

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
September 28 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, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4, Commissioner Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Also present, 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-SEP-215R Approving the August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and the September 11, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-215R Approving the August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and the September 11, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. 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.

- Public Comments *(Non-Agenda Items)*.
 - Nick Maxwell – Gave positive feedback on road construction and doing a safe job, working in a manner that is considerate of the neighborhood.
 - Mara Salcido with Lovington Main Street – Spoke about the upcoming agenda events for the city of Lovington.
 - Consultant Waylon Parker & Brandy Pinon from Singleton Schreiber Fearless Advocacy – Gave a presentation of the many services offered for water wells and soil testing for oil field operations.

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- Commissioners and Manager Comments.
 - Commissioner Sena – Thanked Undersheriff Walker and Deputy Blevins for keeping citizens safe.
 - Chair Jackson – Spoke about his concern about the 30x30 submit matter.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-216R Affirming Support for the Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms, to Urge the Governor to Take No Actions that Violate Constitutional Rights and to Honor the Duty of Government Officials to Support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New Mexico. *(Chair Dean Jackson, District 1 Lea County Commissioner)*

Chair Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-216R Affirming Support for the Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms, to Urge the Governor to Take No Actions that Violate Constitutional Rights and to Honor the Duty of Government Officials to Support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Chair Jackson supports the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, to urge the government to take no actions that violate constitutional rights and to honor the duty of government officials to support the constitutions of the United States and the State of New Mexico. Commissioner Sena supports the constitutional rights to protect and preserve a safe community. Commissioner Sims commented how gun violence is taking over society. Nick Maxwell expressed how transferring the right to bear arms only helps the enemy or the country and not our people or nation. Jill Ashenfelter applauded the board for having the courage and integrity for bringing forward a resolution to apply the oaths to the constitution and protecting the freedom of we the people. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-217R Supporting the Participation of the Public in Governing Processes Including the Legislative Referendum Petition. *(Brad Weber, District 2 Lea County Commissioner)*

Commissioner Weber requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-217R Supporting the Participation of the Public in Governing Processes Including the Legislative Referendum Petition. 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.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-218R Approving the Lea County Health Council as the Official Health Council for Lea County for the Purposes Outlined in the County and Tribal Health Councils Act. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Director)*

Environmental Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-218R Approving the Lea County Health Council as the Official Health Council for Lea County for the Purposes Outlined in the County and Tribal Health Councils Act. 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-SEP-219R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Director)*

Environmental Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-219R 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 Weber, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-220R Approving the 2024 Lea County Employee Calendar. *(Regina McLaughlin, Human Resources)*

Human Resources Generalist Regina McLaughlin requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-220R Approving the 2024 Lea County Employee Calendar. 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-SEP-221R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position to the Lea County Event Center. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-221R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position to the Lea County Event Center. 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-SEP-222R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position to the Lea County Fairgrounds. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-222R Approving Addition of One Full-Time Position to the Lea County Fairgrounds. 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-SEP-223R Leasing Additional Land from the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for the Lea County North Hobbs Convenience Center. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

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Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-223R Leasing Additional Land from the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for the Lea County North Hobbs Convenience Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. 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-SEP-224R Authorizing a 2nd Option to Renew with Pavement Sealants to Supply Asphalt Patch. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-224R Authorizing a 2nd Option to Renew with Pavement Sealants to Supply Asphalt Patch. 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-SEP-225R Authorizing a Cooperative Educational Services Task Order with Constructors Inc. to Supply Cattleguards for County Roads. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-225R Authorizing a Cooperative Educational Services Task Order with Constructors Inc. to Supply Cattleguards for County Roads. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-226R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction and Widening of Buena Suerte Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-226R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction and Widening of Buena Suerte Road. 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-SEP-227R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction and widening of Calle Chiquita Road *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-227R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction and widening of Calle Chiquita Road. 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-SEP-228R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Souder Miller Engineering for Design Services on Knowles Road. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

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Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-228R Authorizing a Task Order Between Lea County and Souder Miller Engineering for Design Services on Knowles Road. 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-SEP-229R Authorizing a Sourcewell Contract with Rosenbauer America for the Purchase of a Rosenbauer Panther 6x6 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Apparatus. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*

Assistant County Manager Corey Needham requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-229R Authorizing a Sourcewell Contract with Rosenbauer America for the Purchase of a Rosenbauer Panther 6x6 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Apparatus. 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-SEP-230R Ratifying Out-Of-State Travel September 21 – 24, 2023 to Irving, Texas for County Manager – Mike Gallagher to Attend the 2023 Stop 30x30 Summit. *(Ke'Onna Yates, Executive Administration Coordinator)*

Executive Administration Coordinator Ke'Onna Yates requested approval. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-230R Ratifying Out-Of-State Travel September 21 – 24, 2023 to Irving, Texas for County Manager – Mike Gallagher to Attend the 2023 Stop 30x30 Summit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Chair Jackson commented just how the government is trying to take over our rights. County Manager Michael Gallagher expressed how this is something more we need to have on our radar and be more of a participant of what is happening with the 30x30 Summit. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-231R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 1st Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-231R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 1st Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. 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, no; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 23-SEP-232R Approving Out-Of-State Travel October 9-11, 2023 to Salt Lake City, Utah for the Budget and Reporting Analyst to Attend the 2023 Caselle Annual Conference. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 23-SEP-232R Approving Out-Of-State Travel October 9-11, 2023 to Salt Lake City, Utah for the Budget and Reporting Analyst to Attend the 2023 Caselle Annual Conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Weber, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of the Lea County Historic Courthouse Feasibility Project. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher gave a presentation of the comments/concerns received via email, calls, and social media when soliciting for the public input about the Lea County Historic Courthouse Feasibility Project. He also gave a brief cost analysis breakdown of the renovation/restoration vs new building cost.

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Architect Joseph Hughes said the next stage for the historic building would be to establish the programming required to explore and diagnose the building to get a more detailed cost of the renovation.

Chair Jackson requested further analyze options and more information on renovation other than just square footage. He would like additional input and requested an anonymous employee survey to improve the decision making processes for the Lea County Historic Project.

Vice Chair Eidson would like to get a more detailed diagnostic about the historic building before a decision is made.

Commissioner Sena, Sims and Weber would like to move forward.

Charlene Upton previously prepared her written opinion about the Lea County Historic Courthouse Feasibility Project and expressed the reasons why the board should consider renovating and preserving the building.

Clayburn Griffin expressed his concerns about a possible renovation. Major renovation to the Lea County Historic Courthouse will sort of defeat the purpose because could also risk the integrity of the building. Renovating the interior will take a lot of the charm away that the general public are so passionate about.

- Discussion of the Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for Detainee Housing. (*Ruben Quintana, Warden Lea County Detention Center*)

Warden Ruben Quintana mentioned the County is willing to consider a reasonable agreement with the city of Hobbs for municipal detainee housing. The areas of review for an agreement between the City of Hobbs and Lea County include rejection/return, booking and release process, medical care, per diem rate, probation services and alternative monitoring programming.

**BREAK 11:25 a.m.
RESUME 11:31 p.m.**

- Discussion of an Ordinance Providing for the Establishment of a System of Local Approval, Inspection, and Collection of Fees for Permitting and Regulating the Placement of Manufactured Homes in Lea County. (*Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Director*)

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Environmental Director Lorenzo Velasquez explained how this ordinance is to regulate the placement and installation of manufactured homes, thereby promoting the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the residents within the unincorporated areas of Lea County. This also includes transporting throughout Lea County with an approved permit by this department to ensure all requirements are met through our ordinances.

- Discussion of the 2023-2027 Lea County Strategic Plan. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs mentioned the current Lea County Strategic plan is in need of updating and expanding. Staff has worked to develop a strategic plan that sets the mission and goals for the county over the next five fiscal years.

- Discussion of Lea County's Finance Report. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs stated we are ahead of budget capital.

- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs gave a summary of the August 2023 accounts payable / purchase card register report.

ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

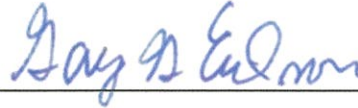
ADJOURN: 11:57 a.m.

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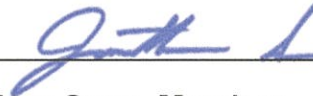
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Dean Jackson, Chair



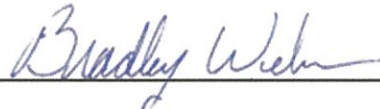
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member



Brad Weber, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

