

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Regular Meeting at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 8:30 a.m., January 16, 2001; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, Mountain Monthly, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

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| Richard Zierlein | Chairman |
| Michael Nivison | Member |
| Ruth Hooser | County Administrator |
| LaDonna Adams | Administrative Secretary |
| Dan Bryant | County Attorney |
| Frank Portillo | Head Superintendent |
| Kim Chavez | Deputy Clerk |

DRAFT

Commissioner Zierlein gave the invocation, Commissioner Nivison led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ruth Hooser led the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

I. Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes

12/29/00

01/02/01

Commissioner Zierlein asked that the minutes of 12/29/00 be pulled so that more information could

be added. Commissioner Nivison made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/02/01. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages_____.

B. Bill Lists

#28

#29

C. Personnel Items:

1. New Hire:

Mary Holguin-Spring - Road Department

2. Other:

Kristin Davis - DWI

Peter Forrest - DWI

D. Grants/Subdivision Coordinator:

Consider Approval for the Final Plat for Aspen Meadows Subdivision.

E. Indigent Fund:

Monthly Report for December 2000 and January 2001.

Commissioner Nivison made a motion to approve items B, C, D, and E. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages_____.

II. Inter-Departmental Items:

1. Road Department:

Consider recommendation for county maintenance on Meadow Land

Road in the Meadow Land Estates Subdivision. Commissioner Nivison made a motion to approve for county maintenance on Meadow Land Road in Meadow Land Estates Subdivision. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages_____.

III. Commissioner Discussion/Correspondence:

A. Richard L. Zierlein:

1. Discuss a representative for the LEPC for the Emergency Command Center. Commissioner Nivison made a motion to approve Patty Storm as the primary member for the Volunteer Firefighters and Wayne Glidden as the alternate and as a representative. For Otero County, Wayne Glidden as the primary member and Patty Storm as the alternate. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages_____.

B. Timothy D. McGinn:

C. Michael Nivison:

1. Discuss County Road #7 in Dry Canyon. Commissioner Nivison asked that this item be tabled until the County Attorney is present. Commissioner Nivison asked that the County come up with a written policy for speed limit signs on county dirt roads and have the document ready at the February 13, 2001 regular meeting. Commissioner Zierlein stated that by having the policy when a resident comes forward and inquires about the signs, the county will have something to go by. No action was taken.

2. Forest Health Summit - Commissioner Nivison stated that he attended a Forest Health Summit in Arizona. The summit was put together by Dr. Garret and Dr.

Covington, who in Commissioner Nivison's opinion, are the two leading authorities on forest health. The Governor of Arizona, and the Head Cabinet Post in charge of resources for Arizona attended the summit. The region is made up of New Mexico and Arizona. The State Forester represented New Mexico. Commissioner Nivison feels that there was some positive impact that came out of the meeting. Dr. Garret, who Otero County has contracted to do a forest study wants to meet and call a meeting of all the elected officials in New Mexico who are participating in the forest health study. Commissioner Nivison invited the Forest Service to attend the meeting and asked if they would have any money to contribute. Commissioner Nivison stated that at the meeting in Arizona there were a few classes of kids attending and the kids were asked at the end of the day what should be done. Their response was you know what the problem is, why don't you get on with it and fix it. Commissioner Nivison stated, "Doesn't that say it all".

3. BLM Issues - Commissioner Nivison stated he is trying to find out what the status is on the flood control. He further stated he would like to send a letter to Mr. Alinees from the Corp of Engineers asking for a definitive statement of what is going to be done. Commissioner Nivison also stated he attended a BLM oil meeting and was informed by the Harvey Yates Company that the one oil well they have will return to the State about \$100,000.00 worth of taxes a month. Commissioner Nivison stated that the BLM is trying to come up with the least restrictive alternative to expedite the use of public land. Commissioner Nivison stated that one thing that needs to be done is to speak to some of the citizens that the environmental impact study will effect. Commissioner Zierlein stated he attended a South East Economic Development meeting and Steve Yates, from the Harvey Yates Company made a presentation to the group. In that presentation he stated that if BLM continues with the Environmental Draft Impact that they are doing the future

of exploration and drilling will stop on Otero Mesa because the BLM is making it unfeasible. Commissioner Zierlein stated that the South East Economic Development voted unanimously to send a letter and Resolution from them to the BLM stating that they should not adapt or enforce any additional restrictions or regulations on exploration or use of natural resources. Commissioner Nivison stated that we need to make sure that whatever the outcome is, that it does not have an impact on other industries in the area. Commissioner Nivison stated that the BLM law states that you must pick the most unrestricted alternative. Commissioner Zierlein stated he is upset at the BLM because he is on the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and the Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt has done catastrophic damage to New Mexico. Mr. Babbitt signed the standards and guidelines for grazing which had been worked on for over four years through the RAC and the part of the Standards and Guidelines the RAC worked on the hardest was the human dimension and it was crossed out completely. Commissioner Nivison stated that all the western states were asked to participate and only four participated. New Mexico is the only state that supported the human dimension part. New Mexico and Montana were the only two who wrote up an environmental impact and New Mexico was the only state that wrote a complete environmental impact with the human dimension in it.

IV. James Howard - Consider Approval of a transfer of the Television Franchise held by Cablevision Communications, Inc. to a new entity held by the same stockholders. Commissioner Nivison made a motion that if action is needed to transfer the Television Franchise held by Cablevision Communications the Chairman has the authority to sign. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages_____.

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Regular Meeting January 16, 2001

APPROVED:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary D. Quintana
Otero County Clerk