



THE TAOS NEWS

Best U.S. Weekly Paper- NNA 2007, 2008, 2010
Inland Press Nation's Best Weekly Newspaper 2009

Editorial

A welcomed change: Cooperation between town and county

The Taos News, 4/24/2014

The town and county found common ground over two big issues: the airport and emergency dispatch. Both governments couldn't meet eye to eye on funding the airport, sparked when the Darren Córdova administration gave notice last March it would annex the airport and six miles of highway through El Prado. That way the town could use the gross receipts taxes to fund its share of the project.

The county struck back with a lawsuit.

Then, there is the much longer saga of moving dispatch to a building on Gusdorf Road owned by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative. That controversy heated up two years ago.

Then, the county struck back by deciding to move its dispatch into a separate building.

But all of that is behind us now.

Of course, it helped tremendously some of the top officials on the town side have changed significantly. County Commissioner Dan Barrone was elected mayor in March, winning by a sizable margin, and he named Rick Bellis, who served as deputy county manager, as town manager. Fritz Hahn and Judy Cantò won seats on the Taos Town Council.

Some could say the county has stacked the deck a bit in town politics, but it is a relief an accord has been reached quickly on airport and dispatch.

Perhaps those at the top are better listeners.

What that means is the town and county won't waste money and energy on a lawsuit about annexation. The town will accept the county's previously proposed offer to help fund the project.

Taos will get a safer airport.

As for dispatch, a new joint powers agreement will determine the terms of the county, town and other communities that use emergency dispatch.

The move to the former sheriff's department and the equipment modern dispatch requires are not cheap, but the agreement lays out who will pay what and when.

And while we are on the topic, the county rescinded its demand the town pay \$100 a day for those detained in the county jail by the town's municipal court.

In February the county manager wrote the town its inmates would no longer be house in the Taos County Detention Center.

Now, all the town has to do is pay \$75 a day per inmate — the amount it paid before.

Congratulations to town and county officials for getting these big problems settled.

We are interested to see what you can do next.