

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 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 Gary Eidson, District 3, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioner Eidson led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Kimbro.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-047R Approving the February 12, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

- Public Comments (*Non-Agenda Items*)

Charlene Upton, representing the Lea County Film Office, addressed the Commission regarding the most recent film production completed in Lea County. She reported that the project generated a total local expenditure of \$355,011.31, reflecting funds spent within the county during the filming process. Ms. Upton expressed optimism about continued growth in the local film industry, noting increasing interest in the area from production companies and the potential for additional film projects to be brought to Lea County in the future.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

Vice Chair Weber spoke regarding his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he attended a conference. He noted the value of participating in the conference and the importance of representing Lea County at the national level.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-048R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Environmental Services Advisory Board.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-049R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Memorial Committee.

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

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-050R Dissolving the Lea County Roads Advisory Committee.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-051R Approving a \$10,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Discretionary Funding to the Town of Tatum for Improvements at the Tatum Senior Center.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-052R Approving a \$100,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Discretionary Funding to the Town of Tatum for Improvements at the Tatum Baseball Fields.

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

- Discussion of Reissuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Contract Counsel to Assist the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office

Commissioner Kimbro voiced concerns regarding the County's funding of two positions within the District Attorney's Office. She questioned whether the current funding arrangement could potentially create legal implications or liability for the County. Commissioner Kimbro emphasized the importance of ensuring that any financial support provided is consistent with statutory authority and does not inadvertently expose the County to unintended legal consequences.

ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-053R Approving the Authorization and Execution of an Application for the Law Enforcement Protection Funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-054R Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Financial Assistance from the New Mexico Colonias Infrastructure Board.

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

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-055R Amending and Restating Lea County Resolution No. 25-JUN-165R Relating to the Proposed Industrial Revenue Bonds Entitled Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Louisiana Energy Services Expansion Project), Series 2026; Declaring the Intent of Lea County to Consider the Issuance of Such Industrial Revenue Bonds in an Aggregate Principal Amount Up to \$3,800,000,000 in Connection with a Proposed Project Located within the Boundaries of Lea County for the Purpose of Inducing Louisiana Energy Services, LLC to Develop and Expand its Operations in the County and to Construct, Equip, and Install the Project; and Ratify and Approve the Mailing and Delivery of Notice of the Proposed Project to the County Assessor and Each Taxing Jurisdiction within the County as Required by Law.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-056R Declaring the Intent of Lea County, New Mexico to Provide Local Economic Development Act ("LEDA") Assistance in Connection with a Proposed Project Located within Lea County, New Mexico, for the Purpose of Inducing the Development of the Louisiana Energy Services Expansion Project by Louisiana Energy Services, LLC. (The "Company"), Which Project Would Include the Development and Expansion of the Company's Operations in the County and Related Infrastructure and Facilities, in the Manner Set Forth in the Project Plan.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-057R Approving Data Center Project Requirements in Lea County and Legislative Priorities Related to Data Centers and Artificial Intelligence.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-058R Approving an Engineering Task Order with Pettigrew and Associates for the Design of Multiple Intersections on NM 18.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-059R Approving an Engineering Task Order with Square Root Services for the Realignment and Redesign of NM 128 and Brininstool Intersection.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-060R Approving Brand West Biogas, LLC. to Construct a New Covered Lagoon Manure Digester at Brand West Dairy, Located at 133 Longview Road, Lovington, New Mexico 88260.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026**

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-061R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and SolarWinds IT for the Purchase of an Infrastructure Monitoring Platform.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-062R Approving Change Order No. 4 with Bradbury Stamm Construction Inc. Regarding the Lea County Event Center Renovation.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-063R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel April 12-15, 2026, for Detention Center Staff to Attend the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Investigator Certification Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-064R Supporting Responsible Produced Water Reuse, Regional Engagement, and Participation in the WATR Alliance Petition.

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

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Funding for the Town of Tatum Sewer System Evaluation.

Isabell Salazar, Mayor of the Town of Tatum, addressed the Commission regarding the need for a comprehensive sewer system evaluation. She explained that the Town is seeking potential collaboration with Lea County in the amount of \$50,000 to assist with funding the assessment. Mayor Salazar noted that without a current and updated evaluation, the Town is not eligible to apply for certain federal or state funding opportunities. She emphasized that completing the evaluation is a necessary first step toward securing future infrastructure funding and ensuring long-term system improvements.

- Discussion of the City of Hobbs' Lovington Highway Trail.

David Reed, representing the JF Maddox Foundation, addressed the Commission regarding the Hobbs–Lovington Highway Trail, a community health and wellness walking path. He discussed the opportunity for Lea County to collaborate with the City of Hobbs to enhance and improve the portion of the trail located in

Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026

front of the newly renovated Lea County Event Center. Mr. Reed stated that the estimated cost for improvements to that specific segment of the trail is approximately \$2.6 million. He emphasized the importance of the project as a long-term community investment that promotes health, recreation, and regional connectivity.

- Discussion of Ark Strategic School Safety Mapping Initiative.

Gene Strickland, Superintendent of Hobbs Municipal Schools, presented information regarding the Ark Strategic school safety mapping initiative on behalf of the school districts within Lea County, including Hobbs, Lovington, Tatum, Jal, and Eunice. He explained that the districts are requesting a one-time funding contribution of \$100,500 to implement the system countywide with the individual districts paying the annual subscription fees to maintain the partnership. Superintendent Strickland noted that the platform would enhance emergency response efforts by providing dispatchers and first responders with turn-by-turn directions and a 3D visual representation of school campuses. He further explained that the system would also support long-term facility maintenance planning and infrastructure management.

- Discussion of Lovington Municipal Schools' H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Parents through Empowerment) Autism Parent Support Group.

Amanda De La Cruz spoke on behalf of Lovington Municipal Schools regarding the H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Parents through Empowerment) Autism Parent Support Group. She highlighted the importance of organized group activities that support not only children on the autism spectrum but also their families. Ms. De La Cruz emphasized the need to raise awareness within the community for families navigating the challenges associated with caring for children on the spectrum and discussed providing parents with practical tools, resources, and support to assist them in all aspects of care and advocacy.

- Discussion of 2025 Lea County Extension Services.

Chelsea Wilson, 4-H Agent with Lea County Extension Services, provided an update on activities and accomplishments during 2025. She reported that students participated in a variety of competitions throughout the year, including shooting sports and livestock judging events. Ms. Wilson noted a 17.24% increase in enrollment from the 2024–2025 4-H year, reflecting continued growth and engagement within the program. She also discussed preliminary plans and goals for the 2026 year, outlining continued efforts to expand programming and participation. Ms. Wilson emphasized the importance of club involvement and the vital role 4-H plays in developing leadership skills, responsibility, and helping students become productive, engaged citizens.

Jessie Barber also addressed the Commission, providing an overview of meetings he has attended and the various organizations with which he is collaborating. He discussed ongoing outreach efforts and highlighted identified needs within the community, emphasizing continued partnership and responsiveness to local priorities.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026**

- Discussion of the January 2026 Finance Report.

Anthony Dobbs, Interim Finance Director, presented the January 2026 Finance Report to the Commission. He provided an overview of revenues and expenditures, outlining financial activity by function and fund type. Mr. Dobbs reviewed current budget performance, noting comparisons between projected and actual figures, and discussed overall fiscal trends for the reporting period.

- Discussion of the January 2026 Accounts Payable

Anthony Dobbs, Interim Finance Director, presented the January 2026 Accounts Payable Report to the Commission. He stated that the total amount of \$12,987,610.68 reflected combined check disbursements and purchase card expenditures for the reporting period.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:00 p.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the commission convened in closed session to discuss limited personnel matters namely the Appointment of the Detention Center Director, to discuss pending litigation Quintana v. Lea County Board of Commissioners and others, Tello v. Lea County Board of Commissioners and others, and Murillo v. Lea County Board of Commissioners and others, and to discuss the threatened litigation regarding the Inspection of Public Records Act, as authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (2) and (7)
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 @ 1:42 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 5: OTHER BUSINESS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-FEB-065R Approving the Appointment of the Detention Center Director.

Corey Needham, County Manager, presented the Executive Management's Recommendation to appoint Daniel Keen as Detention Center Director.

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

ADJOURN: 1:44 p.m.

Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO


Tyson Pierce, Chair


Brad Weber, Vice Chair


Dee Ann Kimbro, Member

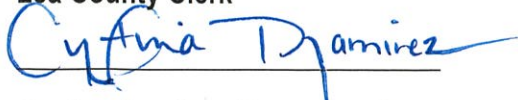

Gary Eidson, Member

ABSENT

Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk


Cynthia Ramirez, Recording Secretary