SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 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, September 15, 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, Tim Kuzdrowski, Jessica Pena, Ernie Armijo, Josh Baker, Patrice Love, Ryan Williams, Kacy Edwards, Jan Porter Carrejo
See attached attendance log

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. Special Meeting-August 7, 2026

B. Regular meeting August 18, 2026
C. Special Meeting September 4, 2026

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Over 23 people stood up and spoke about the ongoing Data Center discussion. See attached public comment log. Most were members of a local group called Project Consequences and they all stand in STRONG opposition of ANY data center coming into or any proposal to bring a data center to Sierra County. They want to make sure their voices are heard loud and clear and they want our Commissioners to be honest and transparent. They asked that the recently passed 18 month moratorium be held up and that time to be utilized to gather further information and statistics.
David Bean and Dawz Cochran (residents of Las Palomas) each stood up and expressed their disappointment in the way the flood situation has been handled in Las Palomas Canyon and asked that something be done about it.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Resolution No. 2026-59 Accounts Payable
B. Resolution No. 2026-60 Indigent Claims
C. Indigent Burial B2026-09
D. Indigent Burial B2026-10
E. Indigent Burial B2026-11
F. Indigent Burial B2026-12

Commissioner 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

VI. BOARD OF FINANCE:

A. August 2026 Reconciliation

VII. PUBLIC HEARING 11:20am

A. Repeal of Aerovironment LEDA Ofdinance, No. 20-004

Commissioner Jones recused himself stating that he is a Contractor for Aerovironment.

Repeal was explained and hearing was closed at 11:22pm as the vote will appear further down the agenda

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

i.

A. Road closure request- NM Spaceport Authority (All of October)

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

X. CONTRACT-AGREEMENTS-PROCUREMENTS

A. MOU between the City of T or C and Sierra County for the successful completion of Riverwalk Trail

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

X. RESOLUTIONS – ORDINANCES – PROCLAMATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2026-61 FY-27 Budget Adjustment Resolution

Commissioner Hopkins MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-61 as presented. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1-2-3 voting yes.

B. Resolution No. 2026-62 Confirming Sierra County to participate in the NM Department of Transportation Project Fund

Commissioner Jones MOVED to approve Resolution No. 2026-62 as presented. Commission Vice Chair Hopkins SECONDED the

motion. Motion carried with Districts 1-2-3 voting yes after the Match Waiver language is removed

C. Repealing Sierra County aerovironment Leda Ordinance No. 20-004

Commission Vice Chair Hopkins MOVED to approve Repealing Ordinance 20-004 as presented. Commission Chair Paxon SECONDED the motion. Motion carried with Commissioner Districts 1--3 voting yes. Commission District 2 with recusal.

XI. Executive Session (SECTION 10-15, E-H)

N/A

XII. OPEN SESSION ACTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

N/A

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 20 , 2026 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. Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Dated this 15th day of September 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