respond and enforce anything that happens in the Village but that doesn't solve the issue of homelessness we need to look at housing and the problem is where no one wants them in their backyard we don't have the resources to do this even as a County. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell said we need to get the Federal government in to help with mental illness and addiction and with the traps is a good way to get the federal government involved to help. The discussion continued about jurisdiction and when they are trespassed on the Conservancy won't show up to court. Mayor Noblin said there is a reason they respond to Albuquerque and not here, so we need to know why what we can do. The discussion continued. Mayor Ramsell asked if anyone has an unlawful to occupy the median ordinance. Councilor Ortega said Albuquerque did pass something for the safety issue not that they can't ask for money, but they can't stand by the median. Councilor Gordan asked if they are detained can we dismantle there living area. Chief Tabet said they do have a lot of rights.

➤ County update on Hospital

County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell said we have the short list for the architect design they are working on phase two as far as location they are in negotiation. Councilor Gutjahr asked who the provider is. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell said CHC is the provider.

➤ Issues facing each Municipality

Dr. Moore talked about our roads and grants that we have and a couple of them being designed. He then talked about economic development and said we have a lot of interest, and the first question is water sewer and medical. Dr. Moore said we got grants and it is just the growing pains. He then talked about parks and that the residents want their parks back; the good news is PNM is stepping up the grid on this side of the river. Councilor Gutjahr said we have just hired our first police chief. Mayor Ramsell said we did hire our police chief Felix Nunez Jr. will start on September 5th. Joseph Bizzell talked about gas tax and where is it going the County only got \$250,000, I did send a IPRA to the State if you guys want to do the same thing, he then went over internet taxes. Dr. Moore said they are very limited to

who can look at internet GRTS. Mayor Griego said we are having the same issues as everyone else the main thing is traffic and continued to talk about the progress of the bridge and they are working on certifications that they need for this project, and it is a slow progress and then working on reimbursements as well. Mayor Noblin said regarding parks we are always trying to figure out how to keep our parks safe and clean, they are a huge project. Another issue is that bids are not coming in where we need them to be to start projects. Wastewater is our number one ICIP. Belen City Manager Peralta said we are moving forward with the LED lights and our State Park one other thing is salary studies we can't keep up. Mayor Greigo said I do understand that, but we are only at 75%. County Commissioner Joseph Bizzell said as long as we are all working together to get money from the State to help all of us as a County.

5. Next Meeting

November 21, 2023, Hosted by Valencia County

6. Adjournment

Mayor Noblin motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mayor Griego. With a unanimous vote the VALEO meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.