

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
March 28, 2024**

Chair Eidson called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-077R Approving the March 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-077R Approving the March 14, 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.

- Public Comments:

Cole Beckham requested the County take over the first two miles of Beckham Road and make it a county road.

Kooper Saiz of Devon Energy stated that their company is and will be doing a lot of drilling so this would help tremendously with safety.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sena acknowledged Commander Sullivan's granddaughter, Landri for being here and the fact that he enjoys seeing young people at the meetings.

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Manager Mike Gallagher asked Director Angela Martinez to bring up 911 Supervisor Carrie Owens.

Director Angela Martinez introduced and commended Supervisor Carrie Owens, who had won the local and the New Mexico APCO & NENA Supervisor of the Year. Supervisor Owens spoke about the in-house training that herself, Deputy Zach Owens, and Deputy Luis Herrera teach annually, concerning crisis negotiations for the mentally challenged or those with PTSD. They trained LCCA to be able to verbally deescalate during 911 calls and LCSO to control and deescalate in the field.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-078R Approving Public Employees Retirement Association Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar, and Monument. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Emergency Management Charlie Pruitt requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-078R Approving Public Employees Retirement Association Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar, and Monument. 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-079R Approving an Amendment to BID No. 01 - (22/23) Asphalt Emulsions with ERGON Asphalt and Emulsions, Inc. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-079R Approving an Amendment to BID No. 01 - (22/23) Asphalt Emulsions with ERGON Asphalt and Emulsions, Inc. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-080R Approving the 2nd Option to Renew BID No. 01 - (22/23) Asphalt Emulsions - Indefinite Quantity for the Lea County Road Department to ERGON Asphalt and Emulsions, Inc. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-080R Approving the 2nd Option to Renew BID No. 01 - (22/23) Asphalt Emulsions - Indefinite Quantity for the Lea County Road Department to ERGON Asphalt and Emulsions, Inc. 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-081R Approving Task Order 2024 - 4 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for Design of Drainage Improvements at the Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-081R Approving Task Order 2024 - 4 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for Design of Drainage Improvements at the Lea County Regional Airport. 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-082R Approving a Grant Agreement between Lea County and the Federal Aviation Administration for the Design of Drainage Improvements at Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-082R Approving a Grant Agreement between Lea County and the Federal Aviation Administration for the Design of Drainage Improvements at Lea County Regional Airport. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-083R Approving Task Order 2024 - 5 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for the Bidding and Construction Phase Services for Sanitary Sewer at Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-083R Approving Task Order 2024 - 5 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for the Bidding and Construction Phase Services for Sanitary Sewer at 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-MAR-084R Approving Task Order 2024 - 6 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for the Observation and Testing Services for Sanitary Sewer at Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-084R Approving Task Order 2024 - 6 between Lea County and Molzen Corbin for the Observation and Testing Services for Sanitary Sewer at Lea County Regional Airport. 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-085R Approving a Grant Agreement between Lea County and the Federal Aviation Administration for the Bidding and Construction Phase Services for Sanitary Sewer at Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-085R Approving a Grant Agreement between Lea County and the Federal Aviation Administration for the Bidding and Construction Phase Services for Sanitary Sewer at Lea County Regional Airport. 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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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-086R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Request of the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in the First Unit of Humble City Subdivision, Block 46 in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 37 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-086R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Request of the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in the First Unit of Humble City Subdivision, Block 46 in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 37 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-087R Amending 2024 Travel, Per Diem, Mileage, and Reimbursement Policies. (*John W. Caldwell, County Attorney*)

County Attorney John W. Caldwell requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-087R Amending 2024 Travel, Per Diem, Mileage, and Reimbursement Policies. 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-088R Approving Grant No. G23SN0017A Modification No. 2 between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2024. (*Wm Robert Sullivan, HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator*)

HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator Wm Robert Sullivan requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-088R Approving Grant No. G23SN0017A Modification No. 2 between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2023 to 12/31/202. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAR-089R Approving Grant No. G23SN0017A Modification No. 3 Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2024. *(Wm Robert Sullivan, HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator)*

HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator Wm Robert Sullivan requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-089R Approving Grant No. G23SN0017A Modification No. 3 Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Decreasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2024. 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-090R Authorizing In-State Travel June 17 - 20, 2024 for the County Commissioners to Attend the 2024 New Mexico Counties Annual Conference in San Miguel County (Las Vegas), New Mexico. *(Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator)*

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAR-090R Authorizing In-State Travel June 17 - 20, 2024 for the County Commissioners to Attend the 2024 New Mexico Counties Annual Conference in San Miguel County (Las Vegas), 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 Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of the Process and Requirements to Vacate Public Right-of-Way and the Road Fencing Policy. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations and John W. Caldwell, County Attorney)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham spoke of the need to change the process and policy requirements to vacate a public right of way in lieu of fencing a roadway. Attorney Caldwell agreed on the need to be more specific as to not violate the anti-donation clause.

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

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs asked the County Manager and several department heads to go over their budget request for the upcoming year.

County Manager Mike Gallagher advised that he only raised the amount for insurance and the Executive budget was raised \$20,000.00 for professional services.

Sheriff Corey Helton advised that his budget was only raised by the yearly amount owed for maintenance on the LPR cameras. He also stated that since October 2023, they had recovered eight vehicles, one missing female from another state, have several narcotic investigations going, and has slowed the theft of oilfield equipment, which was the purpose of purchasing the cameras.

Warden Ruben Quintana advised that his budget was only increased by the increased cost of feeding inmates, some of which is recouped by the invoicing for out of county juveniles and inmates waiting transportation back to the states their charges are in.

Assistant County Manager of Justice and Human Services Kelly Livingston advised that the \$143,000 decrease in the DWI budget being restructured to the new Health and Wellness Department.

Lea County Event Center Director Jim Kemp introduced his new Assistant Director, Rosie Insilan. He advised his budget is to increase by \$112,000.00, mainly due to the rise in the cost of office supplies, janitor supplies, equipment maintenance and an increase in linen rentals.

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara advised his budget to increase by \$60,000.00, due to an increase in the cost of maintenance and cleaning supplies. They also added money to purchase a new computer.

Lea County Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan advised that his fairgrounds budget increased by \$51,900.00, due to travel and per diem, maintenance of fairgrounds, safety equipment, which is a new line item and maintenance on equipment. He also said his Fair and Rodeo budget increased due to the entertainment and the Hispanic Heritage budget being moved to the Fair and Rodeo budget.

Break: 10:19 am

Reconvened: 10:32 am, after fixing computer used for the power point presentations.

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Assistant County Manager of Administrative Services Chip Low gave a report on the finance budget increasing for the cost of software only and the increasing cost of indigent care.

Human Resources Director Craig Bova stated there was only a slight decrease in their budget.

Information Technology Director Robert Lathrop stated their increase was due to the cost of the county going to the Office 365 licensing and enhanced security program.

- Discussion of Roadway Projects. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager of Operations Corey Needham advised he is proposing a \$56,000,000.00 increase to the capital budget for the purpose of upgrading the thoroughfares for Knowles, Alabama, World Drive and Bensing. Commissioner Sena said his experience with his budget made him realize how important working on roads and safety provides an environment where jobs can flourish. Roads are so important.

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Personnel Budget. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager and Chip Low, Assistant County Manager for Administrative Services)*

County Manager Mike Gallagher stated that we had added six positions for a total of 422 employees working in the county. Talked about raising non law enforcement employees to \$18.00 per hour starting pay, also giving all county employees a five percent COLA raise and implementing an additional supplemental retirement program.

- Discussion of Changes to the Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual. *(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)*

Human Resources Director Craig Bova stated that the only changes were for clarification purposes concerning the Assistant County Managers.

- Discussion of Lea County Event Center Project. *(Jim Kemp, Event Center Director)*

Lea County Event Center Director Jim Kemp and John Stern gave a report on the architecture of the remodeling of the Event Center.

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- Discussion of Fairground Projects. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

Lea County Fairgrounds Director advised they are moving the concert area and that all electrical lines are to be buried. They are also adding additional parking.

- Discussion of Alcohol Sales During the Fair and Rodeo. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director and John W. Caldwell, County Attorney)*

Lea County Fairgrounds Director and County Attorney John Caldwell discussed the liability of Lea County if we were to sell alcohol instead of getting sponsorships and letting the sponsor sell on the fairgrounds.

- Discussion of February 2024 Financial Report. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith stated that our operations budget is \$162,000,000.00 ahead of projection and our capital budget is down by \$17,000,000.00. Indigent care is up \$2,000,000.00. Our revenue is ahead by almost \$152,000,000.00.

- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith showed a slide of the checks and purchase card payments and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Weber moved that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss pending litigation Estrada v. Lea County et al., Burkley v. Lea County, Porras v. City of Eunice et al., Tello v. Lea County Sheriff's Office et al., and White v. Lea County et al., as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (7).

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

Time Convened: 12:05 pm.

Time Reconvened: 01:16 pm.

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ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

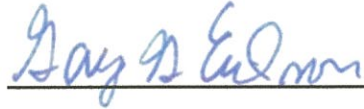
There was no other business.

ADJOURN:

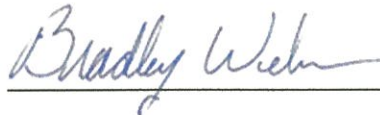
Time Adjourned: 01:16 pm

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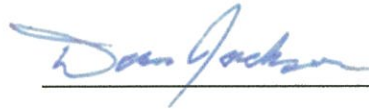
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk

