

**SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 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, December 16, 2025, at the Sierra County Commission Chambers, 1712 N Date St, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL:

**Commissioner Jim Paxon, Chairman
Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Sandy Jones, 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, , Tim Kuzdrowski, Jessica Pena, Mike Hearn, Keith Whitney, Patrice Love, Mickey Atwell, Barbara Bencomo, Laurie Chavez, Bret Mellott, Rebecca Bartoo, Connie Vigil, Jennifer Gustin

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sandy Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Regular Meeting November 21, 2025

B. Special Meeting-December 1, 2025

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. Commission Vice Chair 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. 2025-86 Accounts Payable**
- B. Resolution No. 2025-87 Indigent Claims**
- C. Claim of Exemption 25-007 (Jeffery)**

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

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

- A. Years of Service awards**
- B. Department Reports**
- C. Development of a Juvenile Treatment Facility-Presentation**
- D. Speeding in Winston**

Connie Vigil-Albuquerque NM presented to the BOCC re: the need for the Development of a Juvenile treatment facility.

She stated that we should be very proud of our County's strong leadership. After the Camino Real story by Larry Barker on 11/23/25 she began contacting everyone she could re: the need for this facility. She stated that Ryan Williams, Rolph Hechler and Amanda Forrister are in strong support. She attended a meeting of the Board of Directors and found out there is 110 acres of BLM land and a 220 sq foot building that has sat empty for more than 9 years but Department of Cultural Affairs is still paying liability insurance on it and that there is not much time because they are considering blowing up the building which would cost around 1 million dollars. She asked that our BOCC reach out to Cultural Affairs about the possible use of this building for the facility. She stated that we could work with Socorro County who is also in strong support of the idea.

Ms. Vigil stated that Rep. Rebecca Dow, Senator Crystal Brantley, and Rep. Gail Armstrong were not willing to discuss this endeavor with her.

Commission Chair Paxon stated that he fully understands the need for a facility if there are enough people willing to handle the task and that this issue will be added to the January meeting agenda.

Manager Vaughn addressed the speeding in Winston issue and stated that they will begin with rumble strips and flashing lights to see if this remedies the issue. This will be an approximate cost of \$10k

VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:

A. November Reconciliation

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Resolution No. 2025-82 Supporting NMC Legislative Priorities

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins moved to Approve the Resolution as presented.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of 2026 SP match waiver request for funding

B. Approval of 2026 CAP match waiver request for funding

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve BOTH Requests A & B as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes

IX. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS

X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2025-88 FY26-Budget Adjustment Resolution

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-88 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

B. Ordinance No. 2025-89 Establishing Calendar year 2026 hours of business and legal holidays.

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-89 as presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

C. Resolution No. 2025-90 Authorizing a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for eligible Sierra County Employees.

County Manager Vaughn stated that it will be a 3% raise starting the first pay period in January 2026.

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to Approve the COL raise as presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

D. Resolution NO. 2025-91 Delegating the Authority to make the appointment of the Livestock Producer Member and Non-Government Organization Member of the CLLA

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2025-91 as presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

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

PENDING AND THREATENED LITIGATION:

- A. Sierra County vs. Pluma**
- B. Sierra County vs. Wilson and Co.**

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

**District 1 – Yes
District 2 – Yes
District 3 – Yes**

XI. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Direction of Staff regarding Sierra County vs. Pluma**
- B. Direction of Staff regarding Sierra County vs. Wilson and Co.**

Take action necessary to hold them accountable.

**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 January 27, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sierra County Commission Chambers 1712 N. Date Street Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

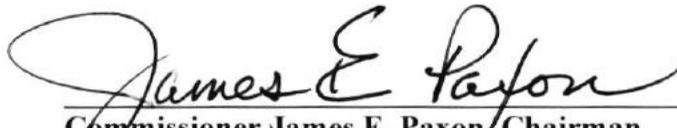
**Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to adjourn the meeting.
Commission Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Dated this 16th day of December 2025.

SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner James E. Paxon, Chairman



Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Vice-Chairman

"Approved Telephonically"

Commissioner Sandy Jones, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Whitehead, County Clerk