

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
January 11, 2024**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:02 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. 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.

Commissioner Sims led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Sena.

ITEM 01: ELECTION

- Election of Chair for the Lea County Board of County Commissioners. *(John W. Caldwell, County Attorney)*

Lea County Attorney John Caldwell requested nominations. Chair Jackson nominated Vice Chair Eidson as the Lea County Chair. There were no other nominations. Secretary polled the commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Edison, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commssioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Weber, yes. The nomination passed.

- Election of Vice Chair for the Lea County Board of County Commissioners. *(Newly Elected Chair, Board of County Commissioners)*

Chair Eidson requested nominations. Commissioner Sena nominated Commissioner Weber as the Lea County Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The nomination passed.

ITEM 02: COMMISSION

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-001R Designating the Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County for 2024.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-001R Designating the Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County for 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-002R Approving the December 7, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-002R Approving the December 7, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-003R Approving the Open Meetings Act Requirements and Procedures for Lea County. (*John W. Caldwell, County Attorney*)

County Attorney, John W. Caldwell requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-003R Approving the Open Meetings Act Requirements and Procedures for Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Public Comments (*Non-Agenda Items*):

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

- Commissioner Jackson – He is looking forward to this year working with Chair Eidson and Vice Chair Weber.
- Commissioner Sims – Congratulated Chair Eidson and Vice Chair Weber.
- Commissioner Sena – Thanked Commissioner Jackson for his friendship and leadership. He formally requested a discussion Item for a water supply ordinance for the next commissioners meeting.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-004R Approving \$5,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to the Town of Tatum for Exterior Lighting. (*Dean Jackson, County Commissioner, District 1*)

County Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-004R Approving \$5,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to the Town of Tatum for Exterior Lighting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-005R Accepting and Approving the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 Financial Audit for Lea County. (*Chris Garner, CPA/Partner of Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP*)

CPA/Partner of Pattillo, Chris Garner requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-005R Accepting and Approving the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 Financial Audit for Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Chair Eidson thanked the Lea County staff for the report and recognitions received with their hard work. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-006R Authorizing an Agreement Between Lea County and Covenant Health Hobbs Hospital. *(Rachel Slade, Covenant Health Hobbs Hospital, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Chief Administrative Officer Raquel Slade requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-006R Authorizing an Agreement Between Lea County and Covenant Health Hobbs Hospital. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Jackson would like the chair, county manager and county attorney to look over the agreement and make necessary changes for mutual agreement. Vice Chair Weber stated he looks forward to seeing the hospital's growth with services provided to the community. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, abstain; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-007R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Airports Advisory Board.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-007R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Airports Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-008R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Solid Waste Authority.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-008R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Solid Waste Authority. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-009R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Authority.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-009R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Authority. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-010R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Commission.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-010R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-011R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District Council of Governments.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-011R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District Council of Governments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-012R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-012R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-013R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the New Mexico County Insurance Authority Pool.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-013R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the New Mexico County Insurance Authority Pool. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-014R Approving the Purchase of Timeclock Plus Aladtec for Timekeeping and Scheduling Software. *(Michael Walker, Undersheriff, Sheriff's Office)*

Undersheriff Michael Walker requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-014R Approving the Purchase of Timeclock Plus Aladtec for Timekeeping and Scheduling Software. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-015R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Proposal from Dekker Perich Sabatini for the Design of the Lea County Fairgrounds Horse Barn. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-015 Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Proposal from Dekker Perich Sabatini for the Design of the Lea County Fairgrounds Horse Barn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-016R Approving the Purchase of OpenGov Procurement Software. *(Kelli Ferguson, Procurement Officer)*

Procurement Officer Kelli Ferguson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-016 Approving the Purchase of OpenGov Procurement Software. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-017R Approving a Block Length Variance for the Proposed Northland Estates Subdivision in Section 10, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-017R Approving a Block Length Variance for the Proposed Northland Estates Subdivision in Section 10, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-018R Approving a Minimum Average Lot Size Variance for the Proposed Northland Estates Subdivision in Section 10, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Edison moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-018R Approving a Minimum Average Lot Size Variance for the Proposed Northland Estates Subdivision in Section 10, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena commented on the importance of a clean and uniformed neighborhood in Lea County. Commissioner Jackson disagrees. Chair Eidson asked if the City of Hobbs is willing to help with installation and/or funds to ease equipment installment. Berry and Gomez LLC, Developer, Brenda Gomez gave a brief explanation on what the City of Hobbs requires to provide water on new development within the city limits. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-019R Approving Final Plat for Desert Vista Estates Subdivision in Section 33, Township 17 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-019R Approving Final Plat for Desert Vista Estates Subdivision in Section 33, Township 17 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-020R Approving the Freeholders Committee Recommendation to Approve the Vacation of the Alley in South Tatum Addition, Block 39 in Sections 28 of Township 12 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*.

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County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-020R Approving the Freeholders Committee Recommendation to Approve the Vacation of the Alley in South Tatum Addition, Block 39 in Sections 28 of Township 12 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-021R Approving the Freeholders Committee Recommendation to Deny Vacation of Watson Road in Sections 11 & 12 in Township 15 South and Range 35 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. No. 24-JAN-021R Approving the Freeholders Committee Recommendation to Deny Vacation of Watson Road in Sections 11 & 12 in Township 15 South and Range 35 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims mentioned the importance of meeting the requirements to get this resolution approved. Commissioner Sena agreed with Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, abstain. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-022R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Budget Development Timeline. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Chip Low requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-022R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Budget Development Timeline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena is looking forward to good programming for this year's Lea County Fair and Rodeo. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-023R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Adjustment No. 2. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Chip Low requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JAN-023R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Adjustment No. 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Eidson, Yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 04: DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Finance Director Chip Low reviewed and discussed the December 2023 Finance Report. He stated we had 190 million in revenue, 70 million in expenses leaving us 119 million ahead for the year.

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

Finance Director Chip Low presented the accounts payable and asked if they had any questions on the accounts payable.

- Discussion of Revising Lea County Procurement Policy to Include a Buy Lea County First Preference. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Chip Low asked for input from the County Commissioners on what revisions, if any, should be made to the Lea County Procurement Policy to encourage local purchasing.

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ITEM 05: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:58 a.m. Vice Chair Weber moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the County Manager, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena.

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

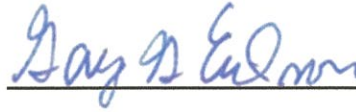
The meeting was reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

ITEM 06: OTHER BUSINESS

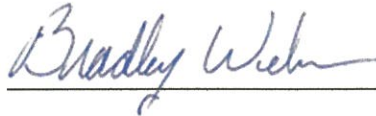
ADJOURN: 12:56 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



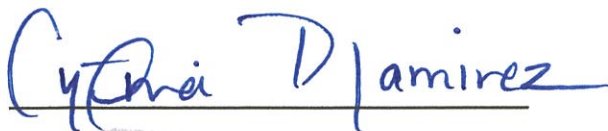
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

