

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 12, 2026**

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

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

Commissioner absent were, to wit: Commissioner Gary Eidson, District 3.

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-031R Approving the January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

- Public Comments (*Non-Agenda Items*)

Kris Allen, Fair Board Chair, announced his resignation and expressed his appreciation to the Board of County Commissioners for the opportunity to serve.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

Commissioner Sims – Thanked Lea County employees for their hard work and dedication during the snowstorm.

Commissioner Kimbro - Stated that Senate Bill 18 was defeated, calling it positive news for Lea County and New Mexico. She thanked the area senators for their efforts and noted the outcome as a positive step for the oil and gas industry.

Vice Chair Weber – Requested that the RFP for contract counsel to assist 5Th Judicial District Attorney's office be placed back on the agenda for the next commission meeting. He also announced the replacements to the Lea County Fair and Rodeo Board and the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board.

**Kris Allen was replaced by Cassandra Mason
Michael Arnold was replaced by Kate Bolivar**

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-032R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Fair and Rodeo Board.

Lea County Fair and Rodeo Board

- District 1: Amber Groves (Term 01/01/2025-12/31/2028)
- District 1: Jennifer Young (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 2: Replace Kris Allen with Cassandra Mason (Term 02/12/2026 - 12/31/2026)
- District 2: Rick Schaap (Term 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026)
- District 3: Cynthia Hawley (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2026)
- District 3: Brian Pointer (Term 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026)
- District 4: Heath Coombes (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 4: Alex Galyean (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 5: Kyle Johnston (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 5: Dustin Gaskins (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-033R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board.

Lea County Planning and Zoning Board

- District 1: Beth Meyers (Term of 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 2: Replace Michael Arnold with Kate Bolivar (Term 02/12/2026 -12/31/2026)
- District 3: Brad Hawkins (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2026)
- District 4: Dickie Wall (Term of 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- District 5: Daniel Johncox (Term 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028)
- Hobbs ETZ: Ben Donahue (Term TBD)
- Lovington ETZ: Blake Ovard (Term TBD)

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

ITEM 02: PUBLIC HEARING

John Caldwell, Lea County Attorney, was sworn in for the hearing on the adoption of Ordinance No. 105 and Ordinance No. 106.

Hearing to Consider the Proposed Ordinances Authorizing the Issuance of \$772,000,000 Lea County Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Gainer Solar, LLC Project) Series 2026A and \$505,000,000 Lea County Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Stellar Gainer BESS, LLC Project) Series 2026B

**Regular Meeting
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- Consideration to Adopt Lea County Ordinance No. 105 — An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Gainer Solar, LLC Project), in a Maximum Principal Amount of Up to \$772,000,000 in One or More Series to Provide Funds to Finance the Equipping of an Industrial Revenue Bond Project for Use by Gainer Solar, LLC or its Successors or Assigns; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Indenture, a Lease Agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement, the Bonds and Other Documents in Connection with the Issuance of the Bonds and the Project; Authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the County by the Company; and Making Certain Determinations and Findings Relating to the Bonds and the Project; Ratifying Certain Actions Taken Previously; and Repealing All Actions Inconsistent with This Ordinance.

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

- Consideration to Adopt Lea County Ordinance No. 106 — An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Stellar Gainer BESS, LLC Project), in a Maximum Principal Amount of Up to \$505,000,000 in One or More Series to Provide Funds to Finance the Equipping of an Industrial Revenue Bond Project for Use by Stellar Gainer BESS, LLC or its Successors or Assigns; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Indenture, a Lease Agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement, the Bonds and Other Documents in Connection with the Issuance of the Bonds and the Project; Authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the County by the Company; and Making Certain Determinations and Findings Relating to the Bonds and the Project; Ratifying Certain Actions Taken Previously; and Repealing All Actions Inconsistent with This Ordinance.

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

ITEM 03: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-034R Ratifying the Notice of Intent to Apply for the 2026 Colonias Infrastructure Board Funding.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-035R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Lynco Electric Co., Inc. for the Relocation of Electrical Lines at the Lea County Regional Airport.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-036R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Wagner Cat for the Purchase of a Stacking Conveyor Belt.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 12, 2026**

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-037R Approving a Sourcewell Contract with South Plains Implement for the Purchase of Two Cab Tractors and Two Rotary Cutters.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-038R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel June 27-July 2, 2026, for the Assistant County Manager for Administrative Services, Interim Finance Director, and Budget and Reporting Analyst to Attend the 120th Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-039R Ratifying Out-of-State Travel February 9-10, 2026, for Emergency Management Staff Members to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-040R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel February 15-16, 2026, for Emergency Management Staff Members to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-041R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel March 11-14, 2026, for the Event Center Assistant Director to Attend the 2026 Meeting Industry Council of Colorado (MIC) Conference in Denver, Colorado.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-042R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and D&D Automation & Electric, LLC, for the Purchase and Installation of an Exterior Camera System Server Upgrade at the Lea County Detention Center.

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

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 12, 2026**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-043R Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to Participate in the Local DWI Distribution & Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2027.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-044R Approving the Lea County Fair Board Policies & Guidelines.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-045R Adopting the Freeholders Committee Recommendation to Vacate a Dedicated Alley in the Humble City Subdivision, Between Lot 18 and Lots 19 Through 23, Located in Block 27, Lot 13-A in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 37 East in N.M.P.M.

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

ITEM 04: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Lea County Advisory Boards and Committees.

The Commission reviewed all advisory committees to determine which should be retained or dissolved. Several committees have become inactive, and filling vacancies has been challenging. If any committees are approved for dissolution, staff will move forward with scheduling a public hearing.

The following Committees are for consideration:

Lea County Memorial Committee
Lea County Airport Advisory Committee
Lea County Environmental Services Advisory Committee
Lea County Road Advisory Committee

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2027 Projected Revenues.

The County is required to submit a preliminary budget for the FY 27 fiscal year to the New Mexico DFA LGD by May 31, 2026. This presentation reviewed General Fund revenue projections for the FY 27 budget year.

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ITEM 05: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:30 a.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss limited personnel matters namely the County Manager's Evaluation, to discuss pending litigation Tello v. Lea County Board of Commissioners and others, and to discuss the disposition of real property in central Lea County, as authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (2), (7) and (8). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimbro.

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

The meeting reconvened @ 11:50 a.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 06: OTHER BUSINESS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-046R Approving the Sale of Real Property, Namely Approximately 1,920 Acres of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of Township 18 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M. to Excelsior Hobbs Power LLC.

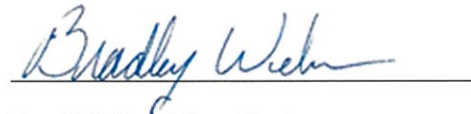
Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, absent; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ADJOURN: 11:52 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO


Tyson Pierce, Chair


Brad Weber, Vice Chair


Dee Ann Kimbro, Member


Gary Eidson, Member


Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

