Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting held on July 02, 2020 at 9:00 AM in the Conejos County Board Room, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos, CO. 81129

Call the meeting to order

Chrmn. Jarvies called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call: Mitchell Jarvies- Chrmn.- Present
Steve McCarroll-Vice Chair-Present
Carlos Garcia-Vice Chair-Present
Tressesa Martinez- County Admin- Present

Also present were: Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney, Connie Ricci- HR Director and AnnaBelle Gomez-Deputy Clerk and Recorder.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chrmn. Jarvies led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.


Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the School District Discussion at 10:00 AM: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Payroll Meeting: Comm. Garcia, Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Administrators Correspondence

Public Trustee’s Quarterly Report

Tressesa-County Administrator presented the Public Trustee’s report.
Motion to approve the Public Trustee's quarterly report as presented: Comm. McCarroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Arena Update

Tressesa stated that she has been working with Ernest Abeyta. They wanted a stove, washer and dryer and a shower. She is getting 3 bids. One is from George Morris, Leonard Espinoza and John Turner. She will get ahold of Richard Quintana who will be doing the wiring.

Supervisor’s Salary Increase

Connie-HR stated that last week she was asked to draft a policy for Road and Bridge Department only. If there is a supervisor that is gone for 10 days or more then the person that they put to substitute will get an increase based upon budgetary for that time.

Tressesa-County Admn. stated that they looked at the salaries. Right now they have one supervisor that is out and they felt that $2.00 an hour increase would be fair during the time that they are covering. Once the supervisor comes back then they will come back to their regular salary; on the individual that they have now they will go back retroactive to the time he started.

Motion to adopt a substitute supervisor’s increase salary for Road and Bridge only as presented: Comm. Garcia, Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Care Act Funding

Tressesa stated that she put an agreement together which was also sent to the towns. Conejos County is going to ask for the whole $703,000. They will work with the municipalities and see what their needs are. The municipalities will up front the dollars to the businesses that they are going to give the money to. We will administer the monies and then ask for re-imbursement. La Jara and the Town of Antonito have been very active; she has not heard from the other municipalities. They will help the small businesses that need help; that is what the agreement says.
Nick Sarmiento-County Attorney talked about Section 3- Terms and Conditions Subsection c which talks about how they are going to allocate the funds. The funds allocated to Conejos County will be distributed to Conejos County as the fiscal agent to distribute and share among Conejos County and all the municipalities with a proportionate share to be decided amongst Conejos County and municipalities. They can decide on a formula per capita which is vague.

Tressesa-County Admn. stated that she did reach out to Kristi from DOLA and she said that was okay. She mentioned that we will not allocate anybody it will be based on needs of each community.

Nick Sarmiento stated that they will need a separate agreement for the allocation.

Larry Zaragoza from the Town of La Jara thanked them for giving them the opportunity to help businesses and residents. As discussing the terms and how the town will manage the money; it has to be in their budget to be able to distribute. What is delinquent in water and sewer is bigger than what their budget can handle; asked what time frame are they looking at. He did compile a sheet and it came up to about $50,000.

There was a short discussion as to who was going to up front the costs. The money will get reimbursed and will need to have supporting documentation.

Nick stated that maybe some of the municipalities might not have the money to up front some of the costs.

Tressesa stated that for example Romeo might not have the money; the county could then go in and help. She spoke to Kristi-DOLA and she said that as long as it is within the guidelines then the county can help.

Nick Sarmiento stated that if the Town of Romeo contracts with the county then the Town of Romeo would help that business. They in turn apply to the County-fiscal agent as long as they meet all the criteria.

Nick talked about the committee. He stated that before there are any distribution of funds, reimbursements or expenses of the municipalities the committee will be there to make sure it is following the guidelines.
Larry had a question on the businesses that are outside of the city limits. There was one business that had to dump out a lot of food.

Tressesa-County Admn. stated that the county will help them out.

Motion to opt in as a county and allow any municipalities that want to opt in as well: Comm. McC Carroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 motion carried.

Motion to enter into the Memorandum Of Understanding on distribution of Care Acts Funds: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McC Carroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Motion to authorize a Cares Act Committee to decide on funding and meeting of criteria with the hope that the municipalities will participate: Comm. McC Carroll /Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session as per 24-6-402 (b) conference with the attorney: Comm. McC Carroll/Second: Comm. Garcia, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

The board came out of executive session conference with the attorney at 9:48 AM and no decisions were made.

Nick Sarmiento: It is the opinion of the County Attorney that the discussion had an executive session constituted an attorney/client privilege therefore no record was kept.

Garth- Sheriff’s Report

Sheriff Crowther’s report was as follows:

- Will need some lights, hoping he can get them in bulk.
- Rodney sent out information concerning the fire ban.
- Mylo wanted to know if they can get together with their PIO to put something on their web page.
• Will put what Rodney sent out at least for the week end.
• Got some people hired- One wanted part time so that didn’t work. They will be fully staffed.

Linda-Land Use

Kelly and Sylvia Garcia Division of Land

Linda presented the following:

CASE NO: CCLU-2020-0114 REQUEST: Division of Land
APPLICANT: Kelly & Sylvia Garcia ZONING: Rural
SURVEY BY: Billy Vigil-who was helping Summitt Engineering.
BACKGROUND: An application was filed with the Land Use Office on June 21, 2020 for a Division of Land. The property is 62.59 acres legally described as Tract 1 of the Refugio Ruybal del Aragones Division of Land located in fraction of the West Half of Section 34, Twp 33 N, Range 8 East, NMPM, Conejos County Colorado. Physical Address of 34892 Hwy 17, Mogote/Antonito, CO 81120

The Division of 62.59 acres will create the following:

Lot 1A-1 acre more or less- lot will be used for the new residence.
Lot 1B-61.590 acre more or less- lot will be used for agricultural uses.
No County Road Dedication-State Hwy on the north boundary.

Applicable Codes Used:

CCLUC-Article 10 Division 10.7 Subdivision Exemptions.

Purpose of Adjustment: Kelly & Sylvia are building a new residence and the finance company is requiring a division of the property where the home will be placed. Several years ago Kelly had a mobile home in the same property.

Land Use Administrator review/approval: 07/02/2020

County Surveyor review/approval: 07/01/2020


3-0 Motion carried.
The following resolutions were assigned from the last commissioner’s meeting: C-24-2020- Matt and Meghan Stelzer-Special Use Review  
C-25-2020-Lester and Clara Hochstetler- Special Use Review  
C-26-2020-Robins Construction-Special Use Permit Mining Pit-1

Linda gave an update on the following:

They had 6 Physical addresses, 12 Address Signs prepared, 22 Construction Permits, 1 Variance application, 6 Septic Permits, Miscellaneous copies, 1 Lot Consolidation, 2 Divisions of Land, 2 Special Use Permits, Mobile Home Installation Program 1 Permit, Administrator Review, 2 Access permits, 188 Permits from January thru June 30.

Linda mentioned that concerning the Major Subdivision (Rito Hondo) they requested that it be cancelled; they are going through a large lot development instead which is not reviewed by county commissioners.

**Naomi-County Assessor-Abatements**

Naomi presented several abatements; stated that they were all after protests. They are as follows:

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Motion to approve the abatements as presented: Comm. Garcia/Second: Comm. McCarroll, all in favor.

3-0 Motion carried.

**Kurt Wilson and Kevin Edgar- School District Discussion**
Kurt Wilson stated that he would like to express gratitude for the SRS Funds. If they didn’t have that money they would suffer, they are grateful and they don’t waste it they put it for the good of the kids.

Kevin also expressed his thanks for the SRS monies.

Comm. Garcia stated that he shares their excitement because the first year that he retired was the first year that it did come out and he also thanked the commissioners. He stated that they put it in the old capital construction grant; he expressed his gratitude to the county.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that they don’t mind doing anything that they can to help the kids.

Kurt stated that Kevin and Emma have their own versions but he is assuming that they are very similar because they come from Governor Polis’ commentary and phone calls to the superintendents on his guidelines and expectations that he did not specify. He doesn’t expect him to come out with any new guidelines other than he stated that they should work with their local health people in putting best practices together which we have done that before; anything that we can put on there for the health, safety and welfare of our kids and staff. Yesterday the association for pediatrics came out with a declaration that kids need to be back in school. We didn’t mind cutting, and the county couldn’t cut it that schools were exempt from that order but would like your support with it. He has gone through their county physician; had passed it by him to sign off and there may be more measures coming forth but it hurt kids last spring; that is acceptable for what the pandemic was at the time. Coming forth we do have a disproportionate amount of children without internet access or support at home. He thinks it has marginally impacted kids to the negative on the whole. We would like to have your input, help and ultimate support. I know there are always questions about liability but those were pretty much answered by our attorney yesterday; you can get it anywhere. He feels it is in the best interest for the kids and their education. There are susceptible people too; they would have to make accommodations for them as best they can; they are still trying to add to that plan.

Kurt stated that they will be meeting with staff next week to try and get more ideas if anyone is in a compromised situation on how to affectively meet their needs and go forward.

Kevin stated that in talking to kids and the parents they want their kids back in school. They have been missing being together; they are
mixing anyway. We would follow the guidelines that are out there to get the kids back in the class.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that South Conejos has been working with them as well. When they had the discussion before they talked about physical health but there is also mental and social health that has to be taken into consideration. He has visited with Dr. Jackson and he feels it is a good plan; asked if they need a letter of support saying we are behind you.

Kurt stated that it is the governor’s call; he expects the schools with the best accommodations possible to come back with normalcy. CDE also has policies on what to do if you have a break out, cleaning protocols after that; and also if the county can think of anything that they haven’t thought of.

Chrmn. Jarvies stated that it looks like a pretty detailed plan.

Comm. McCarrick stated that they have thought this out very well. You have looked at what you need to do and applaud them on how they finished the year. The kids wanted to be out there on the baseball and track field but they had to do what they had to do.

Comm. Garcia stated that he would like to comment that he agrees with all of the comments that have been said today, the educational part of it and then the socialization is much needed. The ones that he has talked to are ready to go back, they want to see their friends and miss that interaction. Whatever they can do to help them they will do. He did review the North and South Conejos plan.

Kevin will send out the Sanford School’s plan.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chrmn. Jarvies declared the meeting adjourned.

The board continued with a work session concerning Elk Ridge Estates.

ATTEST:  
NATHAN RUYBAN  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  

MITCHELL JARVIES  
CHRMN. BD OF COUNTY COMM.