

Sierra Vista Hospital
Special Joint Powers Commission Meeting
Minutes

May 13, 2021 @ 10:00am

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