

**SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2026**

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, February 17, 2026, 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, Steve Mull-Sentinel, Patrick Flores, Tim Kuzdrowski, Jessica Pena, Ernie Armijo, Shane Atwell, Keith Whitney, Patrice Love, Ryan Williams, Billy Neeley, Candace Chavez, Bret Mellott, Anthony James, Tara Manning, Dan Sosnowsky, Patrick Pharris (Gateway Alliance)

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Regular Meeting January 27, 2026

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Jones 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. 2026-14 Accounts Payable**
- B. Resolution No. 2026-15 Indigent Claims**
- C. Indigent Burial B2026-01**
- D. Indigent Burial B2026-02**

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in one motion. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins 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. FY26 2nd Quarter Budget Report**
- D. Prescribed fire and seasonal outlook (Tony James)**
- E. Truth or Consequences Animal shelter-Fundraiser (Tara Manning)**
- F. Sierra Gateway Alliance presentation (Patrick Pharris)**

VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:

- A. January 2026 Reconciliation**

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Road closure request: NM Spaceport Authority**

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

B. Approval of 2027 SP request for funding

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

C. Approval of 2027 SB Request for funding

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

D. Approval of 2027 CAP request for funding

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

E. Proposed Realignment of the EB Delta Channel (discussion only)

F. Sierra County Road department infrastructure placement permit

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

IX. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS

A. RFP# 2026-12-001- Resource Management plan-Contract award/Notice to proceed-LOI Engineers

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

B. MOU between the County of Sierra and DWI program and the NM Department of finance and administration.

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

C. Statement of Assurances Local DWI grant and distribution program

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

X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2026-16 Budget amendment

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

B. Resolution No. 2026-17 Fixed asset policy

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

C. Resolution No. 2026-18 Certifying approval of the expenditure of additional funds to provide complete funding for the Sierra County Emergency Operation project

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

D. Resolution 2026-19 Authorizing the county to submit an application to the Department of Finance to participate in the local DWI grant and Distribution program.

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve the Resolution as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins 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:

No Executive Session

XI. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Action was taken

**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 March 17, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sierra County Commission Chambers 1712 N. Date Street Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

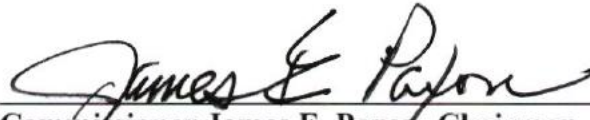
Commissioner Jones MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Dated this 17th day of February 2026.

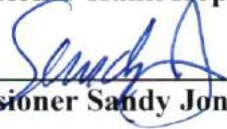
SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



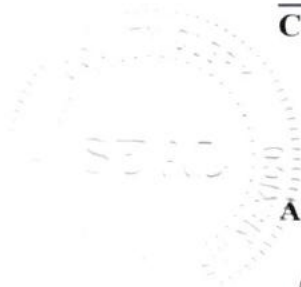
Commissioner James E. Paxon, Chairman



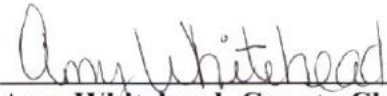
Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Vice-Chairman



Commissioner Sandy Jones, Member



ATTEST:



Amy Whitehead, County Clerk