

February 9, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners now meets pursuant to adjournment.

Present:	Rob Oquist	Chairman
	Tim Knabenshue	Commissioner
	Jim Baldwin	Commissioner
	Kaysie Schmidt	Administrator
	Rose Pugliese	County Attorney
	Lynda Scott	Clerk

Guests in attendance in person: Adrian Hart, Nancy Harrington, Bette McFarren, Dillen Roath, Danelle Berg, Christopher Olney, Darren Garcia, Aimee Hill, and Sharon Jones.

Chr. Oquist asked everyone to stand for Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chr. Oquist called the regular meeting to order.

Chr. Oquist called for approval of the consent agenda. The agenda includes approval of the minutes from January 26th, 2026, bills and payroll for January 15th, 2026, through January 31st, 2026. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Danelle Berg presented a request for a temporary General Fund loan to Otero Partners, Inc. (OPI). Otero County applies for and receives Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), to help small businesses in Otero and Las Animas Counties. The grant dollars are used to give loans to small businesses or individuals starting a small business who get funds for equipment and capital funds. In November OPI asked for and was approved for an additional \$991,800.00 through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Ms. Berg is asking the Board if they would approve a temporary loan to OPI for \$800,000.00 for a business in Otero County to be paid back by the Community Development Block Grant when it comes in. She also asks them to please let her know when it comes in. Co. Baldwin motioned to approve the grant fund loan. Co. Knabenshue seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented the Southeast Council of Governments (SECOG) Technical Assistance Grant Application for the Treasurer's Office for ratification. The County is asking for \$5,000.00 and it is a required 1:1 cash match. The money will be used to replace the counters in the Treasurer's Office as they are cracked, chipped and outdated, with ones that are more durable, professional, and better suited to a high-traffic customer area. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the ratification of the application to SECOG. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented Resolution 2026-05. A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, Colorado, Accepting Grant CT2026-2901 and Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has awarded the County Grant CT2026-2901 in the amount of \$2,490,979.00 for the purpose of completing the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC). Discussion was held. Co. Baldwin motioned to approve the Resolution. Co. Knabenshue seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented the Contract for Professional Services Between Otero County and Kennedy Jenks. This contract is specifically for the completion of the design of the Spur and Delivery Package 1 for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the Contract. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

County Public Trustee Sharon Jones reported that there were 99 deed releases and 13 new foreclosures in the 4th Quarter. The foreclosures seem to be picking up.

County Treasurer Sharon Jones also gave the Semi-Annual report from 7/1/25 to 12/31/25. The County has \$29,979,237.50 total funds of which \$2,729,945.56 are due to the East Otero School District R-1 and the Manzanola Fire Department, once the tax audits have been completed with the State then those funds will be released.

Admin. Schmidt presented the sales tax report. In November \$215,033.00 was collected. The cumulative percentage of change is 3% and the monthly percentage of change was also 3%.

Clerk Scott presented that the Clerk's office will be closing on the 13th at 2:00 pm, on Monday the 16th because of the President's Holiday Day, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 17th and 18th for training, and open for appointments only on Thursday and Friday the 19th and 20th. We will also be closed on July 30th for elections however, we will be open for renewals and temporary permits as it is the last day of the month. We will also be closed on the 3rd of November for the General Election.

Co. Knabenshue presented that he attended several meetings, noteworthy are the TPR meeting, the 911 Authority meeting that concerned the consolidation and expansion, Hospital meetings, and the Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) meeting.

Chr. Oquist stated that he attended the Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) meetings on Thursdays and Fridays as they are all day.

Admin. Schmidt presented that the Otero County offices & Landfill will be closed on Monday February 16, 2026, in observance of President's Day.

Co. Knabenshue motioned to adjourn to Executive Session. Co. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried. Executive session began at 2:01p.m. Chr. Oquist motioned at 2:35p.m. to adjourn executive session and return to the regular meeting. The regular meeting was then adjourned.

With no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, February 23rd, 2026, at 1:30 pm.


Clerk


Chairman