

Town of Estancia
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, August 18, 2025 6:15pm

Municipal Building, 513 Williams Avenue, Estancia, NM 87016

MINUTES

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88227826563?pwd=bVdb0h3NJPC9Har4WqKaMKJrCz1XXB.1>

Meeting ID: 882 2782 6563

Passcode: 104182

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:18pm and Roll Call was taken:

Trustee May – Present
Trustee Lovato – Present
Trustee Sanchez – Present
Trustee Hall – Present
Mayor Dial – Present

1.0 Approval/Disapproval of Agenda – Action Item

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee May made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

2.0 Discussion/Approval of the July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes – Action Item

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee May made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as written. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

3.0 Discussion/Approval of the July 30, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes – Action Item

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the July 30, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as written. Trustee May seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

4.0 Discussion/Approval of the August 18, 2025, Bill List – Action Item

Trustee Hall requested more specific information about each expenditure on the list. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Lovato made a motion to approve the Aug. 18, 2025 Bill List. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

No Public Comment

5.0 Department Updates:

Police- Chief Carter addressed the Trustees. He said everything is going very well in his department. They are participating with some federal task forces; we've got two officers on two different Federal Task Forces. He said that the feds are kind of objective about their stats, but we're been assisting with, or made, quite a few felony arrests that affect this region, so we're really excited about that. They are hoping to move in to the new building by the end of the month. They will also be posting for two more officers. These positions are in the current budget. Trustee Lovato asked Chief Carter to provide stats in his monthly updates; tickets written, calls, etc. Trustee Sanchez asked about town coverage on some Thursday evenings when there is competitive shooting in Edgewood. Chief Carter said it is once a month for about an hour; it's incredible training and he makes sure that the Town is covered.

Trustee Sanchez said that everyone knows that Chief Carter will be running for Sheriff. He asked if Chief Carter will take everything with him when he leaves. Chief Carter said no.

Code Enforcement- Code Enforcement Officer Teaney said that Animal Control has been very busy. He has caught and adopted out several dogs. And has taken out several cats from one household. He has taken care of some skunks and a rooster. On the P&Z side, he has been getting may calls about one acre lots, about mobile homes and RVs. He is studying for his flood plain management certification.

Fire- had no update for this meeting.

EMS- EMS Supervisor Barela said everything is going well in his department; they are very busy. He said the weekend coverage is really working out and the coverage at games for the school is also going well. They are not only responding in the town , but also in the county.

Library- Head Librarian Creamer presented the attached written update:
August 2025 Library Report

NM State Library Annual Report

Completed 08/01. Stats – Children enrolled in the programs read over 1000 books this summer. We currently have 1,783 active patrons, and there are 17,633 books in the library.

Children's Programming:

The Children's summer reading program ended with 63 children completing the program! Sign-ups for our Fall/Spring session will be the week of September 29th.

The Tween Library camp had a total of 9 Tweens enjoying a recycling art craft, and they made a survival bracelet with Mr. Albert and Kasey.

For the Community:

The Adult book club had 7 participants last month.

The library was featured on Facebook as an art space for Torrance County. The promotion videos can be viewed on the Everything Everywhere Art in Torrance County Facebook page.

State Aid \$ 10,000

Spend by 06/2026 on Books, salaries, equipment, or services.

2022 GO (General Obligation) Bond Money \$ \$19,598.00

Have spent \$4,404.03 (Balance 15,193.97)
to be spent by 04/2026 on books, equipment, and furniture

Rural Library Program Grant \$15,000

To be spent by 06/2026 on construction, supplies, books, or materials

GRO (Government Results and Opportunity Program Fund (Rural Program)\$20,000

to be spent by June 30, 2026. I will use these funds to update our adult fiction collection, both hard copies and ebooks.

NMSL

We received a one-time grant of \$485.00 from the NM State Library Foundation, which was donated by Mr Charles Lehman for rural libraries. These funds will be used to purchase bilingual adult and children's books.

One Time Rural Library Grant \$43,859.65

To be spent by 06/2026 on Salaries, equipment, and construction.

ERATE

We have been refunded for 24-25 fiscal year and have been approved for the 25-26 fiscal year.

Projects

I would like to use the One-Time Grant of \$43,859.65 and the Rural Library Grant of \$15,000 for resurfacing the parking lot at the Library. I am asking for quotes.

Bonnie Bernal is painting an ABC mural in the kids' area with a fairy tale theme.

Thank you for your support of the library and staff.





Maintenance- Public Works Supervisor Bencomo informed the Trustees that we are back in compliance with the State. Multiple workers before Mr. Bencomo neglected to turn in critical reports, etc. to the state, but we are all caught up now. We should have no problems getting the new well funding that we are requesting. He said his department is doing a lot of road patching right now. They are working with the county to get the needed patch material. They successfully replaced the pump and motor in well 8 so the water situation for the town is much improved. Water was trucked in to assist the town with a small amount being distributed on the baseball field. The Mayor, Clerk, and Trustees thanked Mr. Bencomo and his team for their efforts during what was a very difficult couple of weeks.

Administration Clerk Jones presented the following written update:

Clerk's Update 08.18.2025

1. Our 4th qtr qtrly report and our Final FY26 Budget were approved by DFA. I will have a resolution coming soon for some adjustments that I am already seeing need to be done.
2. Town Cleanup Vouchers went out in a separate mailing to all our utility customers; it seems to have gone very smoothly. Residents have until October 15th to use their voucher.
3. Our RIP loan has been approved and we can begin expenses. We will have be speaking with Dennis Engineering about the next steps for the monitoring wells.
4. We have been asked for an update on our Flood Mitigation. I will be reaching out to the Army Corp of engineers for an update.
5. I think we might want to send out the directions for Text My Gov again with the next utility bills so more people know how to sign up.
6. Caselle and Xpress bill pay are getting easier and easier to use, as well as our well reading system. We have more to learn, but we are getting there.
7. I am going to reach out to our auditor soon about prep for the FY25 audit. We want to do our best and at the very least, not submit late.
8. We have a new ICIP system and I will be entering our 8 priority projects soon as well as our Capital Outlay Requests.
9. I printed out a report outlining the current expenditures for the new PD building. We will be doing either and Request for Bids for an Invitation for Proposals soon for the paving of the PD parking lot.

10. Several of us will be traveling to Ruidoso in September for the NMML Annual Conference and in October for the Municipal Clerk training. Please let me know asap if you can attend so I can get our reservations in.
11. Our recent water system struggles were very real and very difficult for the staff and the public. I am so proud to work here- everyone involved did their very best to help. I sincerely thank our employees and the public who did their part to support us.

No Old Business

New Business

- 6.0 **Application for a Variance from the Planning Code- Ernesto Acosta- Action Item**
The Board of Trustees reviewed the application. In summary, Mr. Acosta applied for the permit to add a porch to his property. His permit was approved by the Code Enforcement Officer. When Mr. Acosta began to build his porch, it was discovered that it was not in compliance with the Town Ordinance; the porch was being built up to the property fence line. When Mr. Acosta was informed of this, he stopped the project and applied for a variance to the planning code. Trustee Hall commented that the porch would not obstruct the view of the nearby road intersection and that the Town should have asked for a drawing of the proposed addition. Trustee Sanchez commented that if we approved this project, we would set a precedent and will have to approved similar projects moving forward. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the Variance from the Planning Code for Mr. Ernesto Acosta. Trustee Lovato seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee May – Aye, Trustee Lovato – Aye, Trustee Sanchez – Nay, Trustee Hall – Aye.
MOTION CARRIED
- 7.0 **RV Park Proposal- Ernesto Acosta- Discussion/Possible Action** Mr. Acosta has been asked to find out if they would be approved for septic as their proposed location. There is a question about whether the location is zoned for an RV park. Mayor Dial requests that we review our Ordinance with respect to RV parks. We will also reach out to other municipalities to review their RV ordinances. This item will be on the next agenda. **NO ACTION, INFORMATION ONLY**
- 8.0 **Request for a donation for the Memorial Wall in Moriarty- Discussion/Possible Action**
After discussion and consideration, the Board agreed to donate similar to the donations being made from surrounding entities. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee Lovato made a motion to approve a donation from the Town of Estancia to the City of Moriarty in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the Memorial Wall in Moriarty. Trustee May seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**
- 9.0 **SRO MOU- Discussion/Possible Action**
Estancia Municipal Schools Superintendent Dr. Cindy Simms addressed the Board of Trustees. Town of Estancia Police Officer David Vazquez has been working as the School Resource Officer for the Estancia Schools and has been doing an Outstanding job. This position is critical to the safety of the students and the community. Dr. Simms told the Trustees that she is very pleased with the work of Officer Vazquez, and the School Board has already approved the SRO MOU between the Town of Estancia and the Estancia School District for the 2025-2026 school year. The School has agreed to pay up to \$80,000.00 for the SRO services. Officer Vazquez will be working almost exclusively as the SRO and the School will reimburse his payroll. The Mayor, Chief Carter, and the Trustees thanked Officer Vazquez for his commitment to this very important position and thanked Dr. Simms and the Estancia School Board for their continued support of and partnership with the Town. **ACTION TAKEN:** Trustee May made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 SRO MOU between the Town of Estancia and the Estancia Municipal Schools for SRO services. Trustee Lovato seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

10.0 Approval of Resolution 2025-36 Authorizing the filing of an Application for Financial Assistance from the NM Water Trust Board- Action Item Roll Call Vote

Mayor Dial informed the Trustees that we must approve this resolution in order to apply for funding from the Water Trust Board. This time, we will apply for funding for Wastewater projects.

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Hall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-36 Authorizing the filing of an Application for Financial Assistance from the NM Water Trust Board. Trustee Lovato seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee May – Aye, Trustee Lovato – Aye, Trustee Sanchez – Aye, Trustee Hall – Aye. **MOTION CARRIED**

11.0 Update on Town Water situation- Discussion/Possible Action In summary, Mayor Dial gave the Trustees and the public the update attached. Below is the written update that will be published to the public:

**TOWN OF ESTANCIA
25Aug25**

Memo: Brief of the Drinking water issues that occurred Aug 2025. (all dates and GPM are approximate)

The Town of Estancia (TOE) has been in need for a new well since at least 2017. The issue is not a lack of water in the ground, the issue is our current system is barely pumping it out of the ground at a rate that meets demand. The current drinking water system needs refurbishment and a new well to have the redundant ability to keep up with demand. With any little hiccup or breakdown in the system, the storage tanks start to deplete immediately.

In 2017 the town was approved for funding for a new well based on demand when CCA opened; However, CCA closed before the project started and the State of NM took back the funding due to the fact the TOE demands were basically cut in half. When CCA reopened as CoreCivic the demand came back but the town had to reapply for funding for a new well. The funding for the new well should be approved on Wednesday 27Aug25. Best case scenario, once the funding is approved, it will take at least 6 months to complete a new water well. 18 months is probably the worst-case scenario to complete the new well.

Back in May, the TOE was getting critically low on water in the storage tanks. The TOE asked residents to conserve water and was considering declaring an emergency. In meetings with the State, the County, CoreCivic, and the TOE developed a plan to work on the current system to keep it going until a new well was completed. The TOE has 4 wells numbered 3, 4, 8 & 9 and the two storage tanks west of town (the elevated tank in town is offline and does not hold water) that can feed water to the Town. The 4 wells in May were producing the following Gallons Per Minute (GPM): Well #3-15 GPM, Well# 4 was offline, well #8 - 90 GPM and well #9-25 GPM.

The plan was to:

- 1-Perform maintenance on well 3
- 2-Bring well 4 back online
- 3-Rework, clean and deepen well 9
- 4- Put a new pump in well 8

On August 10th, the TOE was once again critically low in the storage tanks. The completed planned work on the system at this time was:

- maintenance on well #3, had been completed as of date
- well #4 back online, had been completed to date
- some work had been completed on well #9, we are currently waiting for permit approval for deepening and cleaning of well #9
- after the completion of well #9, putting in a new pump in well #8.

On Aug 11th the TOE turned off the water from 10pm to 6am Aug 12th to see if the storage tanks would recover a decent amount of water. They did not.

On Aug 12th the TOE once again asked residents to conserve water. CoreCivic was restricted and began hauling water to their facility. The County Emergency Manager started to coordinate for bottled water to be delivered to the Estancia Fire Department to be given to residents and the Estancia School System agreed to close the school for the rest of the week. The TOE decided to not wait for well #9 to be completed and to just put a new pump in well #8.

From Aug 13th-14th A water boil notice was put out and the community prepared for installation of the new pump.

On Aug 14th-15th The new pump was installed, and the water boil notice was lifted.

As of today, the Storage Tanks are back to holding at levels that are very sufficient to maintain demand for the TOE and the wells are producing in GPM:

- well #3 - 30GPM
- well #4 - 45GPM
- well #8 - 150GPM
- well #9 - 40GPM.

This water situation should be under control until the TOE puts in a new well with upgrades to the current system. I would like to thank and recognize the whole community who helped with this water issue. Some examples of how this would not have been completed in a week's time without the following:

- The County Commission offering the county's assistance
- The County Manager being a focal point for information
- The Emergency Manager providing bottled water
- The City of Moriarty and the Village of Willard offering water
- The Estancia Schools shutting down
- Core Civic hauling water
- EPD, EFD, and EPW making runs and handing out water
- Public Works driving to Texas for parts
- Digger Well Services for making the TOE a priority
- The front office and library dealing directly with citizens
- The Citizens understanding
- East View Electric opening up after hours for parts, and the list goes on.

Sorry I know I missed someone/something. There are too many to remember. Let it not be said that Torrance County does not come together when in need!

"It's amazing what you can get done, if you don't care who gets the credit"
Harry S. Truman

TOWN OF ESTANCIA, NM

Nathan Dial, Mayor
C# 505-705-0044

Clerk Jones mentioned that she and the Mayor are looking into giving a one-time credit to our water utility customers as a thank you and an acknowledgement of their inconvenience. Trustee Hall disagreed with this idea, as utilities have difficulties at times. The electricity goes out at times,

etc. EMS Supervisor Barela spoke in favor of giving a credit if possible. **NO ACTION, INFORMATION ONLY**

12.0 Mayor/Council:

Trustee Hall had no update for this meeting.

Trustee May said that the MOLI training was very informative. She will have a report to present at the next meeting.

Trustee Lovato talked about the baseball field. He wants adequate signing over there and wants to continue the discussion about someone being dedicated to maintaining the facility. He will be working on getting funding to put a small playground there. He is concerned about a homeless person who has been sleeping there and the damage that person might do.

Trustee Sanchez thanked everyone for pulling together to assist with the recent water situation. He requested that someone call him if something like this happens again. He said that the recent MOLI training was very informative. Lastly, he would like to do something with the concrete pad at the park that used to house the bathrooms.

Mayor Dial had no update for this meeting.

13.0 Executive Session – As per Motion and Roll Call Vote – Pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1 Sections (H)(2) limited personnel matters.

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Lovato made a motion to go into Executive Session, as per motion and Roll Call Vote, pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1 Section (H) (2) to discuss limited personnel matters. Trustee Hall seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee May – Aye, Trustee Lovato – Aye, Trustee Sanchez – Aye, Trustee Hall – Aye. **MOTION CARRIED**

Executive Session began at 8:20pm.

Return to Regular Session- ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Lovato made a motion to return to regular session, stating that the only item discussed was the item listed on the agenda, and no action was taken. Trustee May seconded the motion. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

Regular Session resumed at 8:31pm.

14.0 Action on Items discussed in Executive Session- Possible Action – NO ACTION

Adjournment –

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Lovato seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:31pm.

Approved: 
Mayor Nathan Dial

Date: 9/2/2025

Attest: 
Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Jones

Date: 9/2/2025