

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**JEMEZ MOUNTAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2019**

**HERNANDEZ, NEW MEXICO**

1. This special meeting of the Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairman Nick Naranjo at 2:00 P.M. on the above-mentioned date, at JMEC Headquarters, 19365 S.R. 84/285, Hernandez, NM.

2. & 3. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Charlie Trujillo, Secretary, called roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum as follows:

**PRESENT:**

Nick Naranjo, Chair  
Leo Marquez, Vice Chair  
Charlie Trujillo, Secretary  
Johnny Jaramillo, Treasurer  
Lucas J. Cordova, Trustee  
Dolores McCoy, Trustee  
David D. Salazar, Trustee  
Victor Salazar, Trustee  
John Tapia, Trustee at Large  
Dennis Trujillo, Trustee

**ABSENT:**

[One Vacancy]

**JMEC STAFF PRESENT:**

Andrew Chávez, Acting General Manager  
Laura Rendon, Executive Assistant  
Eva DeAguero, Business Services - Billing Manager  
Teresa Chavez, Business Services - Account Manager

**OTHER(S) PRESENT:**

Stanley Crawford, Incoming Board  
Charles Garcia, JMEC Counsel  
Blair Dunn, Counsel for Bruce Duran  
Heather Lindquist, Member  
Amanda Martinez, *Rio Grande Sun*  
Luis Torres, Member  
Leroy Ortiz, Member  
Patrick Herrera, Member

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION:** Mr. C. Trujillo moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Tapia seconded and the motion passed by without opposition.

Ms. McCoy requested a moment of silence for Vicki Valdez's daughter, Valerie, who recently passed away.

#### 5. ACTION ITEMS

##### A. Investigation into Qualifications under Article 4 Section 3 of the Bylaws for Mr. Lucas Cordova

Andrew Chávez, Acting Manager, read the item caption and JMEC counsel Charles Garcia advised the Board that an investigation regarding Mr. Cordova's qualifications has been conducted. The trustees were provided materials as a result of the completed investigation:

Attachment #1: Declaration of Candidacy and Candidate Affirmation form. Of significance is the principal place of residence identified as #42 Road 1549. The date of the affirmation form is 5/10/2019

Attachment #2: Cooperative corporate records, billing and payment records were reviewed by Eva DeAguero, Business Services. She said Co-op records indicate membership was purchased for #42 on Road 1549, SR 84G on 7/12/1994. The provided materials show the process date, consumer account, amount paid, and how it was paid. The credit card payments were identified on the material. Mr. Cordova does not use an e-check; rather, the bank sends a direct payment. His personal bank automatically submits payment to JMEC's bank. The payments are now being made through an e-box and there is JMEC bank confirmation of these payments. She reviewed the history of payments on #42 Road 1549.

Mr. D. Salazar asked about another property that is associated with Mr. Cordova and Ms. DeAguero said the property is under a rental tenant's name. The membership is under the name of Armando Armijo.

Attachment #3: Is a map generated by the Co-op and what is shown is the location of #42 Road 1549 State Road 84, which is located within District 4.

Mr. Garcia said under the Co-op's bylaws, Article 4, Section 3B, Mr. Cordova is required to be a member of the Co-op, paying the membership fee, which Ms. DeAguero identified within Attachment #2. That membership was accepted by the Co-op and has met that requirement. In addition, Article 1, Section 6 requires that each member purchase electricity from the Co-op used on the premises as specified on the membership application. The records demonstrate that Mr. Cordova has been paying the electric bills on the account that has the membership attached to it. Under Article 4, Section 3B, there is a

requirement that Mr. Cordova is and remains a bona fide resident of the district that he represents. The map demonstrates that the location of the membership account for which he pays the electric bill is located within District 4.

Attachment #4: Is the email received from Mr. Patrick Herrera raising the concerns regarding Mr. Lucas Cordova's residence and whether or not it was located within District 4, Ward B and with the claim that he was ineligible to be a trustee of District 4.

Attachment #5: In response to Mr. Herrera's claim, JMEC send an IPRA request to the Secretary of State's Office for address confirmation and the Secretary's office supplied the voting records for local, state and public elections that Mr. Cordova voted within.

The records of JMEC confirm that Mr. Cordova is a resident of District 4. Mr. Garcia noted that under New Mexico law, particularly NM statutes 1-1-19 which is part of the election code, the requirements of the election code that Mr. Herrera relied on in his complaint do not apply to Co-op election. The election code in New Mexico applies to state, local and national elections and is specific to those as limited by 1-1-19A. What applies to the Co-op elections are the requirements as established in the bylaws and those have been addressed.

Mr. D. Salazar asked whether counsel checked the records at the County Assessor's office and if the Secretary of State confirmed Mr. Cordova's address. Mr. Garcia responded that the address given to the Secretary of State is included within Attachment #5. Mr. D. Salazar strongly recommended that counsel go to the Assessor's office and see what properties he has.

Mr. Garcia clarified that the charge he received from the Board was to investigate pursuant to the requirement of the bylaws. There was no directive to look at Mr. Cordova's properties.

Mr. D. Salazar explained why the wards were included in the districts. He said the Board should inspect the Rio Arriba Assessor's records. Mr. Garcia said the information Mr. D. Salazar shared about the wards was not contained in the bylaws and not pertinent to this discussion. Article 4, Section 3 requires a candidate to be a bona fide resident of the district. Article 4, Section 2, Subsection C, says all trustees, except the trustee at-large, shall be elected by and from the members of the district which they represent. There is no mention of the ward.

Mr. Marquez acknowledged that Mr. Garcia conducted the investigation in full. He stated the Co-op has concluded its investigation and if Mr. Herrera continues to have questions, he may continue on his own.

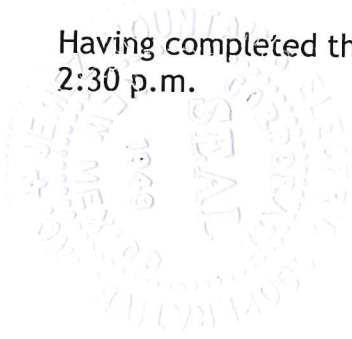
Mr. Cordova said he was born and raised in the district and has always had a house there. He mentioned that this investigation was a waste of Co-op money.

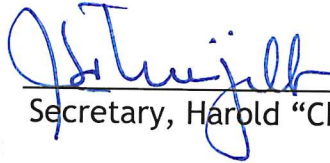
In response to Ms. McCoy, Mr. Cordova said he has one account.

**ACTION:** Based on the presentation and documentation presented to the Board, Mr. C. Trujillo, Secretary of the JMEC BOT, moved that Mr. Lucas Cordova, 1) meets the qualification to be elected as a trustee under the bylaws and 2) the Board confirms this verification and the election result for District 4. Ms. McCoy seconded and the motion passed with Mr. D. Salazar casting the sole nay vote.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the agenda the Board adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.





Secretary, Harold "Charlie" Trujillo

APPROVED:

  
Chairman, Nick Naranjo