

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
June 13, 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, Commissioner Dean Jackson, District 1, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioners absent were, to wit: Vice Chair Weber, District 2.

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-JUN-143R Approving the May 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-143R Approving the May 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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

4H Agent for Lea County Chelsey Wilson explained the requirements and procedures needed to participate in the 4H Shooting National Championship in Grand Island, Nebraska. Participants introduced themselves to the board and were congratulated for their hard work.

Jill Ashen Felter offered her integrative nutrition health skills with the hopes of partnering with the Lea County Community Wellness Center to enhance and expand the vision of this facility.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sims – thanked the public for re-electing him as commissioner.

Commissioner Sena – encouraged Sandra Brito to introduce the summer intern staff. He also thanked Corey Needham for his hard work and dedication.

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Commissioner Jackson – encouraged everyone to submit any comments, questions, and/or concerns about the Lea County Fairgrounds Masterplan. He also congratulated Mrs. Kimbro and Commissioner Sims for winning the Primary Elections.

Chair Eidson – congratulated the new elected officials.

- Discussion of New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. (*Cholla Khoury, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Chief of Staff*)

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Chief of Staff Cholla Khoury introduced herself to the board and gave a summary of the services the Public Regulation Commission can offer with inner connection and reliability standards to Lea County.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-144R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G24SN0017A Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Policy for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Drug Task Force Issued for 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2025. (*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-JUN-144R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G24SN0017A Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Policy for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Drug Task Force Issued for 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JAN-145R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Frying Pan Road. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations*)

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-145R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Frying Pan Road. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-146R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Monument Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-146R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Monument Road. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-147R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Gum Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-147R Approving a Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Gum Road. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-148R Approving a Task Order with Ramirez & Sons Inc. Utilizing a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract for the Widening and Overlay of W. Stiles Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-148R Approving a Task Order with Ramirez & Sons Inc. Utilizing a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract for the Widening and Overlay of W. Stiles Road. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-149R Approving a Lea County Road Construction and Maintenance Contract Task Order to Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Orla Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

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Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-149R Approving a Lea County Road Construction and Maintenance Contract Task Order to Constructors Inc. for the Widening and Overlay of Orla Road. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-150R Approving a Task Order with Ramirez & Sons Inc. Utilizing a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract for the Reconstruction, Widening, and Chip Seal of Roadways in the Humble City Subdivision. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-150R Approving a Task Order with Ramirez & Sons Inc. Utilizing a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract for the Reconstruction, Widening, and Chip Seal of Roadways in the Humble City Subdivision. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-151R Approving the Dedication of Dunnam Street Right of Way to the City of Hobbs in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4NW1/4SW1/4SE1/4) of Section 36, Township 18 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-151R Approving the Dedication of Dunnam Street Right of Way to the City of Hobbs in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4NW1/4SW1/4SE1/4) of Section 36, Township 18 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-152R Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for Bid 04 – (22 – 23) Lea County Regional Airport Runway 3 – 21 Extension and NAVAID Replacement Project. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

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Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-152R Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for Bid 04 – (22 – 23) Lea County Regional Airport Runway 3 – 21 Extension and NAVAID Replacement Project. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-153R Approving Task Order No. 2024 – 8 with Molzen Corbin Engineering to Complete the Design of a New Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Entrance at the Lea County Regional Airport. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-153R Approving Task Order No. 2024 – 8 with Molzen Corbin Engineering to Complete the Design of a New Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Entrance 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-154R Authorizing a Change Order with NCA Architects for the Design of the Lovington Convenience Center. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-154R Authorizing a Change Order with NCA Architects for the Design of the Lovington Convenience Center. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-155R Authorizing a Change Order with NCA Architects for the Design of the North Hobbs Convenience Center. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-155R Authorizing a Change Order with NCA Architects for the Design of the North Hobbs Convenience Center. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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At 10:01 a.m. Chair Eidson called for a motion for a closed session. Commissioner Jackson moved that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss threatened litigation involving tort liability, as authorized by NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (7). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena.

The meeting reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-156R Approving the Appointment of Lea County's Voting Delegates for the 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference and Exposition. *(Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator)*

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-156R Approving the Appointment of Lea County's Voting Delegates for the 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference and Exposition. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-157R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Ramirez & Sons Inc. to Prepare a Caliche Parking Pad at the Lea County Fairgrounds. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-157R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Ramirez & Sons Inc. to Prepare a Caliche Parking Pad at the Lea County Fairgrounds. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-158R Approving Security Services During the 2024 Lea County Fair and Rodeo. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-158R Approving Security Services During the 2024 Lea County Fair and Rodeo. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-159R Approving Entertainment Artists and Fees for the 2024 Lea County Fair and Rodeo Concert Series and Hispanic Heritage Celebration. (*Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director*)

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-159R Approving Entertainment Artists and Fees for the 2024 Lea County Fair and Rodeo Concert Series and Hispanic Heritage Celebration. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

At 10:29 a.m. Commissioner Jackson move that the resolution be amended by adding the following language as the first Be It Further Resolved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager, in consultation with the Legal Department, may purchase an insurance policy or set funds aside in the 2024-2025 budget to cover the county's agreement to defend and indemnify any performer at the 2024 Lea County Fair and Rodeo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-160R Approving 2nd Option to Renew Detainee Health and Mental Healthcare Services at the Lea County Detention Center. (*Ruben Quintana, Lea County Detention Center Director*)

Lea County Detention Center Ruben Quintana requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-160R Approving 2nd Option to Renew Detainee Health and Mental Healthcare Services at the Lea County Detention Center. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-161R Approving the Lea County 2026 – 2030 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). (*Michael Gallagher, County Manger*)

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-161R Approving 2nd Option to Renew Detainee Health and Mental Healthcare Services at the Lea County Detention Center. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-162R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal Contract No. 2023-07-C3110-678 from Design Roof Services for Preventative Maintenance. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-162R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal Contract No. 2023-07-C3110-678 from Design Roof Services for Preventative Maintenance. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-JUN-163R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Quote from Lasco Construction for Improvements to 2130 W. Bender Street. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-JUN-163R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Quote from Lasco Construction for Improvements to 2130 W. Bender Street. 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, absent; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of the Lea County Historic Courthouse. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara exposed and conducted a comprehensive assessment of existing infrastructure and facilities to identify areas that require maintenance, upgrades, or expansion.

Commissioner Sims – expressed his concern about the heating and cooling system.

Commissioner Sena –stated that the board needs to move forward on something.

Commissioner Jackson – commented that something needs to be done.

County Manager Michael Gallagher – gave multiple options on how the board could possibly assist each of Lea County Department's needs.

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- Discussion of 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Budget. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher gave a review on the Capital Outlay Budget that was previously approved for the upcoming fiscal year. He also talked to the board to increase the budget for the remodel of the courthouse and/or new facility. The new projected total capital project to \$392,556,964.

Commissioner Jackson said that if something needed to be done, it should be done all at once due to construction price fluctuation.

- Discussion of Proposed Lea County Financial Policy and Procedures Manual. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith presented the Lea County new financial policy and procedures manual that document sound internal controls and procedures.

Commissioner Sena asked what where the new changes made to the manual.

Senior Accountant Erin Smith stated that the process of entering data to the system is more accommodating.

- Discussion of May 2024 Finance Report. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith reviewed the Operations, Indigent, Capital, and the Trust & Agency Report with a grant total of \$177,224,743 for the year-to date May 31, 2024.

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

Senior Accountant Erin Smith gave a review of Lea County's Accounts Payable/Purchases card register with a grand total of \$18,551,444.65

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ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Jackson moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the County Manager's Evaluation, to Discuss Threatened Litigation Involving Tort Liability, and to Discuss the Acquisition of Real Property in Central Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (2), (7), and (8). 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 reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

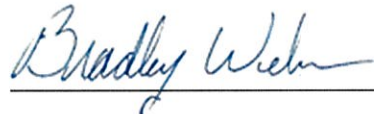
ADJOURN: 12:19 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



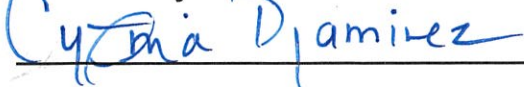
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

