

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
May 9, 2024**

Chair Eidson called the meeting to order at 9:02 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.

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-121R Approving the April 25, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-121R Approving the April 25, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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.

- Public Comments (*Non-Agenda Items*).
 - No Public Comments.
- Commissioners and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sims – commented on the article the Hobbs News Sun has recently released.
Commissioner Sena – spoke on his upcoming final term on the commission.
Chair Eidson – encouraged everyone to go out and vote in this election.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-122R Approving a \$100,000 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Discretionary Funding to the City of Jal for Operations, Equipment, and Improvements for the City's Dispatch Center. *(Pat Sims, District 5 Commissioner)*

Commissioner Sims requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-122R Approving a \$100,000 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Discretionary Funding to the City of Jal for Operations, Equipment, and Improvements for the City's Dispatch Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims commented on how difficult it is to be forced to join something due to not having a financial choice. He also mentioned the City of Jal took the offer based on merit. County Manager Michael Gallagher conveyed a message from the City Manager of Jal that Jal appreciates the financial gesture, and funds will be put to good use. 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-MAY-123R Approving Appropriation No. 22-ZG1016-15 in the Amount of \$187,500 from the State of New Mexico to be Utilized Following the Provisions of HB68. *(Corey Helton, Sheriff)*

Sheriff Corey Helton requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-123R Approving Appropriation No. 22-ZG1016-15 in the Amount of \$187,500 from the State of New Mexico to be Utilized Following the Provisions of HB68. 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-MAY-124R Authorizing Out of State Travel May 21 - 26, 2024 to Anaheim, California for Health & Wellness Department Employees to Attend the RISE 24 Conference. *(Assistant County Manager, Kelly Livingston)*

Assistant County Manager Kelly Livingston requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-124R Authorizing Out of State Travel May 21 - 26, 2024 to Anaheim, California for Health & Wellness Department Employees to Attend the RISE 24 Conference. 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-MAY-125R Approving Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Preliminary Budget.
(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-125R Approving Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Preliminary Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena asked if there are other ways to create funds that would help pay for road construction. County Manager Michael Gallagher mentioned that options are explored to ensure there is a steady revenue stream for roads and everything in between. 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 Additional Pension Plan for County Employees. (Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)

Human Resources Craig Bova introduced David Rodriguez and Chris Jamail who introduced an additional pension plan for County employees. This plan will assist in the retirement and retention of employees by adding to the overall compensation and benefits package.

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

Senior Accountant Erin Smith reviewed the Accounts Payable Report with a grand total of \$7,686,725.91.

ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Sims asked Sheriff Helton what should be done if landowners find squatters in their land?

Sheriff Helton responded that if the landowner finds somebody on their land a couple days are given for the owner to contact the authorities, but if more than a couple of days have passed an eviction notice must be presented.

ADJOURN: 9:54 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

