

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, June 9, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.

ZOOM Meeting

Attendees: Forrest Neuerburg, Representative Donald Valdez, Senator Larry Crowder, Kevin Wilkins, Linda Robinson, Traci Holmes, Dr. Cheryl Lovell, Tom Monaco, Tom Slade, Marty Asplin, Jason Medina, Gary Johnson, Bernadette Martinez, Lyndsie Ferrell, Ken Hamko, Suzanne Benton, Mike Hurst, Pam Bricker, Marcus Shawcroft, Gene Glover, Courtney, and Bonnie Asplin.

- I. **Call to Order** 7:02 a.m. by President, Forrest Neuerburg
- II. **Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting:** M/S for approval Pam Bricker/Tom Slade; approved.
- III. **Programs:**

State Representative Donald Valdez gave a live update from Denver. Valdez gave an update on COVID discussing the outbreak in Center. Discussed how to move forward in a positive way and get people back working. He went on to talk about water in the San Luis Valley. We have to continually tell our story as to why we need to keep our water here in the Valley and not sell it to the Front Range. Valdez wants to make sure advocacy and having a voice in keeping our water. We need to remind people to get out and vote. Also need to fill out the 2020 census. Valdez went over the Senate Bill 217 – the Law Enforcement Integrity Act, which enacts several provisions that will prevent police brutality and increase transparency and accountability in Colorado’s law enforcement system. This would include body cameras on every law enforcement officer. Would also require putting a camera in every unit. The cost should come from the State’s budget as the State mandates it. Not every city or county budget can afford it. This was followed by a question and answer period.

State Senator Larry Crowder reported that a lot had been going on. Senate Bill 217 has been amended and is a much better bill. He felt that they had gotten it to a place that would benefit everyone involved. The Colorado State Patrol had a part in this. The bill will now be going to the House for a vote. Crowder went on to discuss some of the high points of the bill. SCR20-001 Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates is coming up for vote. It needs two thirds of the vote to pass. This would freeze residential rates and repeal the nonresidential property tax assessment rate of twenty-nine percent. He stated that there were 162 bills left to be voted on and he expected a majority of them would be killed. He went on to talk about the protestors in Denver. There were three different aspects of them. There were the peaceful and after 5 p.m. the crazies came out. The next morning the protestors came back and cleaned up. Estimated cost of rioting on buildings just under a million.

Kevin Wilkins, Executive Director, San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (SLVDRG) talked about the survey that was done just before the COVID disruption. He felt it was a flawed survey. There were only 80 responses. He felt there was not much to report on the survey. Wilkins stated that the smaller businesses were the most disrupted. One of the things that was learned was the challenges of paying utility bills. SLVDRG/COG received a Grant for \$25,000. Travis will be applying for another round of funding. DRG and COG will be holding their first meeting Monday to go over funding. They are expecting another \$800,000 coming from EDA. They will partner with the banks to loan the money at zero percent interest. There will be a lot of money to lend, but not sure that loans are the answer. Wilkins said businesses have three options: 1) do nothing, 2) retool and rethink your business, or 3) polish it up, fix it up, and sell it

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- IV. **Reports from Communities:** None
- V. **Next Meeting:** July 14, 2020, 7 a.m.
 - a. Location
 - b. Program - To be determined
- VI. **Adjourn:** at 7:37 am

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson