

January 26, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners now meets pursuant to adjournment.

Present:	Rob Oquist	Chairman
	Tim Knabenshue	Commissioner
	Kaysie Schmidt	Administrator
	Lynda Scott	Clerk

Guests in attendance in person: Adrian Hart and Bette McFarren.

Guests on zoom: Rose Pugliese, Anne Boswell, Christopher Olney, and Cathy Garcia-from Representative Hurd's Office.

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 12th, 2026, bills and payroll for January 1st, 2026, through January 15th, 2026, along with the Department of Human Services Financials and the Historic Preservation Board Appointments for Ed Bryant, Tim Baublits, Ashley Kelley, and Susan Morris. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the consent agenda. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented the Board of County Commissioners letter for ratification to Representatives Hurd and Boebert, concerning support for the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act; HR 131. Co. Knabenshue stated that the Bill would only extend the amount of time for repayment and adjusts the interest rate on the project. The funding for the project is still there the issue is the terms. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the ratification of the letter. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented the Board of County Commissioners letter for ratification to President Trump and Secretary Rollins in support of HR 131 – Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act. Co. Knabenshue wanted again to say that this is not to re- fund the project, the money is there. The County would like to send a delegation to Washington DC to speak to them directly about how important this project is for Southeastern Colorado. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the ratification of the letter. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented the Board of County Commissioners' letter for ratification to PCMS NEPA c/o Tetra Tech concerning the Preliminary Scoping for Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. The County respects the military and the need to train to maintain readiness, however, the County does feel that long-term impacts on soil, water, wildlife, and cultural landscapes must and should be protected. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve the ratification of the letter. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Chr. Oquist presented ratification of proxies for Colorado Counties Inc. Steering Committees: Donna Rohde- Proxy for Health and Human Services Steering Committee and Kaysie Schmidt- Proxy for all other Steering Committees. Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve ratification of the designation of the proxies. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Admin. Schmidt presented a letter for ratification to Michael Hart, City of La Junta Manager, regarding recommending Mr. Martin Montoya as the City of La Junta representative to the Southeast Transportation Planning Region (SETPR). Co. Knabenshue motioned to approve ratification of the letter. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk Scott presented that the office will be doing an upgrade starting on the 13th of February until the 20th of February and hours will be different.

Co. Knabenshue presented that he attended several meetings in the last two weeks, the most notable being: Otero County Landfill (OCLI), Otero Partners Inc. (OPI), the Lower Ark Conservancy Water meeting, the 911 System meeting that talked about the switch over from La Junta to the Rocky Ford Center. There was a Q&A session on the Fowler Shop rebuild and Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) as the Legislature is back in session.

Chr. Oquist mentioned that he attended the Southeast Colorado Business Retention (SEBREA) and SAGE meetings.

Co. Knabenshue motioned to move to an Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of a conference with legal counsel related to Three Corners Connector, LLC request for a 1041 Permit. Chr. Oquist seconded. Motion carried.

With no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, February 9th, 2026, at 1:30 pm.


Clerk


Chairman