

**Special Budget Meeting**

**July 20, 2000**

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Special Budget Meeting at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 3:00 p.m., July 20, 2000; 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:

Richard Zierlein

Chairman

Timothy McGinn

Vice-Chairman

Ronny Rardin

Member

Ruth Hooser

County Administrator

Virginia Fletcher

Assistant County Administrator

Dan Bryant

County Attorney

Frank Portillo

Road Superintendent

Kim Chavez

Deputy Clerk

**DRAFT  
COPY**

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

I. Dan Abercrombie - Discuss 75% cost share in Debris Removal for (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services. Commissioner Rardin stated that the County is not against the 75% cost share in Debris Removal, the problem is that the County did not like the idea of being told that they had to pay for the removal. Mr. Abercrombie stated that he

is working for the USDA and he can only work with people if they want him to, he can't just do it because it needs to be done. Mr. Abercrombie stated that the Soil and Water Conservation is going to sponsor the project. Mr. Abercrombie is requesting the Counties' help with in kind services so that the landowner won't have to pay the whole 25%. Mr. Abercrombie asked the County if the Road Department would transport some barriers and install them. Mr. Abercrombie has received word from the State of New Mexico that Deming has the barriers to give if he can find a way to transport them. Michael Nivision stated that it would be the USDA's responsibility to get on the property. Commissioner Zierlein stated that he is concerned about how much commitment this would be giving the Road Department if the County agreed to pick up the barriers. This would require the Road Department to make two trips to Deming. Mr. Portillo stated that when the problems first happened in the mountains and it was declared a disaster the State brought in barriers. The County went in and set up the barriers where ever they were needed whether it was on private property or the creek if it pertained to saving lives and property. Now it has all come to a halt and Mr. Portillo has moved all his equipment back to Pinon to get ready to chip seal next week. Mr. Portillo stated he could send two transports to pick up the barriers and eliminate the hauling in one day. It will take another day to set them up. The only problem is that it is time consuming. Commissioner Zierlein asked Mr. Portillo how soon he could go pick up the barriers. Mr. Portillo stated he could be ready to go tomorrow if needed. Commissioner Zierlein stated that this would be for the benefit of the people in the County. Mr. Abercrombie stated that the County couldn't get the barriers until there is a letter from Santa Fe releasing them. Commissioner Rardin made a motion to allow the Road Department to work with Mr. Abercrombie to move the 20 barriers and set them up to help protect the safety and welfare of the people in the mountain areas. Commissioner

McGinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

## II. Review Final Budget 2000/2001

Commissioner Zierlein stated that he has looked over the budget and the only thing the Commission can do is not to give anyone a raise, cut all capital outlay except the \$30,000.00 in the Clerk's Office that has already been spent and raise the gross receipts participation coming in by \$50,000.00. Commissioner Rardin feels that it would not be feasible to cut all of the capital outlay. Commissioner Zierlein also stated that if the fiscal condition of the County does not improve by next year the County needs to send a letter to all of the Community Service Projects informing them to expect a substantial decrease or no funding at all. Mrs. Hooser stated that the only thing she can see is to put the road shop and the dump truck for the convenience center on hold. Mrs. Hooser stated that there are no pay increases in the budget. Commissioner Rardin suggested that the Sheriff's capital outlay be cut down to \$80,000.00 and give that to the road department for their capital outlay and then when and if PILT comes in, put it back. Commissioner Rardin made a motion that the Road Department capital outlay be decreased to \$220,000.00, cut the Sheriff's capital outlay to \$80,000.00 and take out \$225,000.00 of the emergency reserve funds. The County Manager should then be allowed to up the percentage of the gross receipt tax to at least 1.4 million to balance the rest of the budget. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion. Commissioner McGinn asked that the motion include if PILT comes in, then the money that has been cut out of the budgets should be put back. Commissioner Rardin amended his motion stating that with the intent that revenues do come in from PILT the money goes to the three items that were cut. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Zierlein asked that the Commission send out letters to the Community Service Programs stating that if the revenues don't increase they may get a decrease

in funding.

III. Adopt Resolution No. 7-20-00/89-01 Otero County Wage and Compensation scale. Commissioner McGinn made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 7-20-00/89-01 Otero County Wage and Compensation scale. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. Adopt Budget Resolution No. 7-20-00/89-02 Final Budget Adoption - 89th Fiscal Year. Commissioner Rardin made a motion to Adopt Budget Resolution No. 7-20-00/89-02 Final Budget Adoption - 89th Fiscal Year. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages \_\_\_\_\_.

V. Probationary Pay. Tabled

VI. Code Enforcement Officer. Tabled

VII. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance. Commissioner Rardin made a motion to approve Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. See pages \_\_\_\_\_.

Regular Meeting, July 20, 2000

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

---

**Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Mary D. Quintana**  
**Otero County Clerk**