

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Nicolas T. Leger called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m., at the Commission chambers on the 2nd floor of the San Miguel County Courthouse. Upon a call of the roll by the Clerk, all five County Commissioners were present, and a quorum was duly established and noted as follows: Chairman Nicolas T. Leger, Vice-Chairman Ron R. Ortega, and Commissioners Marcellino A. Ortiz, Arthur J. Padilla, and Gilbert J.B. Sena. Also present for the special meeting was members of the Evaluating Committee and noted as follows: Warden Patrick Snedeker and County Clerk Melanie Y. Rivera.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTATION OF THE NM FLAG

Joined by staff and all in attendance, the Commissioners pledged allegiance to the U.S. flag and offered their salutation to the N.M. flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Commissioner Ortiz and a second by Commissioner Padilla, the agenda was adopted and without change, upon the recommendation of the County Manager Les Montoya.

(ALL MOTIONS MADE AND SECONDED ARE DULY APPROVED AND ADOPTED WITHOUT FURTHER INDICATION OF SAID ACTION; AND ALL FORMAL ACTION IS BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.)

DETERMINATION OF EVALUATION PROCESS

County Manager Les Montoya initially mentioned the entire process of seeking legal services as follows: On November 26th, 2013 the Commission began the process of obtaining legal services for San Miguel County. The request for proposal was advertised in The Santa Fe New Mexican and The Las Vegas Daily Optic between November 29th, 2013 and December 6th, 2013. The deadline to receive proposals in the County Managers office was December 27th at 3:00 o'clock p.m. Three proposals were received and the law firms were listed as follows: Long, Kromer & Associates out of Santa Fe, N.M., Holt Mynatt Martinez P.C. out of Las Cruces, N.M., and The Law Office of Jesus Lopez out of Las Vegas, N.M. Each individual law firm provided the County with lists of legal services and fees for such services. (Further statements and protocol are preserved in the audio recording of the meeting, which recording is maintained in the office of the San Miguel County Clerk and available for public inspection.) The Board of Commissioners then relayed questions to one another about the topics and concerns that would be asked towards the law firms who expressed interest in representing the County.

EVALUATION OF LAW FIRMS

The County Manager requested that each law firm prepare and submit proposals in regards to qualifications and years of service in local government field, areas of expertise in legal representation in local government or agencies represented, licensing in New Mexico, and legal fee structure, legal services and office arrangements.

Holt Mynatt Martinez P. C. was the first law firm asked to be evaluated by the Board of Commissioners. The individual representing Holt Mynatt Martinez P. C. was Damian Martinez. Holt Mynatt Martinez P. C. is generally limited to representing government entities, insurance companies and financial institutions. The government entities it currently represents are Dona Ana County, Hidalgo County, and several counties within the New Mexico Association of Counties, as well as the City of Las Cruces. This law firm represents Hidalgo County as their general council and also attends all County Commission meetings in Hidalgo County. It also advises Hidalgo County and Luna County on creation of ordinances

and draft ordinances within the counties. County Manager Les Montoya and The Board of Commissioners proceeded to ask Damian Martinez several questions pertaining to the concerns relating to the County. (All questions and statements made by the foregoing persons are preserved, verbatim, in the audio recording of the meeting, as maintained by the office of the County Clerk, and available for inspection at any time.)

Long, Kromer & Associates was the second law firm to be evaluated by the Board of Commissioners. The individual representing Long, Kromer & Associates was Nancy Long. The same and criteria were used to evaluate The Long, Kromer & Associates law firm. Long, Kromer & Associates have been in existence for 25 years, and have served public entities and government entities. This law firm has represented New Mexico Highlands University for a span of twelve years and handled all of the universities general counsel matters. Long, Kromer & Associates has also done general counsel for the city and county of Santa Fe as well as litigated for Taos County. The County Manager and The Board of Commissioners began to ask Nancy Long several questions pertaining to the concerns relating to the County. (All questions and statements made by the foregoing persons are preserved, verbatim, in the audio recording of the meeting, as maintained by the office of the County Clerk, and available for inspection at any time.)

The Law Office of Jesus Lopez was the third and final candidate for the position of San Miguel County Attorney. Jesus Lopez started off by thanking the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager for giving himself the opportunity to represent the County. Jesus Lopez opened up by telling the Commission a typical day in the life of the County Attorney. Jesus's day started before 8:00 a.m., he received a phone call from the IT Supervisor John Tiernan about a protest in his department. Jesus then received a phone call from Alex Tafoya pertaining to reviewing an oil & gas draft due to having a meeting with the Planning & Zoning Committee later that afternoon. In the meantime he also spoke with Kiki Arellano dealing with two requests for public records requested by two former employees. Jesus also spoke with Harold Garcia concerning two other matters. Jesus Lopez

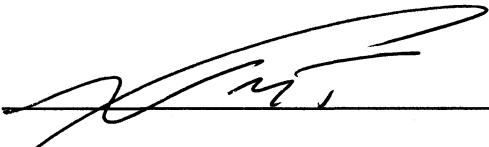
proceeds to state that he works eighteen hour days, is in his office no later than 4:00 o'clock in the morning, and there are no vacation days for him. Jesus proceeds to state that he loves this county and loves the Board of Commissioners and loves being the County Attorney. County Manager Les Montoya and The Board of County Commissioners proceeded to ask Jesus Lopez several questions pertaining to the concerns relating to the County. (All questions and statements made by the foregoing persons are preserved, verbatim, in the audio recording of the meeting, as maintained by the office of the County Clerk, and available for inspection at any time.)

Upon completion of interviews, the evaluation committee completed the proposal rating forms, providing the same to the County Manager for presentation to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

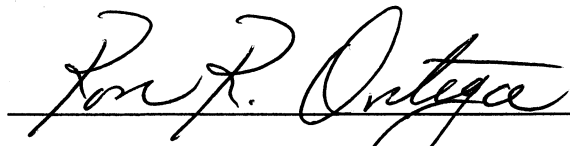
ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gilbert J. B. Sena and a second by Commissioner Arthur J. Padilla, the motion carried and the meeting was duly adjourned.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February, 2014, by the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, New Mexico, as the official minutes of a special meeting held January 30th, 2014.



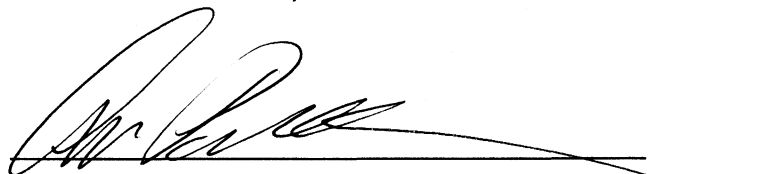
Nicolas T. Leger, Chairman



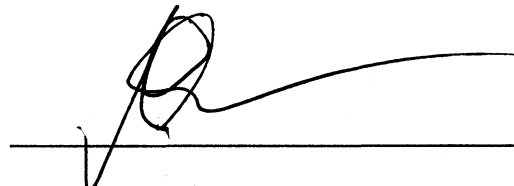
Ron R. Ortega, Vice-Chairman



Marcellino A. Ortiz, Member

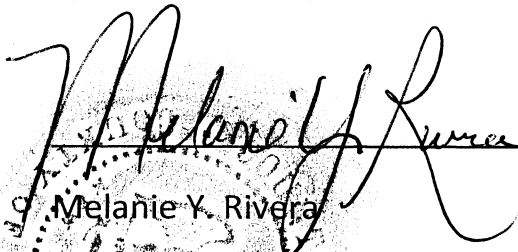


Arthur J. Padilla, Member



Gilbert J.B. Sena, Member

ATTEST:



Melanie Y. Rivera
San Miguel County Clerk
(SEAL)

Submitted by:

Diego Romero

Deputy Clerk