



Village of Cuba

PO Box 426
Cuba, NM 87013
575.289.3758

Mayor

Denny Herrera

Mayor Pro Tem

Gilbert Dominguez

Council Members

Rebecca Salazar

Kyle Sandoval

Monica Olivas

Administrative Offices

Village of Cuba Council Meeting
February 25, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
214 SR 197, Fire Station
Cuba, New Mexico
Minutes

Mayor Herrera: "Call to Order 5:59 p.m."

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Mayor Herrera: "Roll call vote Mrs. Martinez"

Mayor Herrera-Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez-Present

Council Member Salazar-Present

Council Member Sandoval-Present

Council Member Olivas-Present

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Olivas makes a motion.

Council Member Salazar Seconds.

Mayor Herrera- "We would like to amend, remove item # 6, it has already been previously resolved on 7/30/2026."

Ms. Martinez: "25"

Mayor Herrera: "7/30/2025, sorry."

Mayor Herrera: "Next item"

Ms. Martinez: "Need to make a motion to amend."

Council Member Olivas makes a motion.

Council Member Salazar seconds.

Mayor Herrera: "Roll call vote Mrs. Martinez."



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Council Member Salazar-Yes

Council Member Sandoval-Yes

Council Member Olivas-Yes

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez-Yes

Mayor Herrera: "Next item is the Discussion, Consideration and action of the appointment of Michael Huckleby as Chief of Police for the Village of Cuba."

Council Member Olivas makes a motion.

Council Member Salazar seconds.

Mayor Herrera: "Any discussion from the Council on this matter?"

Council Member Olivas: "So how's it going?"

Chief Huckleby: "It's going pretty good."

Council Member Olivas: "Yeah."

Chief Huckleby: "The community has been very welcoming; the officers have been great. There's been a lot of change and adjustments. I don't know if anybody saw on Facebook? PIO and I have worked together on that, and I am very proud of it. There's been a lot of community interaction with it, so that's good. Everything is going pretty good so far, it's just, it's going to be something that is going to continue and we're going to have some changes down the line for the betterment for the Police Department and the safety of the community."

Council Member Olivas: "So what are your hours?"

Chief Huckleby: "9-5 Monday-Friday."

Council Member Olivas: "9-5?"

Chief Huckleby: "Yes ma'am."

Council Member Olivas: "Is there officers on the weekend?"

Chief Huckleby: "So, for the only dark day we have, and by "Dark Day" I mean an officer that is not available due to staffing reasons, is Sunday. We have Officer Acaedo Mon-Thur, officer Lopez Wed-Sat, Officer Chapa Wed-Sat and then officer Pleasant Mon=Thur as well."

Council Member Olivas: "Oh, ok."



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Chief Huckeby: "It ranges from the earliest start point is 7 in the morning and the latest start point when someone gets off is 2 a.m. so we should be able to hit most of those peak hours of any kind of activity, but between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. Sandoval County has already agreed that they're going to take the calls and help us out until we can get staffing back up to where eventually hopefully my goal is to be a 24/7 police department so that we could provide that kind of service to the people here."

Council Member Olivas: "That would be awesome, yeah that would be really nice."

Chief Huckeby: "Yes."

Council Member Salazar: "Awesome."

Council member Olivas: "Well, welcome."

Chief Huckeby: "Thank you."

Council Member Salazar: "Speaking as a community member, I really feel Sundays are very important to us because 550 is busy, busy, busy, especially during holidays, during summers, you know, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. We've got traffic galore." "I mean..."

Mayor Herrera: "Sunday is a time when everybody is going back. "

Council Member Salazar: "Going back."

Mayor Herrera: "From Colorado...from the lakes..."

Council Member Salazar: "The mountains."

Mayor Herrera: "From wherever."

Council Member Salazar: "Yeah, Friday they're coming in, Saturday they're going out, I mean, Sunday they're going out. So, it's...I mean, like I've mentioned in the past I cruise, I see, you know, my campaign was "let me be your voice," so this is everyone's voice."

Chief Huckeby: "That's actually very understandable, I'm glad you told me that. Right now I can have a solution for that is because we do have Grants through Sandoval County which now I am going to be a part of in the task force meetings for LDWY so basically it's too, It's solely just traffic, pulling cars over, citations and check for drunk drivers. I'm going to start advocating that more for the officers on Sundays, and I do, as the Chief, have the power to mandate that because that is a Grant funded item and we do need to use those funds, or we go back into reversion. If officers don't start volunteering for it, I will set up a mandatory "inaudible" list, and we will go with that."

Mayor Herrera: "And this Grant is for overtime correct?"



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Chief Huckeby: "That is correct. It is paid from the Grant."

Mayor Herrera: "From the Grant."

Chief Huckeby: "Yes."

Mrs. Sparks: "May I ask a question? Under this Grant if they're dedicated for traffic, are they allowed to do calls for service?"

Chief Huckeby: "No. We would be in violation of the Grant and actually that's...I'm just going to speak plainly, I don't know any other way, but if we start doing that and we violate the Grant that's how we get in trouble and we no longer get those Grants. So, but, they can go and hold the scene, or if a huge emergency happens say, you know, aggravated assault and battery or something where somebody's life is in danger our officers can respond, they can't take the report or anything because it would violate the conditions of it, but they can hold the scene, provide a safe and secure environment until Sandoval County can arrive and take over."

Mayor Herrera: "As you stated earlier, Sandoval County will be helping cover on Sunday's til were able to get that extra officer, correct?"

Chief Huckeby: "Yes. No doubt I've shared my schedule with Sandoval County, so all their leadership are aware of our schedule, not only have I shared it with them, but also the Sandoval County dispatch which we belong to is aware of it, so they're aware of what officers are on and not on so that they can communicate, not just with us in Sandoval County, but from dispatch in Sandoval County."

Council Member Salazar: "Awesome."

Council Member Olivas: "And we can have your phone number, right?"

Chief Huckeby: "Yes, yes absolutely. After the meeting if you would like or just whenever, I'll draw it on the board."

Council Member Olivas: "Yes, just if they have to say, you know what there's something going on here, you know."

Chief Huckeby: "That's what I'm here for."

Council Member Olivas: "Perfect."

Council Member Sandoval: "Is there any kind of rules or anything as far as local PD being able to pull over 18 wheelers or is that strictly like a State DOT, because as Council Member Salazar said Sunday's are you know, Saturday's are coming in Sunday's are going back and the semi's, 18 wheelers especially through town are...it's crazy, and I think once one of them chatters on the radio as far as saying there's no cops or whatever and it probably spreads like wildfire amongst themselves and..."



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Chief Huckeby: “It deters them.”

Council Member Sandoval: “Yeah, and that’s probably one of the part I think one of the biggest issues within the town. Now that the bridge is under construction, it’s not as bad, but, that corner right there it’s had multiple wrecks where 18 wheelers just going too fast.”

Mayor Herrera: “Like you said it’s a Mon-Sun semi’s speeding through town.”

Council Member Sandoval: “Yep.”

Mayor Herrera: “and it’s really dangerous for like they said for pedestrians and stuff, and we’re working on, through a Grant to get our crossings re-established, and safety, like a safety corridor put up in town.”

Chief Huckeby: “Perfect, but yes, to answer your question, there is no rule saying that we can’t do that.”

Council Member Sandoval: “Ok.”

Chief Huckeby: “If you committed a traffic infraction within any part of our jurisdiction or cross commission within Sandoval County, you can get pulled over. It doesn’t matter if you’re driving on 4 wheels or 18, you can get pulled over, you can be cited into Municipal court, and if you don’t show up, well then you get a warrant.”

Council Member Salazar: “And in the past, I’ve seen Cuba PD pull them over...”

Council Member Sandoval: “Yeah.”

Council Member Salazar: “It’s just the last administrator, didn’t, I don’t think allowed it but ...”

Council Member Sandoval: “That’s right, I’ve seen them pulled over, but it’s just like far and few between where it kind of seems like the 18 wheelers almost kinda get like...”

Chief Huckeby: “Yeah, no, and I understand that, actually coming from a , I have the mindset where I actually try not to forget where I came from. As an officer, sometimes when you’re a new officer, pulling over an 18-wheeler can be intimidating. Don’t know why, and if you ask me, I’m going to tell you I don’t know why. You just see this big , you know, machine right in front of you, for some knew officers it can be intimidating. That comes down on me to make sure the law officers are aware that we can train these officers, there’s no reason to be intimidated, they’re held to the same as everybody else within the community, doesn’t matter if they’re working for a business or who they’re working for, we treat them the same as everybody else. So I’m going to say that and making sure they’re trained and do it and that’s on me so.”

Council Member Olivas: “That’s kind of strange to hear that you get intimidated by truckers.”

Chief Huckeby: “No It’s, I think a lot of the time it’s because, and I’ve seen it with newer officers who don’t know how to communicate with things and sometimes, and this could be with anybody not just with truckers



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but some people get a feeling of entitlement because they're in the process of working there, could be in business and then can get hostile or get aggressive and stuff like that. And some people nowadays just don't want problems. But that again, comes down to the chief and any incoming supervisor of law enforcement to let the officers know like dealing with hostile situations is part of your job, and you need to...just be straight, you need to grow up get used to it, learn how to deescalate it and deal with it in a professional manner and then move on."

Mayor Herrera: "Any further discussion from the Council on this matter?"

Council Member Olivas: "I think we like you."

Chief Huckeby: "Thanks that makes me happy, my wife will be happy. If she's happy, I'm happy."

Council Member Olivas: "You know how that goes."

Chief Huckeby: "Exactly."

Mayor Herrera: "No further discussion, roll call vote Ms. Martinez."

Council Member Salazar-Yes

Council Member Sandoval-Yes

Council Member Olivas-Yes

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez-Yes

Mayor Herrera: "Motion Carries". Welcome to the Community."

Chief Huckeby: "Thank you."

Mayor Herrera: Next item is the Discussion and Consideration of the Memorandum of Understanding to cross commission Cuba Police Department with Sandoval County Sherriff's Department.

Council Member Olivas makes a motion.

Council Member Salazar seconds.

Mayor Herrera: "any discussion from this, for this matter from the counsel? I think Mr. Huckeby, Chief Huckeby, if you kinda just walk us through the proposal and stuff and what we're voting on tonight."

Chief Huckeby: "Yes, of course. So, this memorandum of agreement with cross Commission officers to also be Sandoval County Deputies. Now one thing I want to point out is with that, that does not mean that they respond



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to calls and other areas of Sandoval County, such as Bernalillo, Placitas, Algodones, places like that. This is meant strictly for interagency cooperation and for officer safety. With all our smaller department and Sandoval County is very small up here, they only have one deputy. So, this is a way for us to help each other out and keep each other safe on any kind of call. Now say there is a call in Sandoval County and we go and help, Sandoval County per the agreement takes lead even if our officers for some reason or another arrived first at deescalate the situation however hostile it might be Sandoval County is the primary, they take the report and they take responsibility. Now the same goes for Cuba, if Sandoval County gets their first say you got the apartments or anything, Sandoval County will hold it, but we take primary. It's ours, so, each agreement, per this agreement, each department takes responsibility for its own area. This is merely for interagency cooperation and safety so that we can help each other out, keep safe, and get a good working relationship with each other. With that, there is an understanding that part of the agreement that either side can dissolve this agreement at any point. Just because we signed it does not mean we are beholden to it until the end of the contract. If one month from now something happens for whatever reason, if we want to end the contract, we can. We don't need to give an explanation as to why, we can just do it. The agreement also states one thing that I find very important is when it comes to matters of civil liability. So if something happens and Sandoval County is responsible for it, let's just put a hypothetical example, if Counties in the wrong and we were just there, Sandoval County is beholden to the civil liability in that each place gets uh, uh, what am I trying to say here, each place is beholden or there's responsible for their own actions. So keep repeating. We are responsible for our actions. Sandoval County is responsible for their actions. This agreement does not mean just because one gets sued; the other one does too. That's not how it works. Also, we need to make sure that our officers are top tier. No issues with any kind of dishonesty, or anything that would fall under integrity issues, no legal issues, nothing that would cause any kind of disrepute, not just with Sandoval County, but with also. So, that's the jest of the agreement.

Mayor Herrera: "And vice versa from Sandoval County."

Chief Huckeby: "Yes."

Council Member Sandoval: "As far as responding to like um. Is it gonna would we be responding outside village limits or our officers strictly in?"

Chief Huckeby: "We can't, and it's for officer safety. So, kind of like La Jara, if we have one deputy going up there to a hostile situation, which has happened a couple of times where there are a household, there's multiple members. We can go there to help him out. Once a scene is safe and secure, then we go back to the village. But that is whatever the Commission takes effect where Sandoval Counties call Sandoval counties jurisdiction which we have Commission there, but it's their call, their responsibility. We are there to provide assistance in whatever shape that could be, making sure the officer's safe to providing medical aid if we need to, but once the calls over and our responsibility is we're all our obligation is over the we come back into the village limits."



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Council Member Sandoval: “And what would be like the... is there like a limit as far as like how far we would respond like... because I know the county line is like up to I believe Counselor going up 550 and then a little passed Regina going like...”

Chief Huckleby: “Really that comes down to me and being able to make a reasonable, decision. And by that I mean, if it’s just an area check, up on mile marker 99 officers requesting or deputy is requesting assistance...no. It’s an area check. If you get there, or for some reason something happens, yeah, we’ll help you, and matter of life and death, of course, but as far as like an area check or doing something like that, no. And as far as when it comes to Counselors and Torreon area, Sandoval County doesn’t even respond first to those areas anymore. They wait for Navajo PD to get there, and then Sandoval County will go there. So, it comes within...basically everything within our job has to do with what a reasonable officer will do or what a reasonable commander would do. If an officer is getting hurt on mm 99 absolutely, I’ll send my officer up there or I’ll go myself, but if an officer is just getting spooked out with one car on the side of the highway at midnight...no. Access the situation and then let us know what’s going on.” Inaudible

Mayor Herrera: “In a situation like say something...we just have one officer on duty within the village limits, if there is nobody from Sandoval County on duty in Cuba, they will dispatch somebody, one of the closer officers in the area to assist you guys, correct?”

Chief Huckleby: “Yes.”

Council Member Salazar: “What about like the school, I know that’s County, and there’s no Sherriff’s in town, Cuba is gonna...”

Chief Huckleby: “Absolutely.”

Council Member Salazar: “go take reports and everything. if Sandoval never shows up.”

Chief Huckleby: “If Sandoval never shows up then we’ll do what we have to do to take the reports. We’re not going to get into an argument or a fight with Sandoval County over, well you shouldn’t have taken that it’s ours. It’s Cuba Schools and we’re going to be professional about it; they’ve helped us out and we’re going to help them out and vice versa. We help them out they’re going to help us out. This is about setting up cooperation with a professional understanding.”

Council Member Olivas: “Nice.”

Mayor Herrera: “Any further discussion on this matter from the counsel? Roll call vote Ms. Martinez.”

Council Member Sandoval: “One last thing. “

Mayor Herrera: “Yes sir.”



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Council Member Sandoval: "Under this MOU is this going to include animal control?"

Chief Huckeby: "So right now, no."

Council Member Sandoval: "It's going to be separate."

Chief Huckeby: "That'll be separate, and I actually just got off the phone last Friday with the...inaudible...office. So, there in the middle of having their meeting with the County Attorney to..inaudible.. MOU , but they did state that we don't need MOU or ACU to start training. So, our MCO can start training to get experience and then involve MOU..." Inaudible.

Mayor Herrera: "But animal control will be under your authority?"

Chief Huckeby: "Yes. Let's say to enforce some sort of code, or issue citations or anything like that..." inaudible.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez: "I have a question on # 8 . I think it is letter...It'll be where it says law enforcement certification."

Chief Huckeby: "Yes."

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez: "If there's officers that need to get certified training, who pays for it? If it's a County officer, is the County going to pay for it or are we going to pay for it?"

Chief Huckeby: "Now are you talking if they need to get training to get certified with Sandoval County?"

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez: "Well, I don't know, our officers usually go for different trainings."

Chief Huckeby: "So...Um....Just so that um ..can you repeat the question so that I'm clear on the question?"

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez: "I was just wondering who's going to pay for the training for the officers?"

Chief Huckeby: "What kind of training?"

Mayor Por-Tem Dominguez: "Mandatory training that I don't know it's required to keep their certification."

Chief Huckeby: "Ok. Per this agreement, to get permission, they don't need training. Sandoval County and us go to the same training, same academy's and everything so everybody has that basic qualifying certification, so there's no obligation to pay for training or anything like that when it comes to Sandoval County, but with that you bring up something actually important that County involves in Sandoval County has agreed to help us with any training. Sandoval County will offer...inaudible...officers, which is something that they have to do each year, and sometimes our officers have to go to the same place and pay for that training and stuff like that, but Sandoval County has offered that training for free, so Sandoval County will offer that training for free even if it means one of the deputy's is working district 4 Cuba who's a general instructor who's class or PD for someone



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in the middle of the night so an officer can be trained and we don't have to spend the money for it, so, to answer your question there is no training that needs to be for certification or commission, Sandoval County, in the future, is going to help us with further trainings."

Mayor Pro-Tem Dominguez: "Yes, ok."

Mayor Herrera: "No further discussion on this matter. Roll call vote Ms. Martinez."

Ms. Martinez: "Mayor It's just for discussion and consideration and review, so you don't need a vote."

Mayor Herrera: "Ok. Oh no action involved."

Council Member Sandoval: "Before you adjourn, there's just a couple of things I want to get on the record in the minutes before I forget. It doesn't have anything to do with this, but the bridge construction, the as the village, I think we need to make sure and stay on top of it that the construction company, which I'm sure they are or whatever, but we just need to make sure and stay on top of that construction company repairs all the sidewalks in that..."

Mayor Herrera: "It's in the plan."

Council Member Sandoval: "OK, I just wanted to make sure because that place is a mess."

Mayor Herrera: "Yeah, they got the sidewalks coming from the Frontier Motel all the way to the other end of Bruno's on the cross street on both sides."

Council Member Sandoval: "Ok."

Mayor Herrera: "Yeah. Driveways and stuff. So, it's in the DOT plan."

Council Member Sandoval: "The other day I went through there and it was like..."

Mayor Herrera: "Oh it's a mess..."

Council Member Sandoval: "And I just didn't want to...I was thinking about it today and it's like one of those things that you wanted to make sure and get it out before I forgot and then uh... there's something else that I forgot, but yeah."

Jeanette Linville: "Mayor, I don't know if, did you include the letter and I just wanted to point out I did apply for an extension on the forensic audit and it was approved, so instead of the final forensic audit being due uh March 6th, it's now moved to June the 10th which is going to give us quite a bit more time to get our files together and in order. We have currently providing uh a...inaudible of documents to the auditor for whatever request he makes of Patricia and Kerin and myself for uh expediting those requests, but I just wanted to let you know that we were able to apply for uh an extension on that audit and it was approved. All we have to do is



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change the date on...they sent me a template to adjust the contract. It's just gonna have the change of dates and then you just sign and we're good."

Mayor Herrera: "Is this due to just the sheer volume of all, we still have like 70 some boxes that still needed to be."

Jeanette Linville: "I thought I got through all the boxes, which was a good what 200 and some boxes. Got down to one layer, one level and I called Patricia and I said I haven't found like the bulk of the POs. Where are they? She says, well maybe they're still in the old building. And I said we gotta find them because they're not there. So, we went to the umm to the old building and sure enough there was another uh Let's see...there's now there's 45 stacked in the hallway and I've done 20. So we, there was a good 75 boxes that that were still left in the in the old building that that the they were already cleaned, so once I saw those and I started going through them and it was a hodgepodge of stuff I said there's no way we are going to be ready, so that's why we decided to apply for the extension, and because of the mold issue, umm the state auditor of the head of the state auditors approved it depending on us changing the contract. I just wanted to let you know that it's going to help us out a lot.

Mayor Herrera: "Thank you, Ms. Linville. The time is 6:22 I'd like to adjourn the meeting, thank you everybody for attending."

Adjourned 6:22 p.m.