

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL STATE OF THE COUNTY
MEETING

September 1, 2015

Robert A. Anaya, Chair - District 3
Miguel Chavez, Vice Chair - District 2
Henry Roybal - District 1
Liz Stefanics - District 5

Kathy Holian - District 4 [Excused]

SANTA FE COUNTY
STATE OF THE COUNTY MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 1, 2015

I. A. This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 5:37 p.m. by Chair Robert Anaya in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

Roll was called by County Clerk Geraldine Salazar and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

- Commissioner Robert A. Anaya, Chair
- Commissioner Miguel Chavez
- Commissioner Henry Roybal
- Commissioner Liz Stefanics

Members Excused:

- Commissioner Kathy Holian

- I. C. Presentation of Colors: Sheriff's Department Honor Guard**
- D. National Anthem: Margie Romero**
- E. God Bless America: Robert Martinez II**
- F. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Liz Stefanics**
- G. State Pledge: Commissioner Henry Roybal**
- H. Moment of Reflection: Commissioner Miguel Chavez**

I. Approval of Agenda

- 1. Amendments**
- 2. Tabled or Withdrawn Items**

CHAIR ANAYA: Before we go any farther I would like to entertain a motion if I could for an approval of the agenda with one requested amendment to the agenda. Commissioners, I would request that we afford our honorable Sheriff, Robert A. Garcia, to be the first speaker, followed by the honorable Gus Martinez, followed by the honorable Geraldine Salazar, followed by the honorable Shannon B. Bulman, followed by the honorable Patrick Varela, followed by Commissioners Liz Stefanics, Henry P.

Roybal, Commissioner Miguel M. Chavez, concluding with my remarks, Robert A. Anaya. Is there a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER STEFANICS: So moved.

CHAIR ANAYA: Motion from Commissioner Stefanics. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Second from the Vice Chair, Commissioner Chavez.

The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote.

II. Introduction of Visiting Dignitaries

CHAIR ANAYA: I'd like to say thank you to those that are here, those that are also listening on AM 810 KSWV, those that are watching the stream as well as those on Comcast. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for coming and acknowledge some of our distinguished guests present here today. Representative Jim Trujillo, our honorable Mayor of the City of Santa Fe, Javier Gonzales, Town Councilor of the Town of Edgewood, Mr. John Abram, Patricia Dominguez on behalf of Senator Heinrich's office, and Mr. Brian Snyder, the City Manager of Santa Fe.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for coming this evening to talk about the things that we've been working on here at Santa Fe County. Those things that have happened in previous times in working up to this day, and those things that we want to work on moving forward. I'm going to leave my remarks brief at this time to afford our distinguished elected officials the opportunity to speak about those things that they've worked on and those things that they aspire to do in the coming years in partnership with our local governments, the City of Santa Fe, the City of Espanola, the Town of Edgewood, with our legislators, with our congressional delegation and with our pueblos, and our communities from one end of Santa Fe County, the nearly 2,000 square miles to the other of Santa Fe County.

So without any further ado I would ask for a warm round of applause for our distinguished Santa Fe County Sheriff, Mr. Robert A. Garcia.

III. State of Santa Fe County

H. Honorable Robert A. Garcia, County Sheriff

ROBERT GARCIA (County Sheriff): I believe this is the first State of the County Address that I've ever heard of. Am I correct, Commissioner Anaya? Very good. County Commissioners, elected officials, Mr. Mayor, Representative Trujillo, I took down a few bullet points of what we've done in the last four years as your elected sheriff in looking forward to finishing this term and progress as we move forward. I've worked, I think pretty close with the Commission, with the County Manager, Finance, in trying to get to where we're at and we've come a long way.

I want to start off with assuring our public that our office security and property controls are in place at the Sheriff's Office. I want to assure our public that their tax dollars are not being spent unwisely and accountability is one of the things that will be

put in place. Office security now, any member of the agency that enters that building, the Sheriff's Office, we will be able to know at what time, their reasons for going in and as an example I have a custodian of property that is now, along with a supervisor, in command of captain, that has full control. I have no control. And the only way he can enter that supply room in order to issue equipment to our deputies is he not only swipes a key but his fingerprint must also be recognized before entry is made.

Property crimes in Santa Fe County, which is one of the biggest issues that we have facing our county as a city I know would acknowledge is property crimes for the last four years have decreased every year for the last four years. For 2015 we are still below, hoping to finish with bringing property crimes down.

Our human resources, with the help of the Commission and Finance and being fiscally responsible and actually involving ourselves, and I believe we're the only elected office in Santa Fe County now that participates in a performance-based budget. So I have to show the needs for the Sheriff's Office and not just what we wish for. So accountability in that area. We have been able to increase 16 deputy positions in the last four years bringing them to a current level of 94 sworn deputy positions, certified, sworn deputy positions. That includes the Sheriff to the lowest rank cadet. I have eight deputies that are at the academy right now. They just started in August so it usually goes a 16-week cycle before we have them out on the street on their own, and I have two vacancies at this point. So we just interviewed today. We're looking at a few laterals, so we're hoping to have a full operational deputy positions by hopefully the end of September.

I have also added two additional animal control officers and one public relations and media coordinator that assists me in dealing with the public requests and media requests. I'm hoping as we work together, as we move forward in my last term, I'm hoping to increase the number of deputies to at least 100 before I leave office.

We have a continued strong effort in DWI prevention and enforcement. Since 2011 to the present we have seized 367 vehicles from drunk drivers. Of the 367 vehicles that were seized, 87 of those vehicles have been forfeited to Santa Fe County and have been auctioned. The money that comes from the seized vehicles goes back into the DWI program in our continued efforts to combat DWIs. 196 of those vehicles were agreed upon where we placed boots for a 30-day boot program. Each boot for a 30-day period runs \$600 for the individual to boot that vehicle for the 30-day period. If that vehicle is found being driven by the same individual that was caught earlier that we move directly for seizing and forfeiting that vehicle.

We have also implemented a motorcycle patrol unit, traffic enforcement unit, and we have one right now and two on the way, hoping that we can have it on the street by the end of September. There are people that have called in and usually you can spot a cruiser out there a lot easier than you do a motorcycle unit so it's become very effective. And again, I'm hoping to have that second motorized vehicle out by the end of September.

I have also re-implemented our canine program. We have one deputy that was interested so we have one canine unit and at this point we also assist other agencies with – Deputy Jackson is the canine's name, and you also saw three members of an honor guard that was implemented during my last four years and these are three members out of 12 who posted your colors here today.

Body cameras, you see this going around the state and the nation that there are some

agencies that are hesitant about placing lapel cameras on your law enforcement deputies as they go about doing their duties. Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office implemented this and made it mandatory for every single individual and we placed this back three-plus years ago. Three years and plus months ago. So we've been one of the first agencies in law enforcement that have been leading in that direction and it's been very helpful.

Agency-wide training on the use of Naloxone, mostly or better known as the Narcan program. Every deputy in my agency has been trained and as an example, on the first day of training within hours Naloxone was used on an OD person and was able to bring him back out of his state. About a month ago we used it for the second time and again we were able to possibly save the lives out of bringing these individuals out of their opiate overdoses.

I've also implemented bicycle patrols. These are pedal cyclists that are concentrating efforts in residential areas, and again that's a crime prevention effort and we'll continue to do so, especially during the warm months.

I want to report that calls for service, and I'm only going back to 2014 but it's usually about the same average per year, but in 2014 Santa Fe County Sheriff's deputies responded to 19,033 dispatched calls for service. Self-initiated calls, where a deputy is out on patrol as an example and comes across something where he's not dispatched but takes it upon himself to take action such as DWI, we've initiated in 2014 66,037 calls. In 2015, up to date, we've dispatched 12,764, self-initiated 43,205. So this goes to show that we do keep pretty busy and will continue to do so. I want to thank Commissioner Anaya for the invite and I will be open for questions but I'm sure there are other speakers here that want to come up and present their case. Thank you.

CHAIR ANAYA: I'd like to thank the Sheriff for his comments. I think it's important that the public hear from all of the elected officials that day in and day out deal with the constituencies across the county and even throughout the region. So let's once again give our honorable Sheriff, the Undersheriff and the entire staff at the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department a round of applause.

I would like to acknowledge Torrance County Commissioner Julia DuCharme, that joined us. Commissioner, thank you for being here. And also our Health Policy and Planning Chair, Ms. Judy Williams.

III. E. Honorable Gus Martínez, County Assessor

CHAIR ANAYA: At this time I'd like to ask the honorable Gus Martinez to please come forward, our Santa Fe County Assessor.

GUS MARTINEZ (County Assessor): Good evening. I want to thank the Santa Fe County constituents here for allowing me the opportunity to serve them and the Assessor's Office staff that has taken the vision that I have for that office to make this office a model office for the State of New Mexico amongst other Assessor's Offices, as well as I want to thank the County Manager, the Commission, for helping me in my transition to become County Assessor and helping with that transition.

So where we've been: In the past years we've been collecting and updating data while transitioning to a digital technology. Nine years ago we implemented the Assessor's first true CAMA system, which what we do is we appraise data and collect

data with that. And the result of the CAMA, we began creating and storing appraisal data digitally rather than on paper, beginning scanning and archiving documents historically, referenced all property record cards, and with that created 1,500 omitted assessments which brought in about \$7.2 million additional tax revenue on the tax rolls. And that was a big result of the data collection project that we have done.

In the past eight months, when I took over office January 1st, we implemented changes and completed many projects. We've completed and reviewed the reappraisal of Aguiland Condos, commercial properties, building permit process and manufactured homes, which hasn't been done over 20 years. So it was a big project there. We've updated and revamped our Assessor's website. We've put research tools on there to better navigate for constituents, better information out there so that people are – they can have that information at their fingertips. We have implemented live chat, which is something that we offer with a customer service that people can come on the internet and just basically ask questions and we can answer those there. I believe that we're the first County government or state government that offers that service there that I'm aware of.

We've created informational videos for constituents to get information and again, the website is easy to navigate. We've conducted several outreach meetings throughout the county. We've reorganized our office and staff to operate more efficiently and created a more professional appearance in our office. I want to thank the County for allowing us to get new cubicles and re-update our office which hadn't been done for about 25 years.

We also – we have increased our enhancements of professionalism and my goal was to get all our appraisers to become New Mexico certified appraisers which we're educated and we're able to basically help the constituent a lot better with the education we have provided, customer service and data reliability by providing more information again to the public.

The next is where we're currently at. This is our staff education. We have 15 appraisers that are New Mexico certified appraisers. We have five appraisers that are appraiser 3's, one that is an appraiser 2, and five which are appraiser 1. For the first time that I can remember in a long time we sent out three new appraisers out for school. It's the first time that all three have passed their first course, which I was pretty excited, and giving the opportunity for – I want to thank the County for that, for the EDGE classes and getting our staff educated.

For the first year on the notice of value I had an idea of getting the exemptions out there so people can apply. So basically what I did was we put this on there: Please read enclosed important information that you may qualify for. So we put valuation freeze, head of family exemption, veteran's exemption, agricultural valuation. And the result of us putting that on for the first time ever we have gotten the results. Currently when we sent it out we got 48 new disabled veterans exemptions. We have 1,348 new head of family exemptions, 275 new veteran exemptions, 191 new valuation limitation applications, a total of 1,862 exemptions that were applied for new based off of that.

The online chats there, we implemented this year. It was a big task but my goal is to provide customer service to the public, that they're able to ask questions. So this is just based on July and August. We had 607 live chats that our office took, and 215 calls. In August it was 433 and 198. So chats totals versus the trend. Every chat eliminates a potential walk-in and phone call and that helps us better serve the public. And as you can

see the trend goes down in our peak years is when we have protests and as it trends down and then it goes back up with the NoV's go out. So in those three months we've had 1,761 total live chats.

The next is our website, which I'm big on technology and getting information out to the public in which I want to thank the staff. I want to thank Daniel, everybody there. We've kind of put our ideas together to get more information out to the public and it's worked. We've had over 1,000 hits per day on our website, which is averaging roughly around 30,000 hits per month on our website, giving information out to the public and I'll tell you, a lot of the phone calls have died down to the fact that we have a lot of information out there, a new parcel map search, a notice of value, pay taxes online, which goes to the Treasurer, and a lot of informational videos.

The next is just getting that information out which is the informational videos, the head of family exemption, veteran's exemption, understanding your NoV, your valuation freeze, just trying to get as much information to get people educated of what we do and I want to thank Daniel for that because he's really put those videos together and getting the office together to just put it in a new direction.

Outreach is big for me. I enjoy going to the outreaches and educating the constituents there, because I truly believe that's where we meet people out there and we built relationships within the community and so the month of January through current we've gone out to – we've done 39 outreaches which averages roughly about five a month. We talk to the constituent, we go out there for protests to ensure that their questions are answered. We go to their community, whether it's in Edgewood, whether it's up north or around Santa Fe for the month of April. We also have gone out to community days for the first time, homebuilders' show, title companies and realtors and social media. It's a new thing for our office and we're starting that up and just want to get more information out to the public to just know what we do and what we're doing at all times.

Currently right now we have – we just started 167 followers. An average post reached 289 people, five followers on Twitter, ten followers on Instagram and Youtube videos that we've posted on there, 503 views, and we have seven informational videos currently.

What we do is every week on a Tuesday we put the fact of the week for our office, and what this does is educate the public and the constituent of basically a fact about the office that they may not know, and so we kind of generate that and so we put that on there, and this one there is just talking about the claim of refund if they miss the protest process. So it's been working out pretty well.

And where we're going, in the next eight years, we're wanting to utilize and innovate methods of technology to increase accuracy, productivity, and customer service. We currently have aerial photography of oblique imagery which we're utilizing right now which helps us do a re-inspection without going on their property, because there's a lot of property owners that don't like us to go on their property there. And so this year is the first year that we're starting a reappraisal that we haven't done for probably – we just completed a data collection project for the first time really – I wouldn't say boots on the ground because with the technology we can go with aerial photography and do that, but the first time we're starting in Edgewood this year and move up on our fifth year to up

north area.

We're developing written and business policies and procedures which we're currently doing right now. We'll continue to increase customer service to the public. Like I said, building relations within the county, keeping the public informed on projects and goals via a webpage or videos, anything that we can get that out there. We're implementing an e-file system aimed at filing appeals online so we're going to try and get that this next protest period where people can file an appeal online anywhere in the world without – between the month of April and May when we sent out notice of value. I just want to say that we're not just going to appeal to the people that are technically minded but also going out to the community with the elderly and ensuring that we answer their questions out there where they're at.

And also we're going to be implementing electronic delivery of notice of values as well as with the Treasurer's Office. My goal is just to do the best job possible. With this office is great responsibility and I take my responsibility in that office seriously and I want to assure the public that you're going to see progress year by year what our office is doing and being accountable to the public and getting that information out to whether it's the public or the County Commission working together as a unit. My goal is to see the County – I know we're working well together, collaborating more with what my office is doing and how it affects the Commission, how it affects the different departments. That's my goal and how it affects the public.

So in the eight years, these are the goals that I set for my office and every year we want to set goals and continue to strive to get better and to make Santa Fe County a better place, not only for the constituents but for the employees and getting that information out for the public. Anyways, thank you for your time and if you have any questions feel free to call me at the office or come down to the office. Thank you guys for your time.

CHAIR ANAYA: One of the things that I think is going to be recurring thing and theme, in fact I know it is, is that professionalism, competence and respect is throughout the entire Santa Fe County elected officials and staff as well. Let's please thank again our Santa Fe County Assessor and his entire team, the Deputy Assessor and your whole staff, Mr. Gus Martinez. Let's give him another round of applause.

I'd also like to acknowledge that we have Deputy County Manager Mr. David Trujillo, Rio Arriba County, Deputy County Manager. Let's give him a round of applause.

III. F. Honorable Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

CHAIR ANAYA: It's now my distinct pleasure to introduce the honorable Geraldine Salazar, our Santa Fe County Clerk.

GERALDINE SALAZAR (County Clerk): Good evening everyone, Chair Anaya, Commissioners. Thank you for this opportunity to share with the public and our guests tonight what we do in the County Clerk's Office. There are many variables, many tasks, many things that occur in the Clerk's Office. Many of you know what we do; some of you don't. So in an attempt to educate more and present to you what we do in a very small portion of time, presenting some of what we do from the past, the present and the future.

County Clerk is an elected official. The Clerk is the ex officio clerk for the Board of County Commissioners and Probate Court. The Clerk is responsible for recording all official acts of the BCC including minutes and agendas and enacted ordinances and resolutions. Real estate documents, probate documents, liens, plats, marriage licenses, mortgages, and accepts Santa Fe County lodgers' tax payments. The responsibility is also to preserve and maintain the records in the County Clerk's Office for Santa Fe County. We must protect those records and preserve them in perpetuity so that they're always accessible to the public or for anyone that needed those records.

We also conduct primary, general, statewide, special and school district elections. The Clerk is the official election official for the County. We work closely with the Secretary of State and we also have a new Bureau of Elections Chief, Steve Fresquez up front. It's a pleasure to have him on board. He comes to us with many years of election experience at the state level. He's worked at the County in the past, and he's also worked in private industry for elections. So he brings that to our County. Currently what we're doing in the County is that he's been testing the machines in preparing for the primary election. He has all of the Bureau of Elections staff at the warehouse where they are literally testing those machines and coming up if there's any problems and documenting that so that we can present it to the Secretary of State's Office and also Dominion, the company that provides these machines for us.

People have been recording documents in Santa Fe County since 1848. We have a long history, and prior to that, we have records that date back to Spanish warranty deeds also, deeds that in previous governments. But in our office we have from 1848 to the present. Years ago people used to write their documents for their property. They would have two original copies, one would be recorded in the office and the other – one would be presented and left in the office and the other would be given back to the person who brought the record to the Clerk's Office.

Recording – we do this on a daily basis. Every day we have people come into our office and record documents. On average, the Clerk's Office records 133 documents per day, and that's not including marriage licenses or probate records. Today, September 1, 2015, we launched a new web interface to give access to subscribers for a minimal fee. This service is called Clerk Track Web.

Our first warranty deed record was created in 1847 and recorded in 1848, and it was microfilmed February 28, 1992. Records are indexed in our hard-covered index books from 1848 to 1991 and in our Clerk Track database from 1991 to the present. On December 3, 2003 our office began scanning images into the database directly. These can be found in the Clerk Track record system between 1848 and December 3, 2003, records can be found in books and on microfiche. We have a set of books called the Grantor/Grantee Index Books. They are used to locate documents that were recorded prior to 1991. After this year our Grantor/Grantee Indexes can be found in our computer system. In 2004 the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office began a scanning, digitizing and indexing project. It has taken us many years to get to where we're at. We're half-way there. The goal is to become totally paperless and have all of our records digitized. This project has included full-time staff, part-time staff, temp staff and also grant employees that we've hired throughout the years. Currently we get a lot of support from two scanners that scan every day half-time, because it's a tedious process to sit there all day

to scan into the system. So what I have are two part-time so that they don't get tired of the process and so that they can have breaks in between also.

The Clerk's Office continues to work towards becoming totally digital as I mentioned before so that we can preserve our records and eventually transfer all of the hard copies and the micro-fiche to the state archives.

Marriage licenses, the first marriage record on the record was sold on March 3, 1900 to James Smith and Minnie Hawking for the fee of \$1.04. On August 23, 2013, the first same gender marriage license was issued in the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office. That Friday 52 marriage licenses were issued and 114 the following Monday. The Clerk's Office continues to issue marriage licenses daily. Our office averages about five to six licenses today. As you can see the diversity of people that come to our office, we have people that come from out of the country, such as this couple from Poland recently. We have couples from Pecos, couples from within the City of Santa Fe, within the County of Santa Fe and also couples from out of state. Our couple that came this summer on the right is from New York. Santa Fe is a known place to get married. People want to be here. They want to share in our community part of their history with what we have to offer in Santa Fe County.

The Santa Fe County Clerk is working toward increasing the fee from \$25 to \$50 through legislative efforts with the Clerks' Affiliate, since we have one of the lowest marriage license fees in the nation.

Now for elections. In the past Santa Fe County utilized AVVC Advantage Direct Recording electronic voting machines and later M-100s, the paper ballot system. Several years ago the legislature passed a law stating that we needed to be a paper ballot system in the State of New Mexico and that has proven to be effective. If for any reason we have to go back and look at our records, our voter records or the election process or the ballots, they're there for us to utilize. Thank you.

Currently Santa Fe County uses Dominion machines. The two machines that we're using which were recently purchased for the previous election that we held – one is called an ICE machine and the other is called an ICP. The ICE machine has proven to be much more efficient, much quicker. If we look at the ICP machine it's a little slower, it's handicap accessible, but it takes a lot of time, so eventually we hope we'll just be utilizing 100 percent ICE machines and then we'll see what other technologies develop to assist us in speeding up the process for ICPs.

Santa Fe County currently has 89 precincts and we'll be adding one more in 2016 totaling 90 precincts. There's a threshold. Once we have so many voters at a polling place and that's documented through our election and voting process, then we have to create another precinct to ensure that no one is disenfranchised because people may be waiting, it may take too long, so we have to split up and create another precinct. And that will happen based on the statistics that we have.

The Clerk's Office is in the planning process towards offering VCCs. This will allow any voter to go into any voting convenience center to cast their vote throughout Santa Fe County. We hope that this will eliminate or minimize long lines and wait times at polling places. If Santa Fe County chooses to use VCCs there will be an approximate total of 30 centers instead of the current 51 polling places. If we go that route, as I mentioned before, anyone can go to any one of these centers and vote. And as I stated, we're in the planning

process. We're looking at, and we have mentioned in the past to go with vote centers, but I want to look at this seriously. Because if we go to VCCs and I'm looking at what the ballot is going to look like in the next election, which may be very lengthy with bonds and it's a presidential election, will that impact us? Will people be frustrated with the new system for voting? I have to think about this critically and my staff is working diligently putting together a plan, thinking about the numbers, about mapping, and if we should go to 30 polling sites.

Next, this is the staff that I work with. These are the people who represent you and me and work with you every day. They help the process of elections. They help with recording and records. What I ask from my staff is that they provide excellent public service and customer service and that they be accountable to the public. So every day that they're there it's important that they take their job serious and that we are available to our customers on a daily basis, and if we can't help them we look for where we can direct them for a next step. If it's an Assessor issue, we will send them to the Assessor's; if it's a Treasurer issue we will send them to the Treasurer. Whatever we can do we will assist our customers. We're at the front end, just like the Treasurer. We get a lot of the walk-ins coming into our office, so we want to make sure that we can help people as they come in.

Santa Fe County Clerk's Office seeks to bring together Santa Fe County's diverse community, interest within a shared purpose and commitment to public service, with a special emphasis on ethics, accountability and trustworthiness. That's what your Santa Fe County Clerk is all about. We're here to represent you and ensure that we're doing the job that you have elected me to do. Thank you so much for this opportunity and have a good evening.

CHAIR ANAYA: Once again, thank you, Madam Clerk for you, your entire staff, and your dedicated interest in the public's interest. Another round of applause for our County Clerk.

III. G. Honorable Shannon B. Bulman, County Probate Judge

CHAIR ANAYA: I'd like to know ask the honorable Shannon B. Bulman to come forward, our Santa Fe County Probate Judge. A round of applause if you would.

SHANNON B. BULMAN: Good evening. I've had the honor of serving as the probate judge for the County of Santa Fe for the last eight months and I appreciate this opportunity provided by the Board of County Commissioners and by the County Manager's Office to update the citizens of Santa Fe regarding the work we are doing in the Santa Fe County probate court.

To give you a little bit of background the probate courts have been an important part of the judicial system in New Mexico since we became a territory in 1850. Originally the probate courts had much broader jurisdiction, handled criminal and civil matters. Presently the probate court has very limited jurisdiction, limited to matters involving informal probates in uncontested matters. Probate is the process not of how long somebody has to be on probation, after they're released from jail, which is what I've often heard when I was out and about and I still do, but really is the process of transferring property after somebody has died. So it's very critical in line with the work that our Clerk's office is doing everything to property and our Assessor and our

Treasurer. It's very important that the probate court be accessible to our citizens and be educational to our citizens to ensure that the property is transferring appropriately after somebody has passed away.

You'll often hear me refer to a decedent. A decedent is really just the person who's passed away. The estates are distributed, or the property of a decedent is distributed according either to the person's will or to the intestate laws in the State of New Mexico. Just because somebody doesn't have a will doesn't mean that their property will go to the state. That's a common misperception as well. Typically it would go to the closest traditional family, biological family.

Our probate court provides information about the probate process and access to and information about the probate files to families here in Santa Fe County, to title companies, and to the general public, including creditors. The probate staff can provide a lot of direction and general information but is a little bit challenged in that they cannot provide any kind of legal advice to the public of course.

Since I was sworn in on January 1, 2015 I've been working with the County Clerk's staff to make the Santa Fe County probate court more useful and responsive as a community resource. I've noted in my slide that I've tripled the hours. A probate judge has regular office hours, and in fact it's quadrupled. Traditionally, it's been nine hours a month for the probate judge to have routine office hours and I have ten hours a week. I'm here 40 hours a month plus the time that I spend in the evenings and weekends with community outreach.

We have prepared and distributed four educational pamphlets that are available during our community outreach and are available at the County Clerk's Office which are intended to better educate the public as to what the probate process is, what their responsibilities are and what the laws are regarding probate. And we've updated the website on the County website. There is a page for the probate court and we've tried to add additional information from our pamphlets. We have added to that website and more information about how to schedule weddings which I would perform. I've been keeping things kind of busy here in the County chambers. I think most of the most of the employees would attest to that.

We've been participating in community educational outreach programs, mostly to the senior centers but also to community groups. Really, only groups that are open to the public and we've had great feedback. There's so much confusion by people as to how to arrange their affairs and what to do after a loved one has passed away. It's been really satisfying and really I've had great feedback from the community about these outreach programs.

I've also spoken to the local professional groups and asked attorneys to file their uncontested, informal probated in our court here in Santa Fe County. Presently, it takes probably about a week to a week and a half to get a personal representative appointed through the district court and our goal is to turn those cases around within two days and that really helps the families that are needing to access the bank accounts and that sort of thing to pay burial expenses and to meet those immediate needs for the person who's passed away.

So far we've docketed – my efforts have been successful in that we've docketed 140 cases this year and we far exceeded the number of probate cases filed by this time in any

previous years that we have records for for the probate court. I've also – being here more frequently I've offered my services to perform weddings, which frees up time with the magistrate judges, the district judges and the municipal judge who all are much busier than I am as judges go. So by performing weddings and making myself more available to do that I think we're better using our public resources.

The weddings are, as Ms. Salazar mentioned, are for such a broad array of individuals it's really fun and satisfying. We have international travelers, travelers from other parts of the country, a lot of local people. I think the people that are traveling to Santa Fe, usually I'm visiting with them and they're staying for about a week, which is great for our economy here in ss.

As of August 17th I'd performed 240 wedding ceremonies this year. This represents an approximate 48 percent increase over the average number of weddings performed in the last five years. And I love the expressions when I'm performing a ceremony in Spanish, this white girl performing a Spanish ceremony. I just get really great feedback. We have people who've been married and divorced and are getting remarried. I had a couple from Espanola, a couple of weeks ago who was here with their children and grandchildren and after 35 years they decided it was time to get married, and it was just really touching. These people know what they're getting into after all of these years together.

So I'd just like to acknowledge the amazing support I've received from the County Clerk and from her staff. That picture of her staff is true. A great bunch of people she has working for her that are really out there and friendly and customer-oriented. They've helped me to provide really positive advice and service to the public about the probate process and wedding services. Many of the same sex couples who are coming here from Texas and Oklahoma to get married, they've confided in me that they feel very nervous coming and they don't know how they're going to be treated by the staff and by the people in Santa Fe and I think it just reflects really positively on our county and on our city that they routinely indicate that they feel very welcomed and treated with respect and courtesy. And I think that that's a wonderful thing.

So I'd like to just say I'm looking forward to continuing to work to improve these services in the probate court in Santa Fe County and I appreciate all of your support and the support of the Board of County Commissioners. Thank you.

CHAIR ANAYA: Thank you, Judge. As has been the case with all presentations, there's always something to learn about what we have at the County and how to access it. So once again, round of applause and thanks to our probate judge. Thank you, Judge.

III. I. Honorable Patrick Varela, County Treasurer

CHAIR ANAYA: No, it's a pleasure and an honor to introduce the honorable Patrick Varela, our Santa Fe County Treasurer. Mr. Varela.

PATRICK VARELA (County Treasurer): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good evening, everyone, Representative Trujillo, members of the Commission. The Treasurer's Office, a lot of people think we just bring in the property tax which is a little portion of what we do. We are actually the bank for the County. So within our office we have – I

call it the honor – because we always are busy and learning different things to learn treasury management, property tax law and investments. So in keeping with the theme of this evening, in the past we are a fiscal agent, which is Los Alamos National Bank. Last year they reported to me that they were unable to fulfill and go out for bid for this coming year, that the bank contract came to an end.

So they announced that to me. So we went out to contract and the First National Bank of Santa Fe and the First National Bank of the Rio Grande were the winners of the bid. So currently we are in the transition period of changing from Los Alamos National Bank to Santa Fe National Bank, which is a big task and I've been working with my investment committee – our County Manager, our County Attorney and our Chair and Commissioner Chavez that are currently on my investment committee which is open to everybody. It's every third Thursday and you're all welcome to come and visit. We've been going over the details for the last few months and it's actually tedious so we need to make sure everything transpires and flows easy.

Our custodial bank, which is the keeper of our paper, which is our fixed income, our treasuries, also went from Charles Schwab to Fifth Third. The transition has been smooth on the custodial side. What they're really encharged to do is just to be the keepers of the paper. In the past banks that sold the paper, such as USB, Oppenheimer Group, Mutual Securities, all those securities were kept at their bank. Now they're kept in one central location that the County oversees.

Going forward with our new fiscal agent, they are offering many online capabilities, so we're going to be able to jump into the future. The taxpayers are still going to be able to pay their property taxes online but it also opens up an avenue for such as utilities, for water. Hopefully customers will be able to pay their water bill online, and it opens up other avenues for use that now the new internet age or the net age.

Moving forward, on our property taxes, we have collected, in the past, when I first came into office our tax base was \$148,250,000. Out of that, that was tax year 2012, we collected \$146,839,000, which was a 99.4 percentage collection rate. Tax year 2014 which is the year we're currently in the tax base was \$159,130,000, and out of that to date we have collected a little over \$154 million, which brings the ratio to 96.5 percent collection rate. Our ten-year average is 99.8. We are – Santa Fe County and Sandoval County right now have the highest collection rate of our base tax currently.

During my election year I had started a property tax outreach program. What that is is we go to satellites all over the county and collect the property taxes. That idea was given – it wasn't my idea, it was actually talking to customers from Rio Chiquito all the way to Edgewood. They wanted to see some kind of a place that they could pay without having to drive all the way into Santa Fe. One of my remarks was, well, you can mail in your property tax and a lot of them say, no, I would like to pay it in cash and have my paper on hand. So I got with Santa Fe County IT. They were real influential in helping me make this program. Also the Santa Fe Attorney's Office helped with the logistics and the legalities of it and I also talked with risk and based on that they said we don't want you collecting cash, just checks, money orders, because of the risk.

So I agreed. Our first one was in November 2013 and ever since it's been a positive note. Other counties have taken note. They asked me how I started it and I think there's four other counties right now that are doing the property collection outreach program.

I also started a red-tagging program for mobile homes. What that is is – it sounds frightening but it actually educates the mobile home owners because we found out that there is no disclosure when they buy a mobile home that they have to pay property tax so many of them think that they only pay their gross receipts tax and that is it. So once they find out that they have to pay property tax they come into the office and pay it off right away.

I'm also the chairman for the New Mexico Treasurers Affiliate. Gary Perez, the Deputy Assessor, is also the president of the Assessors Affiliate so we have a lot of good support, people that represent Santa Fe that represent the state as well.

When I was mentioning about the mobile home program we also write legislation and hopefully we pass it and I told them this is something we should look at, not this legislative season but next, to bring it into where they have to disclose at closing, when somebody buys a mobile home that they have to pay property tax. That way there's no confusion at the end.

Being the Treasurer also I am the keeper of the revenue. I custodialize that. We have currently \$125,495,047 in fixed income and treasuries. In liquidity, meaning banks and money market liquidity, we have over \$82 million, which gives us over \$207 million and we have never dipped into our reserves. I know there was an article and I got a lot of phone calls about it. We have never dipped into our reserves and I don't know where there was a confusion of that, but we are one of the most sound counties in New Mexico and in fact I think it was STIFL, which is clearing house. They sell fixed incomes. They measured the Class A counties only and we were number one rated in their portfolio.

When I first came in our weighed average maturity was over ten years, which was over our IP policy. With the help of my investment committee we are currently now at 3.3 years of weighted average maturity. Weighted average maturity means that the duration of time when you buy a security to when it matures. So we brought that way down into our IP or investment policy which we have it at five years. We also drafted a new IP policy which allows us to be more diversified. We can only, statutorily the County Treasurer can only invest in certain instruments and that is in New Mexico 6.10.10 through 6.10.16, and the Treasurer can only invest in fixed income, which are Fanny Mae's, Freddie Macs, mortgages, government securities – everything that's backed by the federal government. Municipalities or munis, which they're also called, certificates of deposit up to \$250,000 of the FDIC insurance per institution, and that's getting smaller because the Dodd-Frank Act, a lot of banks are selling over and they're getting absorbed in these bigger big box banks. So it's becoming a challenge just to find to where to put our money.

We have also, as an affiliate, we have also brought legislation back in 2013. We created legislation called SB 406 and it now became 6.7.38-44.1 and what that was is it's a combine and split bill. In the past developers would buy up land that was either in foreclosure or was in delinquency and they would split these properties and the father account or mother account would stay unpaid. So now with this legislation it assures that the County does not loose in that revenue on these unpaid taxes. So that was enacted and written into law in 2013.

The last legislative season we brought an installment agreement where delinquency property owners were turned over to the state and the state was in control of them. Now

these people that on installment agreements with the state can come to the County Treasurer's Office and get their information directly to them. There is no need for them to travel from the farthest county which a lot of them were in Otero or Hidalgo County, all the way to Santa Fe. So it alleviated a lot of traffic from Santa Fe and it was able to allow the County Treasurer to disseminate the information needed to them.

Moving forward, inside, internally in my office, and I'm going to give kudos to our human resources. I don't know if they're still here or not, but they allowed individuals from the County to participate in the New Mexico EDGE program. Those are classes that are put together through New Mexico State University and each elected office has certain certified officials. Mine has a certified Treasurer's official and also a certified public official. Well, I've made it a policy in my office that everyone in my office should have a CTO, which is certified treasurer official and what that does is they go everything from banking information, treasury management all the way to HR and ethics. And I think it's important that everyone is certified in my office as a lot of those other ones.

My office also works very well with the other elected offices such as the Assessor, Clerk. We're always in constant communication and one thing I have to say is statutorily each of us only have to be here eight hours a month, but all of us are here every day. And all of I think it shows we take pride in our office. Those things that you elected us to do and to serve you. With that, if there's any questions I'm always open and my office has an open door policy. You can call. I get many phone calls from the constituents wanting to know about our investment policy, where the money is, where your money is and my phone's always open. I do write an article for the *'Round the Roundhouse* monthly and I do put a lot of information in there, and I'd like to say thank you again and thank you, Commissioners, for allowing me to participate in your first State of the County address. Thank you.

CHAIR ANAYA: I can attest as a member, and all the Commissioners have had the opportunity of serving on the Investment Committee that I can attest that our Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer work together with us to assure that our investments are in order and we work together with our Finance Director and Manager, so let's once again give our County Treasurer for his work and that of his team.

Before moving on to the Commissioners I wanted to tell all of the elected officials here present today that we are all a collective team and our efforts and what we do day in and day out and very much appreciate what you do in the service of Santa Fe County and I want to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you, our elected officials and also say that we have an item on the County Commission agenda, not for the Commissioners' edification but for the public as well, for any time that those elected officials, you want to come forward and present, that is there for you to use as a vehicle for the constituents that you all serve. So a round of applause for the elected officials that have presented thus far.

III. C. Commissioner Henry P. Roybal, District 1

CHAIR ANAYA: At this time it's my distinct pleasure to recognize and ask the honorable Commissioner Henry P. Roybal from District 1 to please come forward.

COMMISSIONER ROYBAL: Commissioner Anaya said the new guy had to

go first. Good evening everybody. My name is Henry Roybal and I'm the Commissioner for District 1 and it's my pleasure and my honor to be here tonight to address you this evening. I would like to provide you a little bit of background. I along with my wife Marlene and my extended family are lifelong residents of the Pojoaque Valley. I have made the effort to serve in different capacities in my community as the Pojoaque Valley Little League president and the Young American Football League president. I've also coached for Pojoaque High School and for the junior high. I went to school at Northern New Mexico College and received a degree in electronic packaging and design technology and also a degree in electromechanical design.

My professional career is 20 years of service at the County and at the federal level. I'm currently employed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. I was elected into office for the Santa Fe County Commission on January 1st and I am completing my first eight months. The learning curves and duties and responsibilities of an elected official serving Santa Fe County are – was a large learning curve so I've been working hard and with the help of the Commissioners and other staff it's been going really well.

I am very familiar with the monumental issues facing District 1. In addition to the duties and responsibilities of the elected Commissioner I also serve on the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization as the vice chairman, the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities, Santa Fe Solid Waste Management, Santa Fe County Housing Authority, Santa Fe County Board of Finance and an alternate member to the Buckman Direct Diversion and North Central Regional Transit District. Because of the diversity of District 1 the major issues facing the district are complex, from water, right-of-way, roads, drainage, flooding danger and require the support and coordination of a multiple of resources, including local, state and federal.

My number one priority has been to determine if basic services are being provided adequately to the constituents of District 1. From community centers to senior service centers to youth programs to road maintenance the needs are many and the resources are limited. Prioritizing those needs against the available resources is difficult at best and requires short- and long-term planning with County staff to best determine financial impact and needs for today and into the future.

There are a number of capital improvement projects in District 1 that have been completed and that are ongoing and that are planned for future construction. The Pojoaque Valley recreational complex, phase 1, has been completed. Phase 2, improvements and design process are on their way. Ribbon cutting ceremonies are scheduled for September 27, 2015. Other projects that we do have right now in District 1 are the Rio Quemado Watershed restoration. This project is intended to enhance natural stream functions and improve the watershed condition in the vicinity of the santuario and Los Potreros in support of the community preservation efforts. Santa Fe County applied for and received a grant from the Water Trust. Santa Fe County hired professional engineering services to provide stream restoration design. The Rio Quemado project has been bid, contract is awarded and the construction is scheduled to be presented to the County Commissioners for approval.

Another project that we have that we're working on is the Chupadero Water System acquisition. The Chupadero Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Association owns and operates a water supply system. The BCC passed a resolution to incorporate the water

system. This would allow the County to make improvements to the water supply and the Chupadero Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association would become County customers. We still have a lot of situations we need to address and with that system. For example, we need to do a survey, locate the remainder of the distribution systems, identify customers for the system, prepare legal descriptions and easements, record the easements, acquire the system and incorporate customers.

Another project that we do have is the Vista Redonda drainage and road improvement. The grading and pavement on existing County roads with drainage concerns. Right now we're in the pre-construction meetings and it looks like this project will take place now at the beginning of September. And County Road 89, Feathercatcher Road, we are working on drainage issues along 89 and 89C. Right now we are working with Pojoaque Pueblo to acquire easements and we do have preliminary engineering and cost comparisons that have been constructed by the engineer. County Road 89C is tied in with County Road 89, Feathercatcher Road and is in the same level of completion.

The other projects that we have are Rio en Medio Senior Center. We are improving the drainage for both roof and site in order to prevent water from entering the facility and right now we are revising the drainage plan from Souder Miller and Associates are doing that.

The Pojoaque fire station, we did have improvements and that renovation has been complete, so that was another project that we completed this year. We also had Rio en Medio park improvements that have been complete this year as well. We have a program that we're putting together that's called the Pojoaque River mitigation planning project and it's a committee that are looking at acquiring grant money to do work in restoration and mitigating flooding issues that are in the Pojoaque and Tesuque River and also Rio en Medio, we did complete improvements on their park in Rio en Medio.

The other project that I also a big project in the Pojoaque area is the regional water system, the Pojoaque Regional Water System, the basin, and that will actually go all the way to the Tesuque area and service areas there. We are currently working on coming to an agreement on the JPA, working with the four pueblos of San Ildefonso, Nambe, Tesuque and Pojoaque.

In closing, I'd like to thank my constituents for their support and I would like to reiterate that I'm honored to represent you at the Santa Fe County as your Commissioner. I would also like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their support and guidance and the County Manager, and my liaison and all of the County staff for their support, professionalism and exceptional work ethic. It is second to none and it is appreciated. I would also like to thank my family and friends and a special thank you to my wife, Marlene, for all her support, patience and understanding, and also thank God for guidance, patience and wisdom to make the right decisions. I hope everybody has a great evening. Thank you.

CHAIR ANAYA: Thank you, Commissioner Roybal, for your efforts in District 1. Let's give Commissioner Roybal a round of applause again. Before moving on to the next Commissioner I want to stop and say a few things and also provide a heads-up to one of the individuals in this County that helps us day in and day out with all of the elected officials, with all of the Commissioners, with the management of the staff. We cannot function as County government without appropriate direction and day to day work

from our County Manager, Katherine Miller. And on that, Ms. Miller, under my remarks, I'd like to ask you to come forward at the beginning to introduce the key staff that you have working with you and provide a few highlights on overall budget and aspects that you're working on day in and day out. If you could I would appreciate that very much. Thanks again for your work and your efforts, as well as our Deputy Manager, Mr. Tony Flores is here as well. Mr. Flores, thank you.

III. B. Commissioner Miguel M. Chávez, Vice-Chairman, District 2

CHAIR ANAYA: It is now a distinct pleasure and honor to introduce the honorable Miguel M. Chavez, the Vice Chair of the Santa Fe County Commission.

COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Commissioner Anaya. I first want to preface some of my remarks by saying that it is an honor and a pleasure for me to be here this afternoon. I want to thank the constituents of District 2, but also the residents of Santa Fe County. Commissioner Anaya and I have additional role and a responsibility as the Chair and the Vice Chair and so that means that we're responsible for conducting the business portion of our County Commission meetings, but for me it also means that we have to represent the County as a whole, not only the district that we were elected to represent.

So I want to thank the constituents of District 2 in the county. I want to thank my family for allowing me to opportunity to contribute, make a contribution back to the community in the way that I'm able to. Experience over the last three years has shown me that we have a County government that's very serious about its residents. We want to know what they think. We want to know how they feel and we want to know in general how their health is. So we really look at the community from a very holistic approach. We heard from speakers earlier about the difference between basic services and what the County is responsible for but I think that we can see that our County government goes beyond just providing the basic services of fire, police, roads and things like that.

I do also want to thank all of the staff from the County Manager's staff to all of the departments, the Sheriff, all of the elected officials, because without their expertise we would not be able to do our job. We heard a lot about the professionalism, about the dedication and the commitment regarding our County employees and the EDGE classes that are provided. So our employees, from top to bottom, are not comfortable with just doing their regular job. They are always looking to go above and beyond the call of duty.

We have accreditation in our adult detention facility. Our Finance Department was mentioned nationwide for the work that's done keeping track of how our taxpayer dollars are spent because a lot of the money that's collected through our property tax does not stay with the County. It supports our public schools. It supports our community colleges and on and on. So I think that this evening, this afternoon, even though many staff originally and even myself I will admit, because it was the first time and we've never done this before, I think Commissioner Anaya, you had some of us a little stressed out about what we were going to do and what we were going to say and I really appreciate the fact that you allowed the other elected officials to go before the County Commissioners because those are the offices that provide the services to the public day in and day out. We're here two days out of the week and then we have our committee

meetings, we set policy, and then hopefully we step out of the way and let staff implement that policy.

So over the last three years my experience in County government, staff has spent a lot of time on two pretty important initiatives. And these are fairly new to the County. The Sustainable Land Development Code, and I will say that a lot of these initiatives were started before I was elected and so it gives me great pleasure to be able to continue some of these efforts because these are things that have maybe been long overdue, but much needed. So the Sustainable Land Development Code that includes community plans from all of the traditional villages, like the Village of Agua Fria, La Cienega, Chupadero, Pojoaque, just to name a few.

The zoning map. The DCI Ordinance that was adopted just this last month to lessen the impact of large sand and gravel operations in the county. So we have a County government that's interested in how future growth impacts subdivisions, homes and traditional villages. The County is interested in making sure that when considering future growth we want to have infrastructure funded and in place before this development is approved, infrastructure like waterlines, sewer lines and roads.

The other initiative that was brought forward by the County had to do with solid waste and efforts to increase and improve recycling and solid waste collection in the county. We proposed solid waste districts with the idea of increasing – actually reducing the waste stream into our landfill and extending the life of that landfill, and also reducing impact on County roads. So these solid waste districts have been proposed. That's something that hopefully we will be finalizing in the future. But these two initiatives, the Sustainable Land Development Code and the efforts to increase, improve recycling and solid waste collection were all done through and with public participation, especially in the community plans from the traditional villages. That was all bottom-up and I really want to thank staff and the citizens of those communities for investing their time and effort into this process. This is all volunteer and in their spare time.

I want to give a couple of examples of projects that were completed in District 2. The remodel of the Human Resource building, improvements to the Caja del Rio Road, improvements to Piñon Hills – this is phase 1, improvements to Calle Nopal, and the Agua Fria monument. And I want to stop a minute on the Agua Fria monument because this was a feature that certainly again goes above and beyond just the normal course of the County doing business. This commemorates the traditional Village of Agua Fria but also reminds us that this is on the traditional route of the Camino Real.

And so we stepped back a minute and with the help of Bill Taylor and our purchasing department we were able to establish a public-private partnership between cornerstones and the Village of Agua Fria so that we had a different approach to this project. So we weren't just building something. We were building a structure that speaks of the history and the culture of where we are, involved the community and Cornerstones' community partnership so that the community invested in this project and it wasn't something that was just put out to bid and that the contractor worked on it and be done with it. So I really want to thank the members of the Agua Fria Village and Cornerstones community partnership for that project.

It will hopefully be featured in the Three Trails Symposium that will be hosted in the City of Santa Fe this next September. The symposium will run from September 17th to

the 20th. It's the Three Trails Conference. It will focus on the Santa Fe Trail, the Old Spanish Trail and the Camino Real. And so the County is assisting with the Old Spanish Trail organization. This next week or so we will be helping the riders from the Old Spanish Trail Association ride into town. They're riding from California. The Sheriff posse will escort them into the downtown plaza, and then the 4-H Club has offered to help with the cleanup.

Other things that we've done recently, with help from the City and the County, we've extended the North Central Regional Transportation Service. This is a service, regional public service transportation. So with participation from the City and the County we were able to enter into another public-private partnership to fund the mountain trail route to the Santa Fe Ski Basin. This was done in conjunction with again, the County, the City of Santa Fe and Ski Santa Fe. Other routes that we've expanded in our regional transportation system are the Golden route and the Taos Chili Line.

Under economic development and cultural tourism, we were able to re-establish the Arts, Culture and Cultural Tourism Committee. This committee will advise the Board of County Commissioners on enhancing the economy in the area of arts and crafts with an interest in highlighting our cultural and historic events in Santa Fe County, promote the arts and crafts produced in the area with a focus on handmade items.

Where we are going, what I would see the vision for the future, is to finish many of the things we've already started. First thing on the list would be the solid waste policy that we're considering for three districts in the county and then hopefully we can expand that countywide. We have a Sustainable Land Development Code that still needs to be finalized, a few of the community plans that are still pending, and the zoning map.

We need to continue to meet the needs of our residents by maintaining the buildings that we are responsible for. The County is responsible for maintaining 88 buildings that we utilize. I'll use this administration building as one example. This administration building houses the County Clerk, the County Treasurer, the Assessor, County Commission's offices, the chambers, the Manager's Office, Growth Management Office, so this is one building that, again, we are responsible for maintaining and keeping in good condition, not only for the public but for our County employees as well.

In addition to this we're responsible for maintaining community centers. The one that comes close to mind would be the Nancy Rodriguez Center. The County is responsible for maintaining roads. We have 574 miles of road, countywide. Commissioner Anaya you touched on that earlier. We have about 2,000 square miles in the county that we're responsible for and in that 2,000 miles we have almost 600 of road miles that we're responsible for.

In District 2 there's about 62 road miles and each district will vary somewhat in those road miles and the responsibilities that comes with that. Just this last year the County was able to chip-seal 38 miles of those road miles, and I know it sounds like a small number but it's very expensive maintaining roads, probably is one of the most expensive endeavors that we face.

We talked earlier and we heard from our Sheriff and we talked a little bit about public safety but when we talk about public safety as it relates to the County, we're not only talking about the Sheriff and the Fire Department, and actually we didn't hear too much about the Fire Department just yet but they're part of public safety. But under

public safety we are also partly responsible for the Regional Emergency Communication Center and we're in partners with the City in managing the RECC or what's known as the Regional Emergency Communications Center. We're also responsible, and I think this is one of our biggest responsibilities and probably our biggest liability as well, and certainly this segment of the population is out of sight and out of mind and I think we need to change that as much as possible. And these two facilities are the youth and adult detention facilities. And so under public safety we have the Sheriff, the Fire Department, the RECC and the youth and adult detention facilities. That's a lot that the City is responsible for.

So moving forward in District 2 we hope to continue the Agua Fria Village sewer and water system, the Vista Aurora sewer system, Pinon Hills all-weather improvements and this will be phase 2; hopefully we can finish that. The Tierra de Oro road improvements, La Tierra fire station and the 599 Via Veteranos safety improvements, also known as County Road 70.

So, so far I've talked and I think we've talked a lot about what I'm calling hard infrastructure – our buildings, our roads, our senior centers and things like that. I want to spend just a few minutes talking about what I would call soft infrastructure – infrastructure and programs that we need to meet the social needs of our residents. Some of these would include early childhood development programs, community centers, as was mentioned earlier with a focus on youth programs, senior centers, library service, mobile health van, treatment court, mobile crisis response team, and teen court. Talking about Community Services Department.

The County passed what's called the Santa Fe County Action Plan. It's a two-year plan for 2015-2017, which will focus on all aspects of health in our community, the general health of our residents, mental health as it relates to our general population, and the impact that mental health has on our jails and on our emergency rooms. And so I'm going to leave you with those thoughts and as I mentioned earlier it's been my honor and pleasure to serve for the last three years. I look forward to continuing to work on our roads and our sewer and our waterlines and our community centers, but hope to spend more time focusing on community services and what that department can provide to our community, not only for us now but for future generations. Thank you again.

CHAIR ANAYA: Thank you, Commissioner Chavez. It's an honor and a privilege to serve with Commissioner Chavez, an individual who's been a community leader, a businessman, a craft worker and just a true leader for the community, so it's been an honor serving with you on the Commission and also serving alongside of you and you working together with me as the Vice Chair. So another round of applause for Commissioner Chavez.

Before I introduce the next speaker I want to do a little shout out to Mr. Chris Barela. The Commissioners have liaisons that help us day in and day out with our projects and communications with the public and the departments and it's a tough job. It's not always the most glamorous job in the County but I want to do a shout-out to Mr. Chris Barela for his assistance and dedication in serving, working with all the departments but helping me serve the constituents in District 3. So, thank you, Mr. Barela.

III. D. Commissioner Liz Stefanics, District 5

CHAIR ANAYA: I think it's fitting that the next speaker come forward. It's been a pleasure and I'd like to say before I introduce her, to serve with Commissioner Stefanics who's been a leader at the state level as a state senator and a leader at the cabinet secretary level, Department of Human Services, a leader in education and many other facets throughout the community. But it's a distinct pleasure and honor and to introduce the Commissioner for District 5, the honorable Commissioner Liz Stefanics.

COMMISSIONER STEFANICS: Thank you very much and I know the evening is getting long so I'm going to kind of speed this along. I also told Commissioner Anaya that as District 5 he did not need to put me first as the woman here representing the Commission but I would wait till the end and he graciously waited till the end.

But it is an honor and a privilege to serve District 5 constituents and all the residents of Santa Fe County. And that's one of the things I said when I was first sworn in, is that even though one district elects you, you really represent everybody in the county. In the 6 ½ years that I've been here I've really seen our County staff exhibit professionalism and customer service and I see it growing every day. And I think that you all have taken pride, those of you who are in the audience, you all have taken pride in working for the County and the people of Santa Fe County recognize that and truly appreciate it. And I thank my liaison, Julia Valdez, because she's here every day fielding those calls and taking care of every constituent problem.

Now, I'm not going to go over six years worth of information, but I am going to just dot some of the – or highlight some of the initiatives we've done in the past few years that I think that are very worthwhile. I have many, many capital projects I'd like to see happen but that takes money. So some of those will happen and some of them won't. So I'd like to talk about the initiatives. The Land Development Code, it is my hope that this is done, put to bed, passed, before January of 2016. Whether we can accomplish that, I don't know. But we have a few more pieces to put together and the staff is working very hard and with the agreement of the Commissioners, maybe it will happen. Maybe it will last a little longer.

We have prioritized transparency at the County. When we first came in the League of Women Voters gave us an F for how transparent we were and we have worked so hard and now we have awards, we have received A-. New Mexico FOG recently recognized us as one of the best counties in the state for our transparency. So let's keep that up. But we always have room to improve. And part of that transparency is that we now have more public meetings – community meetings, public hearings – we sometimes drag things out for 12 to 18 months just making sure everybody gets to have their say.

We have increased employee benefits including the paid education that you've heard people talk about, and we also have employee pay incentives. We've passed a living wage ordinance for the county, long after the City did it. We've completed a community needs assessment along with Christus St. Vincent and the League of Women Voters, and we have an updated County health plan. We support a Healthy Kid, Healthy Economy initiative. We balance our own budgets. We don't have cost overruns. We continue to address hunger and food security. We initiated a substance abuse detox program for pregnant women with La Familia and Christus St. Vincent. We have addressed the use of

e-cigarettes by minors here in Santa Fe County.

We have put into place water conservation initiatives. We have created road acceptance procedures from private communities. There are methods now that communities can go through if they can convince all of the property owners to participate. We continue to encourage alternative energy sources in the county. On our County facilities we're trying to encourage it, at the homeowners' level and we also have a joint project with PNM. We are promoting the film industry, which is creating jobs and tax revenue in Santa Fe County. We're encouraging tourism in the county. We have more biking trails and now we have awards for those biking trails and we're gathering and inviting contests and people from out of state to come and share the wealth of what we have in our natural resources.

We have been addressing small businesses and assisting their growth, specifically the Santa Fe Brewing Company recently received a LEDA support from Santa Fe County as well as from the State of New Mexico. We've created weight limits on some of the County roads to protect infrastructure. If any of you live down off of Highway 14 and County Road 42 you know that we had some infrastructure failing because of the state trucks that were breaking down the roads. This is happening in other small communities in our county and we've put ordinances in place for this, and we continue to improve our affordable housing program and our public housing units.

Now, in the future, there's still a lot to do and we continue to talk and to work step by step for the following: We are going to continue to address hunger and food security. We as a Commission are very involved in regional water planning. We need to institute measures for wildfires in interface areas, and while we receive some grants and we have a great staff working on this there's much more to be done in terms of the cooperation and coordination with state and federal government. We hope to create a new housing project in the Galisteo Road area. We will continue to work on economic development at the local level. Several of the County Commissioners went through an economic development class so that we as a group could work together on growing businesses, and I think that the intent is really there.

As Commissioner Chavez mentioned, we wanted to support in very specific ways mental health services in our detention centers. How many people are in our detention centers that don't belong there? That there is a substance abuse or a mental health issue that we could be working on? We also need to continue to address special needs for County customers and many other issues.

Now, I would like to say that this year is special because Sarah Smirid, who is our Rodeo de Santa Fe Queen and our Santa Fe County Fair Queen, has applied and is in the competition to be the New Mexico State Fair Queen. We have not had a Santa Fe County young lady vying for that position for many years, and so we wish her well and we hope that that will be accomplished in the next few weeks down at the State Fair. Please wish us good energy as we continue our good work. It's all for the benefit of the citizens and residents of Santa Fe County. Thank you.

CHAIR ANAYA: Thank you, Commissioner Stefanics. A real pro and being succinct and to the point. Thank you so much for your remarks. Let's give Commissioner Stefanics a round of applause.

I'd now like to graciously ask our County Manager if she would come forward.

Highlight some of the overall budget issues, introduce some of your team and whatever other comments you'd like to add to the discussion today. Our Manager, Ms. Katherine Miller.

KATHERINE MILLER (County Manager): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't actually plan on saying anything so if I forget something I apologize in advance. I just want to say that all the Commissioners and the elected officials' comments about what makes things happen at Santa Fe County is really the staff and all of the employees. It takes a community. Well, this is a community. Santa Fe County employees and elected officials are a community and a community of people that really care about their jobs. I've worked at all levels of government and I cannot be more impressed by how much people at Santa Fe County take their jobs on personally and have a personal commitment to doing the right thing and good work at the County.

The Chair said that I help implement everything and I really – I'm just one person of about 900 people who help implement everything that the Commissioners and the elected officials talked about this evening. As the Chair said, I can't do it without my Deputy County Manager, Tony Flores. He's an invaluable member of the team. You've never seen a more dedicated, hard-working, on-top-of-it person. He's got phones going and running all over the place. I'm always telling him slow down, slow down. But he really does help keep on top of everything. We have a lot going on.

The County's budget when I was here 13 to 18 years ago, the County's budget was less than \$100 million. Employees were like 350 to 400 employees, and in less than 15 years that's more than doubled. We have almost 900 employees, anywhere from 850 to 900 at any given time, and our budget – we just approved this past spring for fiscal year 16 is \$235 million and growing, and I say and growing because we are constantly bringing grants and projects and revenue that we budget to do those projects. So it's a huge growth for Santa Fe County, for the staff, and quite a bit to manage.

The County Commission sets the policies and sets the direction for all of us to carry out that work and you could hear how many things we have going as an entity. It's a phenomenal amount of projects, of programs, of day to day activities to meet the expectations of the public. And I want to say that they set these policies and what they set for us, and you'll hear about it throughout the next year, it's been developed over time but it's really a government that has kind of four overriding goals to provide a safe community, and we do that through our Public Safety Department and the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, our detention facilities, adult, juvenile, electronic monitoring, our dispatch, our emergency management, as well as even Public Works, making sure our roads are safe.

We are determined to create and support a health community primarily through out community services and all the health programs and the teen programs and DWI programs, seniors, and other community services, community centers and recreational facilities. Also we want to promote a sustainable community and do that through our Growth Management Plan, our code, all of our economic developments, management of our water resources. And last but kind of completely throughout the County is be a proficient, transparent and accessible County government, and I think you can tell by our elected officials, our elected offices and all of the departments that that's what we strive to do and that we try to get better and better at it every day.

I just want to recognize all those departments and their department directors, from the County Manager's Office, which includes all the County Manager's staff, the liaisons an HR and Finance. Bernadette Salazar, Carole Jaramillo, our Finance Director, and then our Legal Department. I keep saying that every time we hire somebody here at what point do they hate me, because the volume of work that is expected to be produced from each of the different departments and divisions is pretty phenomenal and having worked at the state level and the federal level it's an amazing amount of work. So Greg Shaffer, our Attorney, and the other attorneys in the Attorney's Office, Penny Ellis-Green, Growth Management. She said we couldn't get all the community plans done but I believe they will be done. And the code and the zoning map and everything that goes with that.

Rachel O'Connor in Community Services and all your divisions and division directors, Pablo Sedillo, our Public Safety Director. As I said that includes Fire, Emergency Management, Dispatch and Correctional departments or divisions. Jeff Trujillo, our Administrative Services, some critical functions with IT so that we can even be here this evening and speak to you. And then Ron Pacheco with our Housing programs, and Adam Leigland, last but not least Public Works. As he says, they make it happen.

So I just want to thank and recognize all of the department directors, division directors, and all the County staff that make this job a great job and make this County a great County, and to the elected officials. Thank you.

CLERK SALAZAR: Chair Anaya.

CHAIR ANAYA: Madam Clerk.

CLERK SALAZAR: May we please acknowledge my other right arm, Chief Deputy Clerk Vicki Trujillo?

CHAIR ANAYA: Absolutely. A round of applause. And Ms. Miller, to you and your team from Mr. Garcia, who's a groundskeeper and custodian here at this facility to everybody in between, to you and to your work and your entire team, another round of applause and thanks to all of you.

III. A. Commissioner Robert A. Anaya, Chairman, District 3

CHAIR ANAYA: So we're almost out of time, and I did it on purpose, because I knew that if I gave all of the elected officials the microphone and the County Commissioners and the Manager, that they would say everything that needs to be said about what we do in County government. And a few things came to mind that I'll say in closing. My dad used to say, after he would say What are you doing, Robert? He would say that there's people that make things happen, people that watch things happen and people that wonder what the heck just happened. This County and the people that are in this room, the people that are not in this room, are the people that make things happen, from the workers to the community members, to the elected officials, to all participants that participate and help Santa Fe County succeed.

We have people in this room like State Representative Jim Trujillo, Councilor John Abrams. We had the Mayor of Santa Fe, Javier Gonzales. We have the Deputy County Manager of Rio Arriba County here and many others that are listening in or couldn't be here and representatives from the congressional delegation. We can't do anything as a

County government without the collective efforts and the partnerships that we receive from people like yourself, Representative Trujillo, and the work of the state legislature. Or partnerships like the partnership we have with the Town of Edgewood and the work we do with the RECC and the Health Planning Commission and those health initiatives. And with you, David, and the work of Rio Arriba County and the Commission up north.

We have those same partnerships with the tribal entities and the communities and on that point I want to say this unequivocally. We had to make some difficult decisions at the last meeting relative to a resolution that deals with Native American and historical issues in the northern part of Santa Fe County. But that resolution in no way defines what we will do as a Commission to make sure that we come together and we work through those issues to make a regional water system happen. But we have to do it collectively. We don't live in a county where we're independent on one another. We live in a county where collectively we are here together to work together.

Del dicho al trecho hay mucho trecho. From the word to the deed there's a great distance. And that great distance, each and every one of these elected officials cover every single day. And those partner-elected officials that are in this room. We will cover those grounds. We will work through those issues and we will achieve everything we want to achieve and need to achieve. There's two primary people that this Commission, that this group of elected officials and this County does day in and day out. It's our youth and it's our seniors, and others that have special needs. We deal with those people day in and day out. We will continue to deal with those initiatives and those issues.

IV. Closing Remarks

CHAIR ANAYA: Two more things. When I got elected to the Santa Fe County Commission, I stood in this corner over here in front of this podium and I said that I would listen, learn and then try and act in the common interests of the people. The one thing I've learned in being on the Commission now in my fifth year is that learning to listen, listen, listen, listen, then learn. Then try and act with your partners that you have at your disposal, those partners being each and every one of you in this room, each and every one of those volunteers out in the community, and each and every one of the communities.

The last thing I'll close with is this. This group of people that I sit with on the Commission and Commissioner Holian could not be with us today, but I can tell you that she's as dedicated a public servant as each and every one of the public servants that spoke today. We've done one thing in a methodical way throughout the County, from the Sheriff's Department to the Clerk to the Probate to the Treasurer to the Assessor, to each and every Commissioner. We've said you have your autonomy, individually in your communities. We want to work with you to help you develop your plans, to determine your own destiny. We want to make sure that you have customer service when you walk through those doors downstairs to get the services you need. All of us and all of you help to do that.

Thank you so much each and every one of you for being here. Thank you for your patience and your perseverance. We look forward to working with you. And I'm going to say this in closing relative to the City initiatives. We have some tough challenges in the

north and tough challenges in the City of Santa Fe and Town of Edgewood, the City of Espanola, Rio Arriba County and all our partners, Torrance County who is here in the room as well. But we can get there if we continue to work together. So with that, thank you to all and have a great evening. Thanks again.

V. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before this body, Chair Anaya declared this meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
Robert A. Anaya, Chair

ATTEST TO:



GERALDINE SALAZAR
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

9-29-2015



Respectfully submitted:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork
453 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 28

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/30/2015