

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
April 25, 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-112R Approving the April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-112R Approving the April 11, 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 (*Non-Agenda Items*).

Dee Ann Kimbro made an open invitation for the candidate forum to be held at the community building in Tatum.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sims – expressed his point of view with United Airlines.

Commissioner Sena – welcomed his nephew Reese Davis and LMS Employee Monica Morgan. He also thanked Commissioner Jackson for his leadership.

Commissioner Jackson is thrilled to partner up with Lea County Classic.

Vice Chair Weber – shared his excitement on his grandson's arrival.

Chair Eidson – gave his experience with Lea County Classic Steer Roping event.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-113R Approving the Commitment of \$20,597,050 of Capital Project Funds for the Housing Proposals from Each Municipality. (*Jonathan Sena, Commissioner, District 4*)

Commissioner Sena requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-113R Approving the Commitment of \$20,597,050 of Capital Project Funds for the Housing Proposals from Each Municipality. 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-114R Approving a \$125,000 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to Hobbs Municipal Schools for Equipment and Improvements at Tasker Arena. (*Gary Eidson, Chair, District 3*)

Chair Eidson requested approval. Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-114R Approving a \$125,000 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to Hobbs Municipal Schools for Equipment and Improvements at Tasker Arena. 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-115R Approving a \$150,000 Appropriation from District 2 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding for the Operation, Staffing, Equipping, and Improving of the City of Lovington's Animal Shelter. (*Brad Weber, Vice Chair, District 2*)

Vice Chair Weber requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-115R Approving a \$150,000 Appropriation from District 2 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding for the Operation, Staffing, Equipping, and Improving of the City of Lovington's Animal Shelter. 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-116R Approving a \$78,468.41 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to Lovington Municipal Schools for Outdoor Canopies at Ben Alexander Elementary School. (*Dean Jackson, Commissioner, District 1*)

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Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-116R Approving a \$78,468.41 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to Lovington Municipal Schools for Outdoor Canopies at Ben Alexander Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner 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-117R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Valuation Protests Board. (*Ava Bengé, County Assessor*)

County Assessor Ava Bengé requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-117R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Valuation Protests Board. 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.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-118R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Request of the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in Original Tatum, Daniels Re-Division, Block 10 in Section 18, Township 12 South, Range 36 East in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations*)

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested to be postponed indefinitely. Commissioner Jackson moved to indefinitely postpone Resolution No. 24-APR-118R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Request of the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in Original Tatum, Daniels Re-Division, Block 10 in Section 18, Township 12 South, Range 36 East in Lea County, New Mexico. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-APR-119R Approving Quoted Equipment and Labor for Upgrades at Property Addressed as 2130 W. Bender Blvd. Hobbs, New Mexico. (*Robert Lathrop, Information Technology Director*)

Information Technology Director Robert Lathrop requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-119R Approving Quoted Equipment and Labor for Upgrades at Property Addressed as 2130 W. Bender Blvd. Hobbs, New Mexico. 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-120R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 6 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. (*Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst*)

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-APR-120R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 6 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. 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.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. (*Mike Gallagher, County Manager*)

County Manager Michael Gallagher reviewed and discussed the Preliminary Budget previously approved by the board and required by the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration.

- Discussion of Partnership with the Department of Defense's SkillBridge Program. (*Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator*)

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman recommended to create an action item to begin the process of becoming vetted through the Department of Defense program.

Commissioner Jackson gave his insight on how the county can help service members move to private work.

Commissioner Sena thanked Sarah Chanesman for her service.

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- Discussion of Lea County Assessor's Annual Report. (*Ava Benge, County Assessor*)

County Assessor Ava Benge gave a detailed report of the total field inspections completed, notices of valuation mailed and permits inspected or reviewed in 2023. The total net new value added to tax roll is \$32,912,568.

- Discussion of the Process and Requirements to Vacate Public Right-of-Way and the Road Fencing Policy. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations and John W. Caldwell, County Attorney*)

Assistant County Manager for Operations Corey Needham and County Attorney John W Caldwell reviewed the Lea County Fence policy. Originally introduced in 1994 and revised in 1999. County staff has researched and believes that it is the only county fencing policy in the State of New Mexico.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:08 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 meeting was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

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

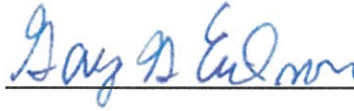
The meeting was reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

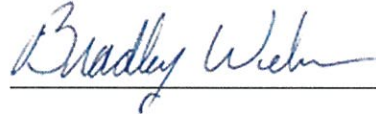
ADJOURN: 11:38 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



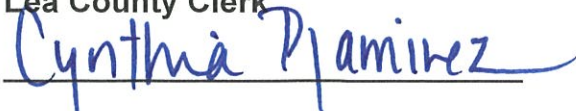
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

