

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING
Inspection of SMC Detention Center
of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
of SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
HELD TUESDAY, February 13, 2024 AT 10:00 AM

ZOOM LINK is active. At least 72 hours in advance of this meeting, the following agenda for today's meeting was posted and available for public inspection on the San Miguel County Website at www.co.sanmiguel.nm.us and available in hard copy at the office of the San Miguel County Manager. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85320525154>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Harold Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM at the San Miguel County Detention Center at 26 NM Hwy 283, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701.

2. ROLL CALL

Chief Deputy Clerk Jacob Gonzales administered Roll Call: Commissioner Harold Garcia - present; Commissioner Martin Sena - present; Commissioner Janice Varela - present; Commissioner Max Trujillo - present; Commissioner Kenneth Medina – excused absence.

A quorum is present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Paul Hesch led the Pledge and:

4. SALUTATION TO THE NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG:

"I salute the flag of the State of New Mexico and the Zia Symbol of perfect friendship among United Cultures".

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes.

Motion to approve agenda made by Commissioner Max Trujillo. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried.

6. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. INSPECTION OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

Warden Antonio Padilla introduced Deputy Warden Steven Garcia, Administrative Assistant Lynda Jansen, Phillip Martinez with Franken Construction, Pastors Paul and Diane Hesch, Lt. Jeff Romero, Lt. Kendrick Wagner, Lt. Fernando Lopez, DC Maintenance Supervisor Johnny Montano, SMC Safety Manager Richard Rivera, APIC account executive Paul Modesto aka Sarge, SMC IT Director Kenneth Abeyta, SMC IT/GIS Justin Dimas, Roadrunner Director of Nursing Devisa Montoya, Roadrunner Housing Services Administrator Deborah Cheney, Roadrunner Regional Manager Anthony McCort.

APIC supplied the sally port camera and intercom to ensure law enforcement and other authorized people are the ones, in fact, being allowed to enter this loading area. This ensures a greater safety protocol.

The Detention Center can house 142 inmates. Warden Padilla stated he prefers to house 120 prisoners maximum safely with the layout of the jail and number of staff. By operating standards, the jail should employ 58 officers; and currently employs 27 with 37 budgeted employees. Warden Padilla prefers to have three to five officers and one lieutenant per shift manning the jail. Housing Control and Main Command are always staffed. The average number of inmates detained the past six months is between 60-70 inmates. The two year average hovered at 120; the reason it has decreased is because of the Judicial Detainee Program being implemented by the Courts; however, lately some accused criminals are not complying with the ankle monitoring and stay at home orders, so judges are remanding them into custody. Warden Padilla projects that inmate population will be around 100 in June. Staffing the jail with less than five officers is dangerous.

Warden Padilla informed the Commission that job postings are posted and the SMCDC has signage throughout Las Vegas inviting people to apply for these officer positions. Warden would like to explore options to increasing the wage to attract seasoned experienced detention officers rather than having to train from scratch.

Warden Padilla informed the Commission the medical budget contract with Core Health was \$725K and increased to \$900K when Roadrunner took over the contract, and is expected to be upwards of \$1M next year. Increases are due to medical being staffed 24/7, and in providing pharmacy services for sick and immunocompromised inmates. The pharmacy budget fluctuates depending on what prescriptions are used. Hospital callouts have been reduced due to on-site 24/7 medical care. SMCDC staff is always looking at ways to limit liability. MATS services will also likely add an additional expense if/when those services become mandated. Warden Padilla

would like to reinstate the Ignite program and trade certification to keep inmates occupied and trained for a job when released and hopefully cut recidivism.

Warden, Deputy Warden and the Lieutenants then escorted the Commissioners and guests for a tour of the detention center. Mr. Abeyta was scanned using the newly acquired body scanner at the DC, and it showed the nails in his boots and the frays of pants inseam. Then a scan of an inmate who had contraband hidden was presented.

The cell units are equipped with a TV and microwave. The cell units second floor railing was extended all the way to the ceiling to cut down on suicide attempts and in reducing the chance at throwing someone over the railing. One of the women's pods is equipped with laundry. Commissioners and guests toured the DC Laundry Room, medical unit, men's pods, booking area, the sally port area, the reintegration center and the kitchen (which passed its Environment Inspection which was conducted on the same day with a scoring of 5/5).

b. REQUEST FOR DETENTION CENTER TO BEGIN PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION

Warden Antonio Padilla asked for permission to submit application to begin process for Accreditation of the Detention Center. The accreditation expired November 2023. The accreditation is for three years with on-site checks annually.

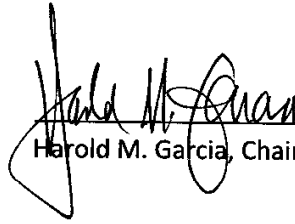
Motion to approve submission of application to begin accreditation process made by Commissioner Janice Varela. Second by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Motion carried.

After the tour was completed and action taken on item "b", the Commission, Guests and Staff enjoyed a trio of tasty tacos, rice and salsas prepared at the SMCDC.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the SM-02-13-2024 Detention Center Inspection made by Vice Chairman Martin Sena. Second by Commissioner Janice Varela. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:26PM.

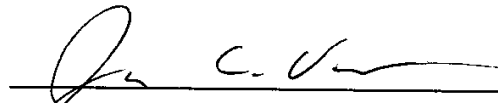
Approved the 12th of March 2024 as the Official Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County - New Mexico of its Special Meeting held the 13th of February 2024 at 10:00 AM at the San Miguel County Detention Center.



Harold M. Garcia, Chairman - District 1



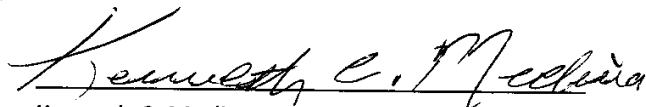
Martin Sena, Vice-Chairman - District 4



Janice C. Varela, Commissioner - District 2

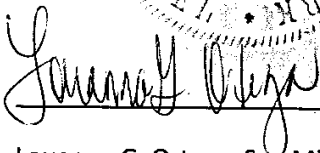


Max Trujillo, Commissioner - District 3



Kenneth C. Medina, Commissioner District 5

ATTEST:



Louanna G. Ortega, San Miguel County Clerk



Minutes submitted by Jacob P. Gonzales

NOTICE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing(s) or meeting(s), please contact the San Miguel County Manger's Office at 505-425-9333 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the Agenda and Minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the County Clerk at 505-425-9331 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Contact: mstroud@co.sanmiguel.nm.us | jgonzales@co.sanmiguel.nm.us