

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

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 Dean Jackson, District 1
Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.**

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

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-024R Approving the January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-FEB-024R Approving the January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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 Jackson, yes; Commssioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The nomination passed.

- Public Comments (*Non-Agenda Items*)

Brad Neely commented on how US Highway 62/180 is extremely hazardous to motorists. Between NM-176 and Louis Whitlock Road, motorists are exposed to obtrusive glare from the portable light towers used to light the R-360 disposal facility. Mr. Neely hopes the Lea County Commission can ask the right question of the groups to improve safety on the highways within its jurisdiction. If nothing is done, the stretch of road will continue to add to the large number of accidents, injuries, and deaths on US Highway 62/180.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

Commissioner Sims agreed and mentioned Brad Neely had a valid point. This glare is a distraction which reduces a driver's visibility.

County Manager Gallagher will get Brad Neely in touch with District 2 Maintenance Engineer NMDOT.

Assistant County Manager Needham stated that in preparation for this, we forward the concern to NMDOT District 2 to mitigate the problem.

- Commssioner and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sims shared his point of view and concern about the Santa Fe Legislation article published in the Hobbs Newspaper.

Commissioner Sena mentioned that over time the county commission has tried to alleviate and work with the community to strive for the best.

Commissioner Jackson shared his experience and perspectives after attending the New Mexico Association of Counties Board Meeting.

Vice Chair Weber shared the experience of having met and converse with the authority over the marijuana industry and border patrol enforcement agent.

Chair Eidson expressed the concerns about the final week of the legislative decision making.

County Manager Gallagher introduced intern Sarah Chanesman Lea County Executive Administrative Coordinator.

- Discussion of Partnership with Municipalities to Expand Utilities for Residential Developments (*Jonathan Sena, County Commissioner, District 4*)

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

Commissioner Sena had a discussion about partnering with municipalities to expand utilities for residential developments to have greater housing options and possibly increase economic activity and jobs.

Commissioner Jackson stated he doesn't like getting involved with private industries.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-025R Approving the Purchase of Mobile and Portable Harris Radios. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-025R Approving the Purchase of Mobile and Portable Harris Radios. 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 Jackson, yes; Commssioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-026R Approving an Amendment for the Grant Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for Project No. 24-E-52 Enhanced 911 Act Grant Program for the Lea County Communications Authority. *(Angela Martinez, Lea County Communications Authority Director)*

Lea County Communications Authority Director Angela Martinez requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-026R Approving an Amendment for the Grant Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for Project No. 24-E-52 Enhanced 911 Act Grant Program for the Lea County Communications Authority. 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 Jackson, yes; Commssioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-027R Approving the Submittal of an Application to the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program for Fiscal Year 2025. *(Kelly Livingston, DWI Probation Director)*

DWI Probation Director Kelly Livingston requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-027R Approving the Submittal of an Application to the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program for Fiscal Year 2025. 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-028R Approving Two Full-Time Alternative Monitoring Technician Positions. *(Kelly Livingston, DWI Probation Director)*

DWI Probation Director Kelly Livingston requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-FEB-028R Approving Two Full-Time Alternative Monitoring Technician Positions. 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The nomination passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-029R Approving Woodfin Drive and Cochran Street to be Accepted by Lea County for Maintenance and Ownership. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-029R Approving Woodfin Drive and Cochran Street to be Accepted by Lea County for Maintenance and Ownership. The motion was seconded by Commissioner 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-030R Approving a Task Order with Faith Group LLC to Produce a Cat III Airport Security Plan for the Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-030R Approving a Task Order with Faith Group LLC to Produce a Cat III Airport Security Plan for the Lea County Regional Airport. 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-031R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Adjustment No. 3. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-031R Approving Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget Adjustment No. 3. 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-032R Approving the Certification of Lea County Fixed Assets for the Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. *(Paige Ellis, Staff Accountant)*

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

Staff Accountant Paige Ellis requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-032R Approving the Certification of Lea County Fixed Assets for the Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Lea County 4-H Programs. *(James Vinyard, NMSU Lea County Extension Agricultural Agent)*

Chelsey Wilson and James Vinyard of Lea County Cooperative Extension Service will be presenting their contract numbers and sharing developments from 2023. These include the numbers and agenda from Farm Safety Day in October, the growth of the 4-H program within Lea County, the growth of the Lea County Extension Master Gardener Chapter, the contact numbers from 2023 for both James and Chelsey, and their plans for upcoming projects in 2024.

- Discussion of Improvements to Lea County's Convenience Centers in Hobbs and Lovington. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham implemented strategies for effective waste management, recycling, and pollution control to protect the environment.

- Discussion of 2024 Lea County Fair & Rodeo Expenses. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director and Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs presented, compared, and valorized the 2024 Lea County Fair & Rodeo Expenses to the last 4 years. Wyatt Duncan stated this year's rodeo expenses had an impact of fluctuation due to the increase of cost of the rodeo and entertainment.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

- Discussion of Request for Proposals for Outside Entities. (*Erin Smith, Senior Accountant*)

Senior Accountant Erin Smith mentioned that in the past years Lea County has funded various local organizations to provide services in economic development, community services and indigent mental health care. County staff are seeking input from the County Commissioners on whether to issue an RFP for those services to be provided during the FY24-25- fiscal year.

- Discussion of Lea County's Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Revenue Budget. (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Finance Director Chip Low stated that the county is required to submit a preliminary budget for the FY25 Fiscal year to the New Mexico DFA LGD by May 31,2024. This discussion reviews General Fund revenue projects for the FY 25 budget year.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:11 a.m. Vice Chair Weber moved that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss the acquisition of real property in northern and central Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (8).

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

Commissioner Sims left the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:38 p.m.

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024**

ITEM 06: OTHER BUSINESS

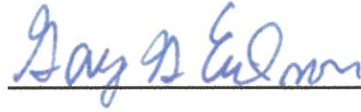
- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-FEB-033R Approving the Purchase of Approximately 3.94 Acres (+/-) of Land Addressed at 2130 West Bender Boulevard. and Further Identified as Tract 3B of Grimes Land Co. LTD Sub-Division No. 2, Parcel No. 4971019135710. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No 24-FEB-033R Approving the Purchase of Approximately 3.94 Acres (+/-) of Land Addressed at 2130 West Bender Boulevard. and Further Identified as Tract 3B of Grimes Land Co. LTD Sub-Division No. 2, Parcel No. 4971019135710. 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 Jackson, yes; Commssioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, absent. The nomination passed.

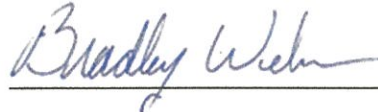
ADJOURN: 1:41 p.m.

Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 01, 2024

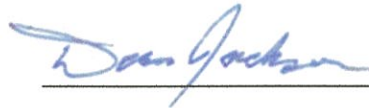
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



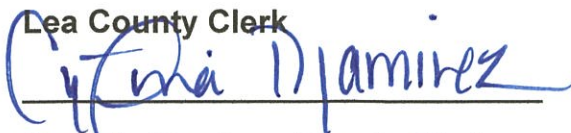
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

