

NEWS FROM COMMISSIONER LIZ STEFANICS  
DISTRICT 5 - SANTA FE COUNTY  
JANUARY 31, 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION SUMMARY

Richard Varela and Erle Wright were recently honored at the NM EDGE County College & CPM Graduation Ceremony at the NMAC Legislative Conference held at in Santa Fe.

Mr. Wright earned the status of NM Certified County GIS Specialist and Mr. Varela earned the designation of Certified Public Supervisors (CPS).



*L to R: Erle Wright – GIS, Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Clerk Valerie Espinoza, and Richard Varela – Elections Bureau at the 2012 NMAC Legislative Conference in Santa Fe*

**NIXLE PROVIDES A FREE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO ALL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES!**

Nixle is a Community Information Service that sends alerts and information from the local sheriff, schools and community agencies and organizations immediately available to you over your mobile phone, email, and computer. Your account can be customized so you receive the information that matters most to you. Here are a few examples of how Nixle and public safety agencies teamed up to help keep communities across the county informed in 2011:

- Notified residents of storm updates, road closures and road safety during inclement weather
- Alerted the community to missing persons and updates when located
- Sent severe weather and wildfire outbreak alerts and evacuation notices
- Kept the public informed of special outreach events, i.e. Catalytic Converter engraving and Fix a Leak Week-water conservation

In addition, last year sheriff and fire departments and other municipal agencies used Nixle to disseminate information on

missing children and elderly citizens, wanted criminals, and to deliver crucial community news, such as safety tips and traffic conditions. Moreover, all of this was done at no cost to the taxpayer.

By registering at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) or texting your zip code to 888777, you can receive information by email, text/SMS or online. iPhone users can [download the Nixle application](#) and take advantage of real-time location updating and other up-to-the minute services. [Click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to register using your mobile phone.

*Thanks, Liz*

Here is a summary of the actions taken by the Santa Fe Board of County Commission. All five of the Commissioners were present.

The December 13, 2011 BCC minutes were approved.

The Consent Calendar was approved; several items were removed from Consent for further discussion.

The BCC accepted the resignation of Ken Coleman from the DWI Planning Council.

#### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Finance Director Teresa Martinez provided an overview of the Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2011.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

A resolution restructured the Road Advisory Committee to a 12-person membership. The Memberships will be divided into Commission Districts and based on mileage within those districts. The resolution passed 4-1 (Commissioner Mayfield voted against).

Authorization to publish Title and General Summary to amend Ordinance 2010-17 “To expand the list of roadways within Santa Fe County where engine retarders/Jake brakes are prohibited” passed unanimously.

The roads will include,  
I-25 between the Old Pecos Trail exit and Lamy exit at US 285  
NM 14 between mile marker 23 and 38  
CR 42/Camino de los Abuelos extending east from SR 14 to SR 41  
CR 45/Bonanza Creek Road extending north from SR 14 to I-25 Frontage Road  
CR 70/W. Alameda and extending from the City of Santa Fe limits west to Via Abajo Road  
SR 344 from mile post 1 through 7

A resolution authorizing staff to file an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that will result in advancing the County’s long-term effort to restore the Santa Fe River by providing a public greenway and trail. There is no cost to the County in acquiring the 0.58 acres (unanimously approved).

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

Santa Fe County Attorney Steve Ross gave a presentation on legal obligations of ICE holds at County Detention Facilities.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER**

IT introduced three new employees: Daniel Fresquez, Jim Sisneros and Robert Martinez. Manager Miller noted that new employees have been added to other departments.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Staff reviewed legislation noting the County was seeking design funding for senior centers and libraries. Staff is tracking bills regarding teen court as well as indigent providers. To view all resolutions passed by the BCC in support of legislation visit [www.santafecounty.org/county\\_manager/lobbying](http://www.santafecounty.org/county_manager/lobbying). Deputy County Assessor Perez discussed “Tax Lightning” SB 145.

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Public Works Director Adam Leigland provided an update on the following projects:

- Reuse of portable buildings for a temporary extension of the Eldorado Library and creation of Wellness Center in Stanley.
- Identifying eight to ten formal parking spots at CR 72A/Bishops Lodge with improved signage for the trailhead.
- Nambe Community Center is 80 percent complete.
- The Judicial Facility Master Plan regarding inventory, needs assessment and a financial analysis will be available in April

- The state-of-the-art Pojoaque Wastewater Treatment Plant is operational and in accordance with the MOU, the County will take over the plant once it achieves operational capacity of 50 percent. At this point, it is at 18 percent and it is estimated the 50 percent will be achieved in about 15 or 20 years.

County Manager Katherine Miller spoke to the Commission about Low Income Property Tax Rebate. Pursuant to ordinance, Santa Fe County residents paying property taxes and earning annually between \$8,000 and \$24,000 are entitled to a rebate up to \$350. The Department of Tax and Revenue administers the program and recently sent the County notification that \$420,000 was rebated for Tax Year 2011. This is a 30 percent increase over the previous year and a draw of \$70,000 will be necessary from the County's contingency fund to cover this rebate. 1,442 tax returns met the statutory requirements. The medium rebate was \$292. There was Commission consensus to review the enabling ordinance.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Health Policy and Planning Commission - Richard Rodriguez (District 2), Bertha Blanchard (District 4), Catherine Kinney and Shirlee Davidson (District 5). The appointment to District 3 is pending.

Maternal and Child Health Council - Elias Ponton, Lori Pearson-Kramer and Bonnie Keene.

Ethics Board - David Mittle was appointed as a member (he had been serving as an alternate). Additional appointments will be made once all applications are processed.

#### **RECOGNITIONS**

The Board passed a proclamation recognizing Ben Lujan, Sr., Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives, for his dedication and resolute commitment to Public Service on behalf of the people of New Mexico and Santa Fe County.

Chris Madrid, a Santa Fe County resident from Stanley, NM, recently competed on the television show "The Best in the Business" where Chris won the title of "The Best in the Business, Blacksmith" the Commission recognized him as "Home Town Hero" for his accomplishments.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

A resolution supporting the Assessment of the Feasibility, Commercialization and Deployment of Microgrid systems within Santa Fe County to support economic and workforce development, broad renewable energy penetration and effective energy conservation solutions at the consumer level was unanimously approved.

A resolution in support of Senator Wirth's legislation SB 9, which closes the tax loophole for corporations was unanimously approved.

Transferring the cable franchise in northern Santa Fe County from US Cable of Texas to Baja Broadband (public hearing).

#### **ORDINANCES**

An ordinance revising the County's Affordable Housing Ordinance to replace the 30 percent requirement for major subdivisions with a 15 percent requirement; and for minor subdivisions from 16 percent to 8 percent. Provisions include alternative means of compliance and changes to the appreciation share lien to protect long-term affordability were unanimously approved.

An ordinance authorizing a grant and loan from the State Water Trust Board for a vegetative management and bank stabilization on the Rio Quemado was unanimously approved.

All BCC meetings are broadcast live at [www.santafecounty.org](http://www.santafecounty.org), Comcast Channel 28 and Que Suave AM 810. To view recorded video of this BCC meeting, go to [http://santafecounty.org/video\\_on\\_demand/](http://santafecounty.org/video_on_demand/) or check GOV TV Channel 28 listings. Approved transcripts of this meeting will be available within 10 working days of approval at [www.santafecounty.org](http://www.santafecounty.org).

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