

**SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 24, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 am Regular Meeting**

**The Sierra County Board of County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at the Sierra County Commission Chambers, 1712 N Date St, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioner Travis Day, Chairman  
Commissioner James Paxon, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Member**

**Clerk of Board: Amy Whitehead**

**County Attorney: David Pato**

**County Manager: Amber Vaughn**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG PLEDGE:**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Monica Zepeda, Josh Baker, Steve Mull-Sentinel, Patrick Flores, Keith Whitney, Billy Neeley, Tim Kuzdrowski, Taylor Gouhart, Patrice Love, Julian Marta, Eden Garcia, Chealsey Garcia, Travis Atwell, Mickey Atwell, Santiago Nieves, Virginia Lee, Ernie Armijo, Ray Pierce**

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the agenda as presented.  
Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Regular Meeting-May 20, 2025**
- B. Special Meeting-June 10, 2025**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT: LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES**  
N/A

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Resolution No. 2025-45 Accounts Payable**
- B. Resolution No. 2025-46 Indigent Claims**
- C. Indigent Burial B2025-010**
- D. Indigent Burial B2025-011**
- E. Indigent Burial B2025-012**
- F. Indigent Burial B2025-013**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:**

- A. Years of Service award**
- B. Department Reports**
- C. Patillo, Brown, & Hill LLC-Audit Report (Ray Pierce)**  
**Audit went smooth, no disagreements with Management, County Records well maintained and processes well followed.**

**VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:**

- A. May Reconciliation**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve the May Reconciliation as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A: Amendment IGA between Dona Ana County and Sierra County**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the Amendment as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Letter from Sierra County to Elephant Butte regarding the withdrawing from Sierra Vista Hospital JPA**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon stated the Hospital is very healthy and doing very well. Rumors of closing are not true. The hospital is in a good financial position.**

**Chair Day concurred with Vice Chair Paxon and stated he is unable to speculate why Elephant Butte opted to pull out of the JPA.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to TABLE sending the letter to Elephant Butte. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes**

**B. Donation of 38 HP Pro Desk mini desktop computers from Lea County OEM to Sierra County OEM.**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the Donation as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**C. New Mexico Natural Resources Coalition**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon stated that the current guide is from 2014 and he recommended that we update the Natural Resource and land management guide using Utah's format. Commission all agreed for VC Paxon to attend the meeting.**

**County Manager Vaughn stated that she is working with the COG on a grant to update the plan.**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the NM Natural Resources Coalition as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes**

**D. Mexican Wolf-Ladder Ranch**

**Chair Day stated that the Commission opposes the release of the wolf and requested County Attorney Pato compose a letter of protest.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve the Mexican Wolf-Ladder Ranch protest as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**IX. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS**

**A. Sierra County Fairgrounds Management Agreement**

**Manager Vaughn stated that she needs to amend the name to Sierra County Fair and Livestock Expo which is required for 501 3C.**

**Capital improvement requests must be to her by March 15, 2025**

**Vice Chair Paxon commended Julian Marta for working on this deal and his leadership, honesty and for being straight forward and cooperative during this process.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve the Agreement (along with County Manager Signature) as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**B. Work and Finance Plan between Sierra County and APHIS-WS**

**Vice Chair Paxon commended Ray Pierce for being so cooperative and available during the audit. He is very appreciative.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve the Plan as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**C. Approval of Unauthorized purchase: Registration Fee**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve Unauthorized Purchase as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**D. Fiscal Agent Agreement between Sierra County and The Sierra County Regional Dispatch Authority**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve Agreement as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**E. Sierra County Regional Dispatch Authority JPA**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve JPA as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxton SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS**

**A. Resolution No. 2025-47 CAP 26 Participation in local government road fund program and request for Match waiver administration by NM Department of Transportation**

**B. Resolution No. 2025-48 SB 26 Participation in Local Government Road fund program and request for Match waiver Administration by NM Department of Transportation.**

**C. Resolution 2025-49 SP 26 Participation in Local government Road Fund Program and Request for Match Waiver Administration.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxton MOVED to approve Resolution 2025-47, 2025-48, and 2025-49 as presented. (One discussion, one motion) Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**D. Resolution No. 2025-50 Accepting and Approving the FY 2023-24 Audit.**

**County Manager Vaughn stated that she has hired a Company to clean up fixed assets.**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-50 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxton SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**E. Resolution No. 2025-51 Supporting the incorporation of Ivermectin into Livestock and Wildlife feeds to combat the new world screwworm fly.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxton MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-51 as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**F. Resolution No. 2025-52 Recognizing Sugar Sand Road and bridge as a public prescriptive easement.**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-52 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**G. Resolution No. 2025-53 Adopting FY 2026-2030 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan**

**Commission Chair Day and Commission Vice Chair Paxon moved Arrey Recreation Facility to #5, Hillsboro Outfall Channel to #6, Divide Well Road to #7, and Sugar Sand Bridge Phase II to # 8 on Capital improvement Plan.**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-53 with changes discussed as presented. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION SECTION (10-15-E THRU H):**

**Commission Vice Chair Paxon MOVED to go into Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate, Pending and Threatened Litigation. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was taken with all Commissioners present voting yes.**

**District 1 – Yes**

**District 2 – Yes**

**District 3 – Yes**

**A. Coulter vs: Sierra County**

**PENDING AND THREATENED LITIGATION:**

**XI. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Commission Vice-Chair Paxon MOVED to come back into Regular Session. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes.**

**A: Direction to Staff-Coulter vs: Sierra County**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT REGULAR SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING:**

**The date and time of the next Regular Sierra County Commission Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday July 15, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sierra County Commission Chambers 1712 N. Date Street Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.**

**Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Commission Chair Day adjourned the meeting.**

Dated this 24th day of June 2025.


**SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Travis Day, Chairman

  
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Commissioner James E Paxon, Vice-Chairman

  
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Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Amy Whitehead, County Clerk

