



**Special Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 10, 2026
8:30 AM
Pueblo Convention Center**

MEETING CALLED BY

Dr. Garrison Ortiz, Chairman, called the Friday, April 10, 2026, Special Board Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Liz Chapman, Kathy DeNiro, Michelle Erickson, Stephanie Garcia, Heather Graham, Corinne Koehler, Dennis Maes, Fallon Miller, Garrison Ortiz, Zach Swearingen, Jon Walker

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Steve Nawrocki, Jim Valenzuela, Brett Boston

STAFF PRESENT

Cherish Deeg, Andrea DelaGarza, Shawn Carlson

GUESTS PRESENT

Carolynne White, Angela Hygh, Karim Ayoub

(All meetings are recorded per PURA's Financial and Administrative Internal Controls Policy adopted February 11, 2014)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Liz Chapman made a motion to approve Friday, April 10, 2026, Special PURA Board Meeting Agenda. Corinne Koehler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Garrison Ortiz informed the board this special meeting was called for the Executive Director hiring authority discussion. PURA has posted two open positions, in-house attorney and a business & development director. Most discussion has been regarding the in-house attorney position. Two meetings ago the board discussed posting an RFP for a contract attorney or posting a job opening for an in-house attorney. The executive officers were directed to do an analysis of the attorney fees for both options. This information was available on Board Effect for all board members to access. There was some back-and-forth discussion and whether or not the survey allowed the Executive Director to move forward. Today's discussion is to answer any questions so we can move forward.

Cherish Deeg posted both positions for two weeks, closing on March 27, 2026. The business & development director had 13 applications, and the in-house attorney had 3 applications. Cherish is reviewing applications now and creating T&E for interviews based on the outcome of today's meeting.

Dennis Maes asked if the Executive Director is free to hire who she feels is necessary. Can we afford an in-house attorney, is it in the budget?

Dr. Ortiz answered that PURA will still utilize specialized attorneys, but PURA needs an attorney for the day-to-day general matters. This position falls within our existing budget and will increase productivity.

Interviews for both positions will be scheduled with a panel of 3. The highest ranked individual will be selected. Dr. Ortiz asked the panel to be experts in the field of each position.

Dr. Ortiz is looking for a consensus from the board to move forward. Carolynne White, legal counsel, confirmed that the executive director has the authority to hire staff, per the bylaws.

Jon Walker made a motion for the executive director to move forward with the hiring process for the business & development director and the in-house attorney. Liz Champman seconded the motion. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-3.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Garrison Ortiz moved to adjourn the Friday, April 10, 2026, Special Board Meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn Carlson".

Shawn Carlson,
Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority Special Programs Manager