

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
March 14, 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.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-059R Approving the February 29, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-059R Approving the February 29, 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; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.
 - Commissioner Sims – showed his concern for Nick Maxwell.
 - Commissioner Sena – introduced his nephew Reese Davis as a guest. He also welcomed Representative Larry Scott and thanked him for his leadership.
 - Chair Eidson – wished all Lea County basketball participants safe travels to the state championship.
 - Commissioner Jackson – no comment
 - Vice Chair Weber – no comment
 - County Manager Michael Gallagher – no comment

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- Discussion of the 2024 Legislative Session.

Legislator Larry Scott gave a brief recapitulation about the 30-day legislation session. He also exposed budget matters, and issues the Governor felt were important enough to put on the call. Six hundred and forty bills were introduced which seventy-two of those got to the Governor's office. Commissioner Sims had inquiries regarding HB41 Bill with taxes arising for consumption and cost of living. Commissioner Sena voiced his opinion of how this house bill may impact housing cost and effect on working class families in Lea County.

- Discussion of Housing in Lea County. *(Rebecca Titus, CEO/President United Way of Lea County)*

CEO/President United Way of Lea County Rebecca Titus spoke about the homelessness issues and the impact this brings to Lea County. Clients are coming to United Way for rental assistance after the process for eviction has started. Community resources from government and nonprofits are spread thin to the point of turning clients away. Housing insecurity in Lea County has affected the health, education, and financial well being of citizens in our neighborhoods.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-060R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement Grant No. G24SN0017A Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2025. *(Chip Low, County Finance Director)*

County Finance Director Chip Low requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-060R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement Grant No. G24SN0017A Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2025. 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-MAR-061R Authorizing the Approval and Execution of an Application for Law Enforcement Protection Funds for Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025. *(Corey Helton, Lea County Sheriff)*

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Lea County Sheriff Corey Helton requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-061R Authorizing the Approval and Execution of an Application for Law Enforcement Protection Funds for Fiscal Year 2024 - 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-MAR-062R Approving Out of State Travel March 28 - 29, 2024 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas for Five Fire Fighters to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training. (*Charles Pruitt, Public Safety Administrator*)

Public Safety Administrator Charles Pruitt requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-062R Approving Out of State Travel March 28 - 29, 2024 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas for Five Fire Fighters to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training. 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-MAR-063R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation Not to Vacate the Roadway in the South Half of Section 9, All in Section 16, Section 23, and Section 30 Up to the Edge of the Right-of-Way for Shell Road in Township 23 South, Range 34 East in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-063R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation Not to Vacate the Roadway in the South Half of Section 9, All in Section 16, Section 23, and Section 30 Up to the Edge of the Right-of-Way for Shell Road in Township 23 South, Range 34 East in Lea County, New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims mentioned littering has increased due to oilfield personnel's activity in the field, speeding on the highway has caused damage to livestock and land. Commissioner Jackson would like to have a discussion item to come up with a plan on this matter. Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Jackson, no; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-064R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation Not to Vacate the Dedicated Roadway Between Hunter Street and Eva Street and the Dedicated Alley Between Lot 7 & Lot 8, of Block 9 and Lot 7 & Lot 8 of Block 5 Plus the Dedicated Alley Between Lot 1 & Lot 2 of Block 8 and Lot 1 & Lot 2 of Block 1, All in the First Unit of Knowles Subdivision in Section 10 in Township 18 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

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County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-064R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation Not to Vacate the Dedicated Roadway Between Hunter Street and Eva Street and the Dedicated Alley Between Lot 7 & Lot 8, of Block 9 and Lot 7 & Lot 8 of Block 5 Plus the Dedicated Alley Between Lot 1 & Lot 2 of Block 8 and Lot 1 & Lot 2 of Block 1, All in the First Unit of Knowles Subdivision in Section 10 in Township 18 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico. 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 motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-065R Approving a Services Agreement Task Order with G.W.C. Construction Inc. for the Demolition of Structures and Removal of Debris for Property Further Identified as Parcel No. 4000256090001 and 400262110001 on East Avenue K in Lovington, New Mexico. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-065R Approving a Services Agreement Task Order with G.W.C. Construction Inc. for the Demolition of Structures and Removal of Debris for Property Further Identified as Parcel No. 4000256090001 and 400262110001 on East Avenue K in Lovington, New Mexico. 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 motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-066R Approving a Services Agreement Task Order with G.W.C. Construction Inc. for the Demolition of Structures and Removal of Debris for Property Further Identified as Parcel No. 4000211110002, 4000790740001, 4970227114657, and 4000049880001 on Roosevelt Street and East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-066R Approving a Services Agreement Task Order with G.W.C. Construction Inc. for the Demolition of Structures and Removal of Debris for Property Further Identified as Parcel No. 4000211110002, 4000790740001, 4970227114657, and 4000049880001 on Roosevelt Street and East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico. 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 motion passed.

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Chair Eidson called for a break.

Break: 10:21 a.m.

Resumed: 10:31 a.m.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-067R Authorizing Out of State Travel July 12 – 15, 2024 to Tampa, Florida for the County Commissioners and the Community Engagement Manager to Attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition. (*Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator*)

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-067R Authorizing Out of State Travel July 12 – 15, 2024 to Tampa, Florida for the County Commissioners and the Community Engagement Manager to Attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition. 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; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-068R Approving Two New Personnel Positions. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-068R Approving Two New Personnel Positions. 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-MAR-069R Approving the Purchase of a Software License and a Server for County Hosting of Caselle Accounting Software. (*Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst*)

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-069R Approving the Purchase of a Software License and a Server for County Hosting of Caselle Accounting Software. 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 motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-070R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024. (*Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst*)

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Budget and Reporting Analyst Anothony Dobbs requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-070R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024. 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-MAR-071R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 3rd Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund. (*Erin Smith, Senior Accountant*)

Senior Accountant Erin Smith requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-071R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 3rd Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund. 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, no; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Departmental Operating Budgets. (*Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst*)

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs presented the annual budget preparation process that included each Elected Office and Department Director discussing operating plans and funding needs for the new budget year. It also provided the County Commissioners with the opportunity to provide feedback and direction in the budget process.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:08 Vice Chair Weber moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Involving the Promotion of Certain Employees in County Administration, and to Discuss the Acquisition of Real Property in Northern and Central Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (2) and (8). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

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

The meeting was reconvened at 12:04 p.m.

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ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-072R Approving the Promotion of Henry C. Low as Assistant County Manager for Administrative Services. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-072R Approving the Promotion of Henry C. Low as Assistant County Manager for Administrative Services. 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-MAR-073R Approving the Promotion of Kelly Livingston Dunford as Assistant County Manager for Justice and Human Services. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-073R Approving the Promotion of Kelly Livingston Dunford as Assistant County Manager for Justice and Human Services. 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; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-074R Approving the Promotion of Amie Rodriguez Baeza as DWI/Probation Director. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-074R Approving the Promotion of Amie Rodriguez Baeza as DWI/Probation Director. 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 motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-075R Approving the Promotion of Michael Nevarez as Health & Wellness Director. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

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County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-075R Approving the Promotion of Michael Nevarez as Health & Wellness Director. 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 motion passed.

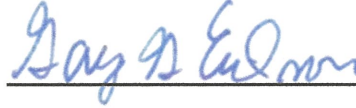
- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-076R Approving the Purchase of 1.73 Acres (+/-) of Land on East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico Identified by Parcel No. 4000232000002 and Further Identified by Address 701 East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-076R Approving the Purchase of 1.73 Acres (+/-) of Land on East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico Identified by Parcel No. 4000232000002 and Further Identified by Address 701 East Avenue D in Lovington, New Mexico. 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 motion passed.

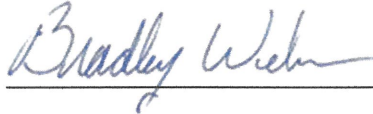
ADJOURN 12:19 p.m.

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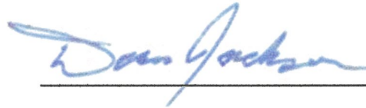
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



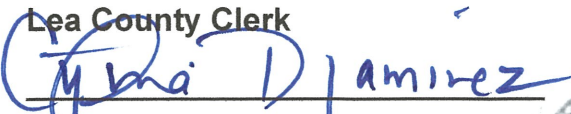
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

