

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Work Session at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chair person at 9:00 a.m., February 2, 2005; and she announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

Clarissa McGinn	Chair person
Doug Moore	Vice-Chairman
Ruth Hooser	County Manager
Ray Backstrom	Assistant County Manager
Lynn Estrada	Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

Commissioner Moore gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

1. Unfinished Business:

Consider approving a Space Sharing Agreement between City of Alamogordo and Otero County Sheriff Dept. regarding leasing space in a building located at 1175 26th Street in Alamogordo, to be used only for law enforcement purposes.

2. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes
- b. Bills Lists- #33, #34, #35
- c. Indigent

d. Personnel-New hires

e. Purchasing

3. Resolutions, Agreements & Ordinances:

a. Consider approving Resolution No. 02-08-05/93-30 regarding supporting Memorial Medical Center's request to the State of New Mexico for payment from the Sole Community Hospital provider fund in the amount of \$183,184.00 for fiscal year 2005/2006, and establishing Otero County's maximum payment including Federal matching funds.

Commissioner McGinn stated that she didn't think that we had Memorial Medical as a sole provider. Ruth Hooser stated that we did last year but for only one year. Memorial Medical received an extension from the State of New Mexico until February 15th. They sent this Resolution to us but we already have Gerald Champion as our sole community provider. Memorial Medical is not a sole provider. Commissioner Moore requested this item be pulled from the agenda. This was only a one time agreement.

4. Elected Officials/Department Heads:

a. Consider approving two appointments for the Otero County Planning Commission: Mr. Richard McCracken in Alamogordo and Julie Winkles as the Cloudcroft representative.

Dale Palkki, County Assessor, stated that once these 2 positions are filled we will have a full board.

b. Consider approving the Board of Registration-2005 Purge Process for the Republican Party and the Democratic Party of Otero County. The Republicans have 4 names listed and the Democrats have 2 names listed. Commissioner Moore would like to have 2 more names from the Democrat Party. This is a 3 person Board with 2 alternates.

c. Dale Palkki, County Assessor, and Gonzalo Estrada, Chief Deputy Assessor, discussed some new legislation that is being introduced. What this legislation will do, is to allow wildlife elk to qualify as

agriculture status for private property owners. This would make their properties exempt, which would have a substantial impact on our tax base. Gonzalo is requesting the Board write a resolution opposing this bill. It is still in draft form and has not been introduced yet. Commissioner Moore directed staff to send a letter to the Attorney General, our Representatives and Senators opposing this draft. Gonzalo will draft the language and have it ready for Ruth tomorrow for signatures.

d. Mary Quintana, Chief Deputy Clerk, approached the Board to answer their questions about the Purge process. Mary stated that in 2003 the Board appointed 3 regular members and 2 alternates. There were 2 Republicans and 1 Democrat to sit as the regular Board members. Commissioner Moore is still requesting 2 more names from the Democratic Party Chairman. Mary stated that she would call the Democrat Party Chairman and request 2 more names.

e. John Blansett, County Sheriff, discussed House Bill 324 that was introduced and has passed several committees' already. We are required to do two fingerprint cards when there is an arrest, under this Bill the State wants to charge the County's \$53.00 per card. We are required to submit two cards per arrest, and if the State starts to charge us per card it will have a substantial impact on our budget. John Blansett is requesting a letter of opposition from the Board to submit to the Legislation. Commissioner Moore stated that we need to direct our lobbyist to oppose this Bill and the draft for the elk that Gonzalo spoke about earlier.

5. Citizen Communications:

a. Everett Putney (Timberon Development Council)- Discuss Timberon Airstrip responsibility and requesting Otero County to be involved financially for tractor maintenance and insurance liability. Mr. Putney gave a review of the activities in Timberon. The tractor that Otero County transferred to them needs some work done. He is willing to take care of the minor maintenance but the major maintenance

should be funded by the County. Timberon is requesting the clarification of the responsibility of the airstrip. Commissioner Moore stated that he thought we were only going to act as fiscal agent and the residents of Timberon, on a volunteer basis would maintain the airstrip. He has no desire or expertise to manage or maintain this strip. Mr. Putney stated that this will continue to be a community effort. Commissioner Moore stated that they will have a Management Agreement ready for Tuesday night's meeting clarifying the responsibilities of the County and the community of Timberon.

Commissioner McGinn recessed the Work Session at 10:20 a.m. to reconvene at the Otero County Detention Center for a jail inspection.

The time being 10:50 a.m. the Chair person called the Work Session back to order at the Otero County Detention Center for a walk through inspection and lunch.

The Commissioners checked the kitchen, walk-in freezers and pantries. All was found clean and well stocked. Holding cells were also checked. Lunch consisted of chicken and rice soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, coleslaw, peaches and fritos.

The time being 11:55 a.m. the Chair person recessed the Work Session at the Otero County Detention Center.

The time being 1:30 p.m. the Chair person called the Work Session back to order at the Otero County Courthouse to start the budget review.

Commissioner McGinn announced that during the budget review Work Session we are going to start the whole process by establishing our anticipated ending cash balances for last year and looking at our projected revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. The packets from the Departments are due back to us February 18th. The Board went through the revenues by line items and Departments. The budget will continue at the Work Session on February 23rd 2005.

There being no further business before the Board the Chair person adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm

APPROVED:

Clarissa McGinn, Chair person

ATTEST:

Robyn Silva, County Clerk

Work Session Feb. 2, 2005