

**SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 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, April 21, 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, Keith Whitney, Patrice Love, Ryan Williams, Kayce Edwards, Billy Neeley, Candace Chavez, Barbara Bencomo, Ricardo Moldonado, Maja Perez, Michael Wright, Bret Mullott, Louis Edwards, Michelle Atwell, Josie Holly, Arla Ertz, John Wilks, Chris Gardner, Jennie Sheppard, Shawna Hartley

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Regular Meeting March 17, 2026

**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

**John Wilks spoke against the Spaceport and expressed his concern that it has
Never benefited Sierra County and there are too many Federal taxes.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Resolution No. 2026-24 Accounts Payable**
- B. Resolution No. 2026-25 Indigent Claims**
- C. Lodgers tax board fund recommendation for Kingston Ghost Town
Museum**

**Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as
presented in one motion. 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. Black Fire Recovery, Phase 1 EA**
- D. Opioid Remediation Collaborative**
- E. FY26-3rd Quarter Budget Report for 2026/2027 Budget**

**Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve the FY 26 Budget as
presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried
with Commissioners District 1-2-3 voting yes.**

- F. Patillo, Brown, & Hill LLC-FY25 Audit Report**
- G. Sierra County Assessor annual report for 2026/2027 budget**

VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:

- A. March 2026 Reconciliation**

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve the March Reconciliation as presented. Commissioner Jones 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 (May)

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

IX. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS

A. MOU between the New Mexico Department of Health and Sierra Co.

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

B. USFS & Sierra Law Enforcement Agreement 26-LE-11030600-063

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

C. RFP#2026-03-011 for annual financial audit services-Contract award to Patillo, Brown & Hill, LLP

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

X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2026-26 FY26 Budget Amendment

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-26 as presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

B. Resolution No. 2026-27 Accepting and Approving the FY 2024-25 Audit

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-27 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

C. Resolution # 2026-28 Supporting Country of Origin Labeling for beef

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-27 as presented. Commission Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

D. Resolution No. 2026-29 Confirming Sierra County to participate in the NM Department of Transportation Project Fund call for projects.

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-29 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

E. Proclamation Declaring May 2026 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Sierra County.

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve the Proclamation as presented. Commission Chair Paxon 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. County of Sierra v. Pluma

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.

XI. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

A. Commissioner Jones moved to direct Attorney Pato and Manager Vaughn to put Puma Construction on Notice of default and to inform the Commission of next steps.

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 May 26, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sierra County Commission Chambers 1712 N. Date Street Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

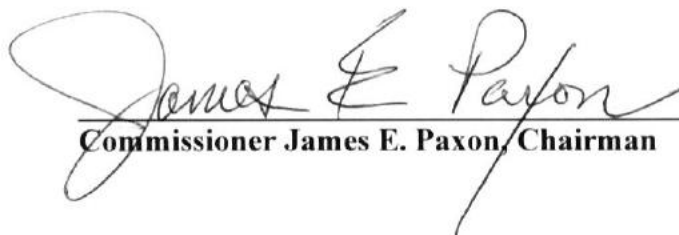
Commissioner Jones MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Dated this 21st day of April 2026.

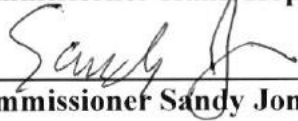
SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



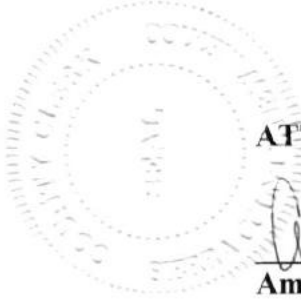
Commissioner James E. Paxon, Chairman



Commissioner Hank Hopkins, Vice-Chairman



Commissioner Sandy Jones, Member



ATTEST:



Amy Whitehead, County Clerk