

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
April 11, 2024**

Chair Eidson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were, to wit: Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3, Vice Chair Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Dean Jackson, District 1, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

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

Vice Chair Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Sena.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-091R Approving the March 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-091R Approving the March 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments:

No public comments.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

Commissioner Sims: Welcomed everybody for being there.

Commissioner Sena: Thanked everybody for being there.

Commissioner Jackson: Made an open invitation for the steer roping event to be held at Jake McClure Arena.

Chair Eidson: Welcomed the elected officials.

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- Discussion of Partnerships with Municipalities for Housing. (*Jonathan Sena, County Commissioner, District 4*)

City of Tatum Mayor Marilyn Burns and Russell Doss explained how law enforcement and housing for elderly people is in high demand. Mr. Doss mentioned rent-to-own homes could be an option for young couples establishing their line of credit. A proposal for 24 homes was presented and a \$130,000 per year or \$390,000 for a three-year program was requested for the Housing Partnership Project.

City of Lovington Mayor Robbie Roberts, City Manager David Miranda and Executive Evelyn C. Holguin submitted a \$5 million dollar incentive over 5 years. Incentivizing \$10 thousand dollars per home to each developer. Developing 500 homes in the City of Lovington.

City of Hobbs Manager Manny Gomez stated that without housing a community or county cannot grow and prosper. Housing is the foundation to ensure as we explore diversifying economy. City Engineer Todd Randall presented the city's single family housing incentive program and that it was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000 per unit due to HB6. With the County's participation, the housing incentive program would be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per unit procedure. The city's strategy is to address housing needs in all categories, which includes multi-family / apartment units and affordable housing unit production.

City of Eunice Mayor Billy Hobbs stated that the most pressing need for housing in Eunice now is to have lots available for construction. Russell Doss suggested that providing the lots to the developer may lower the lot cost from the sales price adjusting appraisal to support a home loan amount. The total cost for this program would be \$1,107,050 which would equate to \$221,410 per year over the proposed five-year term of the project.

City of Jal Public Works Director Van Myrick would like to request a final incentive that could be provided for contractors who would like to rehabilitate existing homes in Jal that have become uninhabitable. Jal is requesting a maximum of \$10,000 subsidy for each home the developer places on a lot and gets certificate of occupancy. Requesting \$1.250 million dollars or an average of \$250,000 per year for a five-year incentive program.

Chair Eidson called for a break.

Break 9:50 a.m.

Resumed 9:59 a.m.

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ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-092R Approving the Equipment Recording Fee in the Lea County Clerk's Department. *(Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk)*

Chief Deputy Clerk Tryon Hassen requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-092R Approving the Equipment Recording Fee in the Lea County Clerk's Department. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-093R Approving the Nonprohibited License Tax for Lea County. *(Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk)*

Chief Deputy Clerk Tryon Hassen requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-093R Approving the Nonprohibited License Tax for Lea County. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-094R Approving the Request for Qualifications Based Proposal for the Architectural Design Services for the Lea County Public Safety Training Center. *(Corey Helton, Sheriff)*

Sheriff Corey Helton requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-094R Approving the Request for Qualifications Based Proposal for the Architectural Design Services for the Lea County Public Safety Training 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-095R Awarding Bid No. 01 – (23 – 24) Hobbs Convenience Center Construction Project to LASCO Construction, Inc. *(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-APR-095R Awarding Bid No. 01 – (23 – 24) Hobbs Convenience Center Construction Project to LASCO Construction, Inc. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-096R Authorizing Change Order No. 01 for Bid No. 04 – (22 – 23) Lea County Regional Airport Runway 3 – 21 Extension and NAVAID Replacement Project. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-096R Authorizing Change Order No. 01 for Bid No. 04 – (22 – 23) Lea County Regional Airport Runway 3 – 21 Extension and NAVAID Replacement Project. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-097R Adopting the Recommendation of the Freeholders Committee to Vacate the Roadway in Block 46 of Humble City Subdivision, First Unit in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 37 East in Lea County, New Mexico. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-097R Adopting the Recommendation of the Freeholders Committee to Vacate the Roadway in Block 46 of Humble City Subdivision, First Unit in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 37 East in 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-098R Approving Task Order No. 3 from Conti to Install an Upgraded HVAC System and Controls at a Concession/Restroom Building at the Lea County Fairgrounds. *(Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)*

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR098R Approving Task Order No. 3 from Conti to Install an Upgraded HVAC System and Controls at a Concession/Restroom Building at the Lea County Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-099R Approving the Ratification of Alterman's BuyBoard Contract No. 733-24 Proposal for Electrical Upgrades at the Lea County Fairgrounds. *(Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)*

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-099R Approving the Ratification of Alterman's BuyBoard Contract No. 733-24 Proposal for Electrical Upgrades 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-100R Approving the Updated Lea County Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual. *(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)*

Human Resources Director Craig Bova requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-100R Approving the Updated Lea County Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-101R Approving a Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Salary Increase for Full-Time Employees, Excluding Contract Employees and Elected Officials. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR101R Approving a Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Salary Increase for Full-Time Employees, Excluding Contract Employees and Elected Officials. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-102R Approving the Adoption of a 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan for Eligible Employees of Lea County. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-102R Approving the Adoption of a 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan for Eligible Employees of Lea County. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-103R Approving Salary Adjustments for Certain County Offices and Departments. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-103R Approving Salary Adjustments for Certain County Offices and Departments. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-104R Approving the Addition of Five Full-Time Positions. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-104R Approving the Addition of Five Full-Time Positions. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-105R Approving Government Agency Funding to New Mexico State University (NMSU) Extension Office, Lea Soil & Water Conservation District, and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS-WS) for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-105R Approving Government Agency Funding to New Mexico State University (NMSU) Extension Office, Lea Soil & Water Conservation District, and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS-WS) for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-106R Awarding Request for Proposal No. 10 – (23 – 24) for County-Wide Care and Maintenance of Sick and Indigent Care for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

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County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-106R Awarding Request for Proposal No. 10 – (23 – 24) for County-Wide Care and Maintenance of Sick and Indigent Care for Fiscal Year 2024 – 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, abstain; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-107R Awarding Request for Proposal No. 11 – (23 – 24) for County-Wide Economic Development Services for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-107R Awarding Request for Proposal No. 11 – (23 – 24) for County-Wide Economic Development Services for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-108R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9235 in the Amount of \$75,000 for the Purchase and Equipping of Vehicles for Lea County's Disabled Persons Programs. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-108R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9235 in the Amount of \$75,000 for the Purchase and Equipping of Vehicles for Lea County's Disabled Persons Programs. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-109R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9236 in the Amount of \$75,000 to Contract for Training and Support for At-Risk Youth Mentoring in Lea County. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

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County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-109R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9236 in the Amount of \$75,000 to Contract for Training and Support for At-Risk Youth Mentoring in Lea County. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-110R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9237 in the Amount of \$75,000 to Contract for Support and Educational Services to Families Experiencing Unplanned Pregnancies in Lea County. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-110R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico for Legislative Appropriation No. 23-ZH9237 in the Amount of \$75,000 to Contract for Support and Educational Services to Families Experiencing Unplanned Pregnancies in Lea County. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-111R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-111R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. 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, yes; Commissioner Jackson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Information Technology's Disaster Recovery Plan. *(Lionel Fermin, Information Technology Administrator)*

Information Technology Administrator Lionel Fermin explained the importance of a layout plan for the county to continue operating in case of a disaster. Each Department head and their alternate is to come up with business essential functions, their importance as well as risk factors and mitigations in case of disaster. The goal is to have a clear or concise plan on paper that is feasible and agreed upon.

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- Discussion of Proposed Fiscal Year 24 – 25 Capital Projects. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher did a continuation presentation for the development of the upcoming Proposed Fiscal Year 24-25 Capital Projects.

- Discussion of March 2024 Financial Report. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith reviewed and discussed the Operations, Indigent, Capital, and the Trust & Agency Report with a grand total of \$157,515,168 for the year-to-date March 31, 2024.

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

Senior Accountant Erin Smith gave a summary of Lea County's Accounts Payable/Purchases card register with a grand total of \$9,952,650.77.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:32 a.m. Vice Chair Weber moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss the Acquisition of Real Property in Northern and Central Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (8). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION to take Action, if any, on the Closed Session Item(s).

The meeting was reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

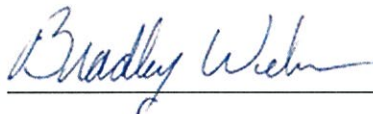
ADJOURN: 12:05 p.m.

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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

