

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
August 21, 2025**

Chair Eidson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were, to wit: Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3, Vice Chair Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Dee Ann Kimbro, District 1, Commissioner Tyson Pierce, District 4, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioner Pierce led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Vice Chair Weber.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-202R Approving the August 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments:

David Jiron, resident of the City of Tatum – Expressed his appreciation for the contributions Lea County has funded to the City of Tatum.

Audrey Conner, resident living outside the City of Hobbs – Addressed the problem of uncontrolled and abandoned dogs in the County.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

- Commissioner Pierce -Thanked all Lea County staff who contributed during the fair and rodeo.
- Commissioner Kimbro – Showed her appreciation to the fair board and all volunteers for the time and effort invested to the Lea County Fair.
- Vice Chair Weber – Enjoyed celebrating the prosperity of the county.
- Chair Eidson – Echoed his gratitude for all the work that was done for the fair and rodeo.
- County Manager Needham – Thanked everybody that came to the Lea County Fair and Rodeo.

- Discussion of Capital Funding Requests for Hobbs Municipal Schools.

Hobbs Municipal Schools is requesting \$19,549,718 from Lea County to complete the replacement of Heizer Middle School and the construction of a new fourth middle school. These projects address severe overcrowding, with all current middle schools operating at 115 percent capacity, and support anticipated enrollment growth due to regional housing and economic development. While state funding was initially anticipated for the full scope, reductions for spaces deemed above adequacy created a shortfall. The requested county funding will close this gap without impacting the maintenance of existing facilities or delaying project completion.

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ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-203R Approving the Lea County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2026.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-204R Ratifying Out-of-State Travel for County Commissioners and County Staff to Participate in a JSX Facility Tour and Trial Flight in Dallas, Texas on July 29, 2025.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-205R Ratifying In-State Travel August 7-8, 2025, for Commissioner Weber to Attend the New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors Meeting in Farmington, New Mexico.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-206R Authorizing In-State Travel October 7-8, 2025, for County Commissioners and the County Manager to Attend the 2025 New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA) Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-207R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel September 15-18, 2025, for the Human Resources Director to Attend the Workday Rising Conference in San Francisco, California.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-208R Authorizing the Renewal of Lease No. G0-2361-0000 with the State of New Mexico's Commissioner of Public Lands.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-209R Approving an Easement to Xcel Energy Located in Section 3, Township 18 South, Range 35 East, N.M.P.M.

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Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-210R Authorizing Capital Funding to Lovington Municipal Schools for Improvements Related to the Parking Lot at Wildcat Stadium.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-211R Authorizing Capital Funding to Tatum Municipal Schools for Construction of a New Fieldhouse.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-212R Approving the Block Length Variance for Catchings Road in the Proposed Country View Subdivision Located in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 11, Township 17 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-213R Approving the Block Length Variance for Stiles Road in the Proposed Country View Subdivision Located in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 11, Township 17 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-214R Adopting the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation Not to Vacate a Dedicated Roadway in Chaparral Subdivision, Identified as De Baca Avenue Between Lots 5 and 12, and the Portion of Isaacs Street West of Lot 5 in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 4, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-215R Approving the Adoption of Buffalo Road Located in the Home on the Range Subdivision for Lea County Ownership and Maintenance.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-216R Approving the Award of BID No. 9 (24-25) High Performance Asphalt Patch Material to Pavement Sealants & Supply, Inc.

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Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-217R Approving Task Order No. 2024-1 for a Professional Services Agreement Between Lea County and Molzen Corbin to Provide Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Maintenance.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-218R Approving Task Order No. 2019-17A for a Professional Services Agreement Between Lea County and Molzen Corbin to Provide Observation and Testing Services for Runway 13-31 MIRL Project at the Lea County Regional Airport.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-AUG-219R Approving a Grant Agreement AIP No. 3-35-0022-047-2025 Between Lea County and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the Design and Construction of Runway 13-31 MIRL at the Lea County Regional Airport.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION

- Discussion of Lea County Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Stipend Program.

The purpose of this program is to provide an incentive to volunteer members of the Lea County Fire/Rescue departments for response to calls for service, station duties, and attending training. The incentive is in the form of a monetary payment for expenses incurred as the result of responding to calls for service and attending training.

- Discussion of the July 2025 Finance Report.

Assistant County Manager, Chip Low reviewed the Revenue vs Expenses Year to Date July 31, 2025, ending with Net Revenue of \$5,167,521.

- Discussion of the July 2025 Accounts Payable.

Assistant County Manager, Chip Low reviewed the July 2025 Accounts Payable / Purchase Card Register with a total of \$14,063,357.02

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ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:55 a.m. I Vice Chair Weber move that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss the evaluation of the County Manager and to discuss pending litigation Blanchard v. City of Hobbs and Burke v. Lea County, threatened litigation regarding Holtec and threatened litigation regarding contracts and, as authorized by NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2) and (7). The motion was second by Commissioner Kimbro.

COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION to Take Action, if any, on the Closed Session Item(s).

The meeting reconvened at 12:24 p.m.

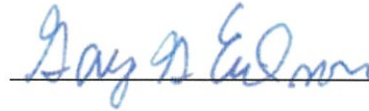
The Chair stated, let the record reflect that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

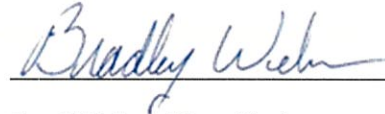
ADJOURN: 12:25 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dee Ann Kimbro, Member



Tyson Pierce, Member

ABSENT

Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Recording Secretary

