

**Minutes of Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
March 9, 2023**

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 present, Commissioner Brad Weber, 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.23-MAR-079R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes:

- ❖ February 23, 2023 Special Meeting
- ❖ February 23, 2023 Regular Meeting

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No.23-MAR-079R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes February 23, 2023 Special Meeting and February 23, 2023 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, yes; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

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

Leisha Joiner- Apologized for not presenting a plan of action for the town of Tatum for this meeting.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.
 - Vice Chair Eidson - He welcomed Yvette Herrell, Former United States Representative for New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District.

- Discussion Regarding Endangered Species. (*Yvette Herrell, Former United States Representative for New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District*)

Former United States Representative Yvette Herrell spoke about spreading awareness about endangered species in the State of New Mexico.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-080R Opposing the Listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as an Endangered Species. (*Dean Jackson, Chair, County Commission – District 1*)

Chair Dean Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-080R Opposing the Listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as an Endangered Species. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Discussion of Broadband in Southern Lea County. (*Matt White, City Manager, City of Jal*)

City of Jal Manager Matt White discussed the Jal Fiber Buildout Financial Project.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No.23-MAR-081R Approving Law Enforcement Protection Fund Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024. (*Corey Helton, County Sheriff*)

Chief Deputy Chan Kim requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No.23-MAR-081R Approving Law Enforcement Protection Fund Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No.23-MAR-082R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position and One Part-Time Position to the Lea County Treasurer's Office. (*Craig Bova, Human Resources Director*)

Human Resources Director Craig Bova requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No.23-MAR-082R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position and One Part-Time Position to the Lea County Treasurer's Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-083R Authorizing In-State Travel June 11 - 16, 2023 for the County Commissioners to attend the 2023 New Mexico Counties Annual Conference in San Juan County, New Mexico. (*Sandra Brito, Community Engagement Manager*)

Community Engagement Manager Sandra Brito requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-083R Authorizing In-State Travel June 11 - 16, 2023 for the County Commissioners to attend the 2023 New Mexico Counties Annual Conference in San Juan County, New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-084R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel July 20 - 25, 2023 for the County Commissioners to attend the 2023 National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Travis County, Texas. (*Sandra Brito, Community Engagement Manager*)

Community Engagement Manager Sandra Brito requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-084R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel July 20 - 25, 2023 for the County Commissioners to attend the 2023 National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Travis County, Texas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-085R Approving Appointment of Lea County's Delegate for the Annual Elections at the 2023 National Association of Counties Conference. *(Sandrea Brito, Community Engagement Manager)*

Community Engagement Manager Sandrea Brito requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-085R Approving Appointment of Lea County's Delegate for the Annual Elections at the 2023 National Association of Counties Conference. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-086R Authorizing In-State Travel April 19 – 20, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend the Professional Standards Emergency Communications Council Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-086R Authorizing In-State Travel April 19 – 20, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend the Professional Standards Emergency Communications Council Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-087R Authorizing In-State Travel July 16 – 20, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend the Economic Development Basic Course in Silver City, New Mexico. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-087R Authorizing In-State Travel July 16 – 20, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend the Economic Development Basic Course in Silver City, New Mexico. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-088R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel November 3 – 9, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend Oklahoma University's Economic Development Institute in Austin, Texas. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-088R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel November 3 – 9, 2023 for the County Manager to Attend Oklahoma University's Economic Development Institute in Austin, Texas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-089R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel March 16–17, 2023 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas for Four Firefighter/Emergency Management Personnel to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Manager)*

Emergency Manager Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-089R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel March 16 – 17, 2023 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas for Four Firefighter/Emergency Management Personnel to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-090R Finding a Building and Premises at 4003 East Marland, Hobbs, New Mexico to Be a Menace to the Public and Requiring the Removal Thereof. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Services Director)*

Environmental Services Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-090R Finding a Building and Premises at 4003 East Marland, Hobbs, New Mexico to Be a Menace to the Public and Requiring the Removal Thereof. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-091R Approving a Task Order with Square Root Services to Complete Right-of-Way Acquisition Services for Industrial, Sonshine and Donna Roadways. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-MAR-091R Approving a Task Order with Square Root Services to Complete Right-of-Way Acquisition Services for Industrial, Sonshine and Donna Roadways. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-092R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Agreement with Pace Audio's to Install New Audio and Visual Equipment in the Lea County Historic Courthouse. *(Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)*

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No.23-MAR-092R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Agreement with Pace Audio's to Install New Audio and Visual Equipment in the Lea County Historic Courthouse. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-MAR-093R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 3rd Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund.
(Chip Low, Finance Director)

Finance Director Chip Low requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to Resolution No. 23-MAR-093R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 3rd 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, no; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Lea County's Team Up to Clean Up Lea County.
(Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Services Director)

Environmental Services Director Lorenzo Velasquez talked about BLM's award of \$90,000.00 for cleanup projects in Lea County.

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Departmental Operating Budgets. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Chip Low discussed the changes made to the Operating Budget. Each Elected Official will discuss specific item needs for their department.

Department budget presentation as follows:

County Assessor Aua Bengé
County Clerk Keith Manes
Probate Judge LaDonna Hardin
LCSD Chief Deputy Chan Kim
County Treasurer Susan Marinovich
County Attorney John Caldwell

BREAK: 10:46 a.m.

RESUME: 10:59 a.m.

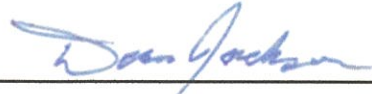
ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 11:58 a.m. Chair Jackson moved that the Commission **CONVENED** in Closed Session to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding a Deputy in the Sheriff's Office; and to Discuss Threatened Litigation Regarding Law Enforcement in Lea County; Pending Litigation in State of New Mexico *ex rel. Raul Torres v. Board of County Commissioners for Lea County et al.*; Pending Litigation in *Martinez v. Lea County et al.*, 2:21-CV-01101-CG-GJF; and to Discuss the Disposal of Real Property in Central and Northern Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (2), (7) and (8). The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. The meeting reconvenes at 12:50 p.m.

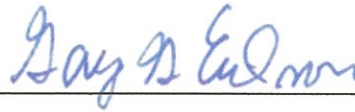
ITEM 05: NO OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN: 12:50 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Dean Jackson, Chair



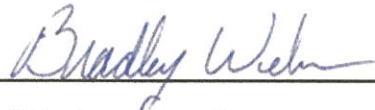
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



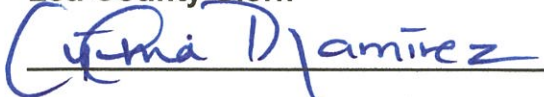
Pat Sims, Member



Brad Weber, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

