

**Minutes of Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
September 22, 2022**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Rebecca Long District 2, and Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5. Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4 was absent.

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

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-202R Approving the September 08, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-SEP-202R Approving the September 08, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, abstain; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments
 - Lorena Chavarria – spoke about the “Shattered Lives” teen DWI Prevention Event happening Thursday, October 20th and Friday, October 21st
 - Nick Maxwell – Commented on the 2nd Amendment and his belief that all County Employees should be able to carry firearms. He also gave a positive review of our elections process in Lea County and complimented the County Clerk’s office for being quick to answer the phone, friendly and efficient with all of his requests and well organized.
- Commissioner and Manager Comments
 - Chair Jackson – No Comment
 - Vice Chair Eidson – No Comment
 - Commissioner Sims – No Comment
 - Commissioner Sena – Expressed his gratitude for being able to be a part of community projects such as the new hospital. Commented on the fact that we need better

healthcare for women and even though he is against an abortion clinic being located here, he does believe we need to have love and compassion for the women who are facing these types of decisions.

- Commissioner Long – Expressed her condolences to the District Attorney Luce for the loss of her mother. Stated that at the next Lea County Commission Meeting she would like to discuss disbursement of some of her discretionary fund to include; a baseball park, handicapped sidewalks and community cleanup for Lovington.
- Manager Gallagher – No Comment

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-203R
Approving the Lea County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2023. *(Sandra Brito, Community Engagement Manager)*

Community Engagement Manager Brito requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 22-SEP-203R Approving the Lea County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2023. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-204R
Authorizing an Agreement for Land Exchange between Lea County and Hobbs Country Club. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. No. 22-SEP-204R Authorizing an Agreement for Land Exchange between Lea County and Hobbs Country Club. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-205R Authorizing Out of State Travel October 10 – 13, 2022 to San Antonio Texas for the Lea County Communication Authority Director and the Lea County Emergency Manager to Attend Meetings and Training Provided by Dailey-Wells for Equipment Upgrades and New Technology. *(Angela Martinez, Communication Authority Director, Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Communication Director Martinez and Emergency Management Director Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-205R Authorizing Out of State Travel October 10 – 13, 2022 to San Antonio Texas for the Lea County Communication Authority Director and the Lea County Emergency Manager to Attend Meetings and Training Provided by Dailey-Wells for Equipment Upgrades and New Technology. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-206R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 1st Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-SEP-206R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 1st Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, no; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, abstain; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Public Art and Signage at Lea County Facilities. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*
 - Discussed the use of art in Lea County as it pertains to improving the appearance and visual recognition of various landmarks such as the Judicial Complex and Lea Regional Airport to start.
 - Commissioner Long expressed the desire to seek out artists from the surrounding area and using art pertaining to our region such as

- images of oil and gas, ranching, etc. She also asked that the County Commission be involved in the decision making process.
 - Chair Jackson commented that he thought funds would be better spent on other projects such as road repair.
- Discussion of Community Engagement Projects. (*Sandrea Brito, Community Engagement Manager*)
 - Outlined the many exciting upcoming community engagement activities including holiday events, projects and partnerships.
- Discussion/Update on Litter Cleanup Project. (*Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Services Director*)
 - Related positive updates on both the Litter Cleanup Project and Dangerous Buildings/Properties cleanup
- Discussion of the Lea County Event Center Master Plan. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)
 - Discussion of plans for the update of the Lea County Event Center. Contractor to present Conceptual Master Plan at the next Commission Meeting on October 6.
- Discussion of Lea County's Financial Report. (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)
 - PowerPoint presentation of current financial report.
- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)
 - PowerPoint presentation of current Accounts Payable.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:14 a.m. Vice Chair Eidson moved to meet in closed session to discuss the Limited Personnel Matters Regarding Employment Agreements of the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, and County Attorney; and Threatened Litigation Regarding the Lea County Detention Center, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (2) and (7). The Motion was Seconded by Commissioner Long.

The Meeting reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dean Jackson, Chair

Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair

Jonathan Sena, Member

Pat Sims, Member

Rebecca Long, Member

**ATTEST: Keith Manes
Lea County Clerk**

Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk