

JOINT MEETING
TAOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
&
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
105 ALBRIGHT ST. ROOM 106
TAOS, NEW MEXICO
MONDAY JUNE 18, 2018
3:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**
 - A. Jim Fambro, Taos County Chairman & Mark Gallegos, Village of Questa Mayor
2. **Roll Call**
 - A. Anna Martinez, Taos County Clerk & Renee Martinez, Village of Questa Clerk
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Agenda**
5. **Introductions**
6. **Joint Matters** –Discussion regarding the following:
 - A. Questa Reclamation Update – Marcus Rael Jr. and Dr. Debra Miller
7. **Adjournment**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting, contact the Taos County Administration Office located at 105 Albright Street, Suite G, Taos, New Mexico as soon as possible or call (575) 737-6300.

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
TAOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
&
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
JUNE 18, 2018

1. **Call to Order**

A. Jim Fambro, Taos County Chairman & Mark Gallegos, Village of Questa Mayor

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Fambro and Mayor Mark Gallegos at 3:46 PM.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call for Taos County taken by Transcriber, Tammy Sandoval.

Present were:

Jim Fambro, Chairman, District I

Mark Gallegos, Vice-Chairman, District II – Present as Mayor of Questa

Gabriel Romero, Commissioner, District III

Tom Blankenhorn, Commissioner, District IV

Absent: Candyce O'Donnell, Commissioner District V

Roll call for Village of Questa taken by Clerk, Renee Martinez.

Charlie I. Gonzales, Councilor

Louise Gallegos, Councilor

John Ortega, Councilor

Brent Jaramillo, Councilor

Also Present:

County Manager, Leandro Cordova

Deputy County Manager, Brent Jaramillo

Attorney, Pete Domenici

Transcriber, Tammy Sandoval

Nicholas Maestas, Village Administrator

Marcus Rael Jr. Attorney Village of Questa

Lance Hough, Asst. Attorney Village of Questa

Dr. Deborah Miller

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marcus Rael Jr.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Gabriel Romero made a motion to approve the June 18, 2018 Joint Meeting Agenda as amended to add the possibility of Joint Executive Session. Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn seconded. A roll call vote was taken indicating the following:

Commissioner Gabriel Romero	Yes
Commissioner Candyce O'Donnell	Absent
Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn	Yes
Vice-Chairman Mark Gallegos	---
Chairman Jim Fambro	Yes

Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Padilla and seconded by Councilor Gonzales to approve the agenda as amended to add the possibility of Joint Executive Session. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

5. Introductions

Taos County Board of Commission and Village of Questa Councilors and Administration introduced themselves as well as others in attendance.

6. Joint Matters –Discussion regarding the following:

A. Questa Reclamation Update – Marcus Rael Jr. and Dr. Debra Miller

Marcus Rael Jr. gave his presentation on the Questa Reclamation an overview on the Chevron Mine, EPA 2010 Record of Decision done under CERCLA the remedy focused on engineering controls for source containment of the waste rock piles meaning that they the piles get mitigated and no more acid is running into the aquifer or river and from tailings contaminating the ground water, surface water and sediment. The selected remedies focus on active ground water remediation and treatment and removal of lake sediment etc.

This site was added to the national priorities list of superfund sites on September 16, 2011. On March 7, 2012 an administrative settlement agreement was entered into between EPA and Chevron Mining and an order on consent for removal actions Mr. Rael explained what was remedied. September 30, 2013 First Amendment of early design AOC which included three projects: design of ground water extraction system to collect drainage, design of ground water extraction systems to enhance existing seepage barriers in place and design and construction of pilot surface based mine watering system. On November 13, 2014 a second amendment for early design was entered into to include two design projects which include design of grading plan for tailings facility and design and construction of fuel trials and waste rock cover materials. On August 9, 2016 a consent decree between Chevron Mining, EPA and State of New Mexico requiring \$143 million in clean-up work this is only a partial consent decree total clean-up work is going to be over \$700 million the final decree is in federal court.

Mr. Rael continued with the presentation he said water is being cleaned and discharged into the Red River. Questa's recent involvement includes – technical meetings with EPA and state regulatory agencies have occurred, river stewardship project, national resources damages assessment projects three were awarded for municipal water well, municipal sewer system, Red River restoration, Economic Development projects include Questa Business Park build out and the Questa Land and Water Non-profit Corporation. Water rights were also discussed Questa is having conversations with Chevron about purchasing and Mayor Gallegos suggested that the county also look into it.

Dr. Deborah J. Miller presented on recent activities at the mine, water treatment plant, tailing facilities, ground water studies, actions and reclamation projects. Chevron is anticipating a constructability review and they want Dr. Miller to participate regarding the discussions cover for tailings facility she has mostly been involved with the rock pile reclamation activities. Supplemental projects were discussed.

Mayor Mark Gallegos said the purpose of this meeting is to get the county officials up to speed on what's gone on at the Village of Questa he wants to jointly work together have both legal counsels put an agenda together to take action there are no action plans with NMED or other and a lot can be done Questa will support the county and the Town of Taos should also be involved.

Councilor Charlie Gonzales requested that the Fire Chief speak to everyone.

Taos Fire Department, Fire Chief said they've had a meeting with Chevron, EPA and Questa they want to get all entities together to build a regional training facility they need funding and a location possibly at the new airport facility so volunteer fire fighters or other do not have to travel to training on their own dime anymore.

Eric, Fire Marshall said they went to Dallas to speak with the former Director of District 6 and they are now discussing a regional first responder training facility it is desperately needed. UNM Taos is prepared to bring curriculum to Taos for the certain fields of study. Eric showed everyone the design and proposal in phases. Many jobs were lost when the mine shut down and it will give opportunity he requested help from Questa and Taos County.

Everyone thought that this was a great idea it will save all entities money the Questa Attorney and others will look into the idea. Mayor Gallegos said it's the commission and councils job to push Chevron to move on these projects and get something done.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Gabriel Romero made a motion to adjourn at 5:35 PM. Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Councilor John Ortega to adjourn at 5:35 PM. Councilor Louise Gallegos seconded. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

