

Sierra Vista Hospital
Special Joint Powers Commission Meeting
Minutes
May 13, 2021 @ 10:00am

1. The Joint Powers Commission of Sierra Vista Hospital met May 13, 2021 at 10:00am in the boardroom at Sierra Vista Hospital for a special meeting. Kim Skinner, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:02am.
2. Pledge of Allegiance Kim Skinner, Chairperson
3. Roll Call Jennifer Burns, Recorder

Joint Powers Commission

Attendees: **City of Elephant Butte**
Edna Trager, Present by phone
Gerald LaFont, Present
Kim Skinner, **Chairperson**, Present
Vicki Ballinger, Ex-O, Absent

City of T or C
Sandra Whitehead, Present
Randall Aragon, Present by phone
Frances Luna, Present by phone
Bruce Swingle, City Manager Ex-O, Absent

Sierra County
Travis Day, Present by phone
Jim Paxon, Present
Hank Hopkins, Absent
Serena Bartoo, ICM, Ex-O, Present

Village of Williamsburg
Vacant, Member
Magorie Powey, Present by phone
Deb Stubblefield, Present by phone
Amanda Cardona, Ex-O, Present by phone

Sierra Vista Hospital
Eric Stokes, CEO, Ex-O, Present
Stephen Huey, QHR, Excused
Ming Huang, CFO, Excused
Sheila Adams, CNO, Present
Greg D'Amour, **Governing Board Chair**, Present

Guest
Dave Pato, County Attorney, Present
David Johnson, Sutin Law Firm Present by phone

4. **Approval of Agenda** Kim Skinner, Chairperson
Sandra Whitehead motioned to approve the agenda. Gerald LaFont seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Old Business** Kim Skinner, Chairperson

1. Creation of Special Hospital District in Sierra County

Jim Paxon stated that we have tried twice to create a Special Hospital District through Legislation and both times it has failed. Our option now is to hold a local election. A resolution in support of the Special Hospital District was passed by the JPC in 2020.

The general election for City Offices and other issues is November 3, 2021. By June 24, 2021, we must file a referendum to have a Special Hospital District ballot measure. In addition, we must have a petition of 10% of those who voted in the last Gubernatorial election which is 472 voters. The petition must be signed by 472 registered voters and delivered to County Clerk, Shelly Truillo, by June 14, 2021.

Dave Pato asked Jim Paxon to explain why the JPC wants to create a Special Hospital District.

Jim Paxon stated that the JPC includes 12 members and is authorized and vested in the financial health of the Hospital. The Governing Board is appointed by each entity (Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte, Village of Williamsburg, and the County of Sierra) and it is nine members that are vested in the overall operations of the Hospital on a daily basis. With 12 people on the JPC and nine people on the Governing Board, decision making is difficult to navigate. Occasionally, there is confusion about who what when and how.

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What we are seeking with the creation of a Special Hospital District is patterned after four other Special Hospital Districts in New Mexico. There would be a board of five elected trustees that would be responsible for the overall management of the Hospital. Three of the trustees would be elected from single member districts, and two trustees at large. The election is a general election for all five Members.

Dave Pato explained that upon receipt of the petition and the certification, the Board of County Commissioners will issue a proclamation calling for an election within 60 to 120 days. The election will determine the will of the residents with respect to whether or not to create a special district and an initial board of trustees. These trustees are going to be elected directly by the people. Those who are interested in serving on the board of trustees would file a declaration of candidacy for one of the positions no later than 30 days after the issuance of the County Commissions proclamation.

A draft form of the petition is included with today's agenda. Jim Paxon explained how the districts are divided. District three encompasses Elephant Butte, Engle, and Winston. District two encompasses the West side of T or C, Palomas Creek, Arrey and Hillsboro to the South and West. District one is primarily downtown old T or C.

A. Ballot Referendum November election 2021-

Jim Paxon motioned to create a ballot referendum for the Special Hospital District. Sandra Whitehead seconded. Kim Skinner called for a roll call vote:

Edna Trager	Y	Sandra Whitehead	Y	Randall Aragon	Y
Gerald LaFont	Y	Frances Luna	Y	Travis Day	Y
Jim Paxon	Y	Majie Powey	Y	Deb Stubblefield	Y

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Petition for creation of Special Hospital District deadline June 14, 2021- Kim Skinner reiterated that this petition needs to have 472 signatures and it needs to be filed at the County Clerks office by June 14, 2021. Based on suggestions from Majie Powey, Edna Trager, Sandra Whitehead and Greg D'Amour, minor revisions were made to the draft petition. Dave Pato read the following:

“We the people of Sierra County, recognize the need to simplify the governance of the hospital to facilitate the delivery of a broad continuum of compassionate health care services for Sierra County residents. By affixing my name in the space indicated below, I petition for the creation of the Sierra County Special Hospital District, which boundaries will include the geographic boundaries of Sierra County, as defined by Sections 4-27-1 and 4-27-2, NMSA 1978, two of the trustees of which are to be elected at large, and three trustees to be elected from single member districts.”

Sandra Whitehead motioned to approve the petition as worded above. Gerald LaFont seconded. Kim Skinner called for a roll call vote:

Edna Trager	Y	Sandra Whitehead	Y	Randall Aragon	Y
Gerald LaFont	Y	Frances Luna	Y	Travis Day	Y
Jim Paxon	Y	Majie Powey	Y	Deb Stubblefield	Y

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Filing of Referendum before June 24, 2021 deadline-

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Gerald LaFont motioned to approve filing of the referendum before June 24, 2021. Randall Aragon seconded. Kim Skinner called for a roll call vote:

Edna Trager	Y	Sandra Whitehead	Y	Randall Aragon	Y
Gerald LaFont	Y	Frances Luna	Y	Travis Day	Y
Jim Paxon	Y	Majie Powey	Y	Deb Stubblefield	Y

Motion carried unanimously.

David Johnson, Sutin Law Firm, attorney for the Hospital, stated that he started working for the hospital 18 years ago. In his opinion, the JPC is making the right decision on behalf of the hospital and on behalf of Sierra County constituents. This is a really good day for health care in Sierra County.

6. Adjournment

Gerald LaFont motioned to adjourn. Sandra Whitehead seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

JB approved 7/29/21

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Burns

Kim Skinner, JPC Chairperson