

Peralta among nominees for hospital board

By Andrew Oxford

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A town councilor, a Harvard- educated businessman and a health policy expert were expected to be nominated to serve on the board of Taos Health Systems during a regular meeting of the nonprofit's governing body Wednesday evening (May 28).

Fred Peralta, Bruce Coleman and Karen Matherlee were recommended by a nominating committee for three seats on the 13-member board that will open in June.

The Taos News went to press before Wednesday's meeting and vote on the nominations but the names of the nominees were disclosed before deadline.

The three candidates, among 10 to apply for posts on the board, were nominated to replace Gus Còrdova, Charlie Gonzales and Anna Martinez.

Còrdova and Martinez announced during a board meeting Feb. 26 they would be stepping down from the hospital's governing body at the end of their terms in June.

Gonzales, whose term also ends in June, applied to serve for another four years.

The three candidates recommended to serve on the board Wednesday evening reflect an interest in including in the hospital's governance people who were not already tied to the nonprofit, several committee members indicated.

The board has fallen under new scrutiny during the last year after financial losses and staffing changes prompted the formation of an intergovernmental committee to study the hospital's governance.

Peralta, a town councilor who has been a fixture of local politics for decades, was tapped to replace Martinez in representing central Taos County. A former mayor of Taos, he also represents the municipal government on that intergovernmental committee. Peralta may be required to step down from the committee if elected to the hospital's board.

Matherlee, a Penasco Valley resident who formerly worked as an analyst at the National Health Policy Foundation, was nominated to replace Còrdova in representing Southern Taos County.

Coleman, a Harvard-educated businessman who also sits on the board of the Taos Community Foundation, was recommended to replace Gonzales as a member-at-large.

The nominating committee was chaired by another Taos town councilor, Andrew Gonzales, and included four other representatives of local governments, three hospital board members and a doctor who also serves on the hospital's board.

Hospital board members serve staggered four-year terms with several seats opening each summer.