

**Minutes of Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
December 8, 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, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4. Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

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

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-DEC-271R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2022 Special Meeting and November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22- DEC-271R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2022 Special Meeting; November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting. 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, abstained; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.
 - Public Comments:
 - Nick Maxwell – Objected to the Commissioner’s motion for meeting in executive session that was not on the November 17th, agenda.
 - Commissioner and Manager Comments:
 - Chair Jackson – Rebecca taught him a lot and she will be missed.
 - Vice Chair Eidson – Said he would like to thank District 2 for allowing her to serve. He had learned a lot from Rebecca.
 - Commissioner Sena – Rebecca is one of the greatest leaders and that he also had learned a lot from her.
 - Commissioner Sims – Thanked Rebecca for her service.
 - Commissioner Long – Thanked voters in District 2 for allowing her to represent Lea County.

- Manager Gallagher – Commissioner Long was the first commissioner he worked for her full eight year term.

- Recognition of Outgoing Elected Officials
 - ❖ Assessor Sharla Kennedy
 - ❖ Commissioner Rebecca Long
 - ❖ Probate Judge Sandra Goad

ITEM 02: PUBLIC HEARING (S)

- **Public Hearing:** Hearing to Consider Proposed Ordinance Requiring Compliance with Federal Abortion Laws.

- ❖ Consideration to Adopt Lea County Ordinance No. 99 - An Ordinance Requiring Compliance with Federal Abortion Laws.
(John W. Caldwell, County Attorney)

Lori Bova- Thanked commissioners for stepping into action about abortion.

Robbie Roberts- Aware it takes a lot of courage and strength to speak about abortion.

Clayborn Griffin- Suggested giving the public the opportunity to vote on the decision in making an abortion ordinance.

Commissioner Sims- New Mexico is a full-term abortion state.

Commissioner Sena - Lea County needs more woman's health clinics for pregnancy care.

Commissioner Eidson- Admits that our country is divided, but this is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Jackson- Stated that he never dreamed about having to give an opinion on abortion.

County Attorney Caldwell- read ordinance - Federal Abortion Law Compliance.

County Attorney Caldwell requested approval. Commissioner Sena motioned to Adopt and Approve Lea County Ordinance No. 99 – An Ordinance Requiring Compliance with Federal Abortion Laws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Jackson asked if there were anymore public or commissioner comments. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-DEC-272R Approving Grant No. G22SN0017A Modification No. 1 Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Increasing Funds for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023. *(Wm Robert Sullivan, HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator)*

HIDTA Region VI Coordinator Sullivan requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22- DEC-272R Approving Grant No. G22SN0017A Modification No. 1 Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Increasing Funds for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims asked if we were making headway on drugs. Commissioner Sena commented the young people are exposed to daily drug use in schools. Causing their health and lives to be in serious danger. 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-DEC-273R Appropriating \$10,000,000.00 for an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for the Improvement and Reconstruction of College Lane. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-273R Appropriating \$10,000,000.00 for an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for the Improvement and Reconstruction of College Lane. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there

were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long stated she agrees to rebuild College Lane. This street is quite busy. It would improve water drainage and alleviate stress for the community. Commissioner Sena stated this will help alleviate the stress in school zones and could make a major impact with current home residents. The goal is to serve the tax payer. Commissioner Sims questioned, how much is in Lea County for College Lane? What is the actual distance? Vice Chair Eidson stated do it right from the start and leave nothing behind in this project. 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-DEC-274R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for Improvements to a Portion of Avenue K from Main Street to Industrial Street. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

Assistant Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-274R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for Improvements to a Portion of Avenue K from Main Street to Industrial Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long stated Lovington is desperately in need of road improvement. It's the busiest street we all travel on. Commissioner Sims agreed this intersection is deteriorating. Chair Jackson stated commercial transits are tearing up the city roads. The road is in very bad shape. This would help with the traffic diversion. 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-DEC-275R Approving a Task Order with Constructors, Inc. for Improvements to a Portion of Avenue K from Main Street to Industrial Street. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-275R Approving a Task Order with Constructors, Inc. for Improvements to a Portion of Avenue K from Main Street to Industrial Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item.

Commissioner Long asked when will the construction project begin. 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-DEC-276R Awarding Bid No. 6 (2022 - 2023) Landfill Roadway Drainage Low Water Crossing. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-276R Awarding Bid No. 6 (2022 - 2023) Landfill Roadway Drainage Low Water Crossing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena mentioned this will improve water drainage flow for residents living around the area. 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-DEC-277R Awarding Bid No. 7 (2022 - 2023) Sanger Landfill Road Intersection Re-Design. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-277R Awarding Bid No. 7 (2022 - 2023) Sanger Landfill Road Intersection Re-Design. 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-DEC-278R Awarding Bid No. 9 (2022 - 2023) Wyoming Avenue Project. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-278R Awarding Bid No. 9 (2022 - 2023) Wyoming Avenue Project. 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-DEC-279R Approving the Salaries of Elected Officials Effective January 1, 2023. *(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)*

Human Resources Director Bova requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-279R Approving the Salaries of Elected Officials Effective January 1, 2023. 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-DEC-280R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-280R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory. 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-DEC-281R Approving Budget Adjustments No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-281R Approving Budget Adjustments No. 3 for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. 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-DEC-282R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 2nd Quarter Certification and Payment for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Resolution No. 22-DEC-282R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 2nd Quarter Certification and Payment for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. 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, no; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 04: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Lea County's Financial Report *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*
 - Finance Director Low mentioned we are \$6 million dollars ahead for the year. Things are running smoothly. Oil & Gas Production still high. Down to 70's on oil. If oil stays at \$60 per barrel or higher the County will be in good shape.

- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

- Chair Jackson mentioned I like the new system easy to follow and easy to see where money is going. Finance Director stated that we are still learning and getting familiarized with this new system. This opened the door to enhance our ability to manage the finances. Especially now that we have the daily access of financial information. When an invoice is submitted in accounts payable, it shows up as an expenditure in real time and up to day information. Commissioner Sena thanked the Finance team for all they do.

ITEM 05: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:19 a.m. Vice Chair Eidson move that the Commissioners convene in closed session to discuss limited personal matters related to a deputy at the Lea County Sheriff's Office, as authorized by NMSA

1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena.

The Meeting reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

ITEM 06: OTHER BUSINESS

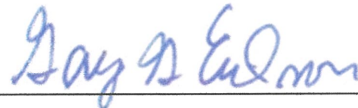
There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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



Dean Jackson, Chair



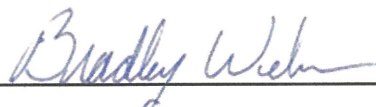
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



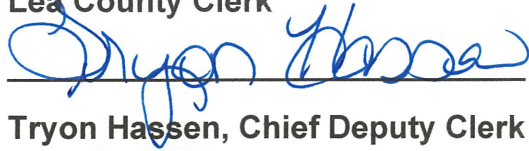
Pat Sims, Member



Brad Weber, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk


Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk

