

**SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 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, September 16, 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 (Via Telephone)
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, Ruben Lucero, , Tim Kuzdrowski, Ryan Williams, Mickey Atwell, Virginia Womack, Jessica Pena, Ernie Armijo, Shauna Hartley, John Reed, Billy Neeley, Amanda Forrister, Keith Whitney, Jennie Bierner, Louis Edwards

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: With amendment moving Presentations to before department reports.

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Regular Meeting August 19, 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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Resolution No. 2025-71 Accounts Payable**
- B. Resolution No. 2025-72 Indigent Claims**
- C. Claim of Exemption 25-003 (Horak)**
- D. Claim of Exemption 25-004 (Taylor)**

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. Arevon Energy-Proposed solar & storage project in Sierra County**
- C. Fairgrounds project update- Pluma**

Billy Pacheco GM of Pluma and Jose VP of the company Apologized to the Commission and the Community and took full responsibility for delays and miscommunication causing big delays in the project. They stated that the project was promised to be completed before the County fair and due to miscommunication by the project manager- the project will not be completed for another month or longer. The Project Manager has been fired and the GM promised to continue working double time to get it completed. Commissioners expressed their disappointment and frustration with the whole project and the promises that were not kept. Pluma wants the Community to know that this in no way was the Commission or County's fault. The delays are all the responsibility of Pluma. Jose Rios from RY Construction also voiced his frustration but promised to continue to work diligently to complete the project ASAP.

D. Opioid Remediation Collaborative Update

Shauna Hartley stated that they are getting County Specific and the goals for Sierra County are to improve education and prevention in schools, and to team up with the hospital to get access to all UA's for people who do telehealth. They plan to work with County Managers from Luna, Socorro, Catron and Sierra County on community projects.

E. Department Reports

VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:

A. August Reconciliation

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Amended Sierra Vista Hospital Joint Powers Agreement

Commission Vice Chair Paxon moved to Approve the Amendment as presented.

Commissioner Hopkins **SECONDED** the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Road Closure Request-Spaceport Authority-Unmanned Aircraft Test

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

B. Record Destruction- Treasurer

Commission Vice Chair Paxon moved to Approve the Record Destruction as presented.

Commissioner Hopkins **SECONDED** the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.

IX. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS

A. Intergovernmental Agreement between Dona Ana and Sierra County for the housing of adult detainees

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

B. Amendment to contract between Dona Ana and Sierra County

Attorney Pato asked that Commission move to table for further info.

Commission Vice Chair Paxton moved to table the Amendment as requested. Commissioner Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.

C. Mutual Aid Agreement between US Army Garrison, White Sands Missile Range, NM & Sierra County.

Commissioner Hopkins moved to approve the Agreement as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxton SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.

D. Work and financial plan between Sierra County and APHIS-WS-FY 25/26

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

E. Transportation project fund grant agreement between NMDOT and Sierra County.

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

F. Amended Opioid Remediation Collaborative Joint powers agreement

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

G. RY Construction- Poverty Creek Fire Department

Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve Ry Construction-Poverty Creek Fire Department as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxton SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

H. Approval of unauthorized purchase-Rescue Tactics

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

X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-73 FY26-Budget Adjustment

Commissioner Hopkins **MOVED** to approve Resolution No. 2025-73 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Paxon **SECONDED** the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

B. Resolution No. 2025-74 Ordering the imposition of the 2025 property tax rates.

Commission Vice Chair Paxon **MOVED** to approve Resolution No. 2025-74 as presented. Commissioner Hopkins **SECONDED** the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

C. Resolution 2025-75 Approving additional compensation for the Sierra County Assessor Pursuant to NMSA 1978

Commission Chair Day asked to table for more info. Commissioner Hopkins **MOVED** to table. Commission Vice Chair Paxon **SECONDED** the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

D. Direction to publish title and general subject matter of Ordinance No. 2025-005, amending and restating the Sierra County Solid Waste Ordinance No. 23-02

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

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

PENDING AND THREATENED LITIGATION:

A. Mendoza v. BoCC

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

XII. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 October 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sierra County Commission Chambers 1712 N. Date Street Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

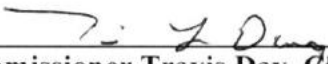
Commissioner Hopkins **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice Chair Paxon **SECONDED** the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commission Chair Day adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Dated this 16th day of September 2025.

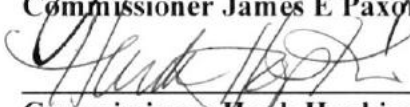
SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Travis Day, Chairman

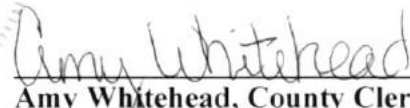


Commissioner James E Paxon, Vice-Chairman



Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Whitehead, County Clerk

