

**Regular Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
April 27, 2023**

**Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.**

**Commissioners present were, to wit: Chair Dean Jackson, District 1, Vice Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4.**

**Commissioners absent were, to wit: Commissioner Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.**

**Also present, Lea County Manager Michael P. Gallagher II and Lea County Attorney John W. Caldwell.**

**Lovington SkillsUSA Team Student Scout Linn led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Sena.**

**ITEM 01: COMMISSION**

Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-APR-117R Approving the April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

- Chair Jackson requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-APR-117R Approving the April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.
  
- Public Comments: (*Non-Agenda Items*).
  - Nick Maxwell - Advocated the unconstitutional policy that prohibits country employees from exercising their second amendment right. He also stated he feels it will be a liability for the county to conduct the election for the City of Hobbs.
  - Raymond Mills – Requested debris removal and cesspool cover up for a residence located in Nadine, NM.

**Regular Meeting**  
**Lea County Board of Commissioners**  
**April 27, 2023**

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:
  - Commissioner Sena – Congratulated teachers, coaches and student leaders for their accomplishments.
  - Vice Chair Eidson – Welcomed and congratulated students for their dedication and commitment.
  - Chair Jackson – Congratulated students for their hard work and dedication.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs Lady Eagles Basketball Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs Lady Eagles Basketball Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs Eagles Co-Ed Cheer Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs Eagles Co-Ed Cheer Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs High School & Hobbs Freshman High School SkillsUSA Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Hobbs High School & Hobbs Freshman High School SkillsUSA Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

**Regular Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
April 27, 2023**

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington Wildcat Co-Ed Cheer Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington Wildcat Co-Ed Cheer Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington Wildcat Powerlifting Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington Wildcat Powerlifting Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington Wildcat Soccer Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing Lovington Wildcat Soccer Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington High School SkillsUSA Team.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Proclamation Recognizing the Lovington High School SkillsUSA Team. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

**Regular Meeting**  
**Lea County Board of Commissioners**  
**April 27, 2023**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-APR-121R Approving the Issuance of a Request for Proposal for an Owners Consultant / Technical Advisor for Lea County Construction Projects. *(Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)*

Facilities Director Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-APR-121R Approving the Issuance of a Request for Proposal for an Owners Consultant / Technical Advisor for Lea County Construction Projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-APR-122R Approving Government Agency Funding to New Mexico State University (NMSU) Extension Office, Lea Soil & Water Conservation District; and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS-WS) For Fiscal Year 2023-2024. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-APR-122R Approving Government Agency Funding to New Mexico State University (NMSU) Extension Office, Lea Soil & Water Conservation District; and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS-WS) For Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-APR-123R Approving Multiple Services and Environmental Services Agreements Between Lea County and County Municipalities. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-APR-123R Approving Multiple Services and Environmental Services Agreements Between Lea County and County Municipalities. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent; Commissioner Weber, absent. The motion passed.

**Regular Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
April 27, 2023**

**ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Discussion of Expanding Services with Municipalities in Lea County. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher discussed how 26 million dollars, the county has received due to HB 6 could be distributed to Lea County Municipalities. He will get a list from each municipalities of their projects for the May meeting. Eunice Mayor Hobbs and Eunice City Manager Shannon Cummings spoke on projects they have in mind for the city of Eunice.

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Budget. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager and Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low stated our budget is based conservatively on oil at \$30 dollars a barrel. He said the state requires a 25% budget reserve and we have a 100% budget reserve. Manager Gallagher gave an overview of income and expenses of the budget and he talked about the GRT and the indigent fund that is paid to the state. The budget will be presented to the board for adoption at the May meeting.

- Discussion of Lea County's Finance Report. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director presented a slide show of the county's income and expenses. He feels we are pretty much in line with what we have budgeted for.

- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

He presented the accounts payable. He asked if there were any questions.

**ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:24 a.m. Vice Chair Eidson moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Threatened Litigation Regarding Employment Practices and Pending Litigation in State of New Mexico *ex rel. Raul Torres v. Board of County Commissioners for Lea County et al.*, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (7). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. The meeting reconvenes at 11:32 a.m.

**ITEM 05: NO OTHER BUSINESS**

Regular Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
April 27, 2023

ADJOURN: 11:32 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Dean Jackson, Chair



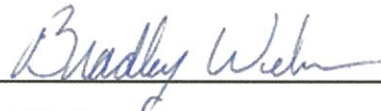
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member



Brad Weber, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

