

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
May 23, 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.

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-126R Approving the May 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-126R Approving the May 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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.

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

- Commissioners and Manager Comments.

Commissioner Sims – encouraged everyone to go out and vote in this election.

Commissioner Sena – recognized Lorenzo Velasquez for the quick response attending the environmental service call.

Commissioner Jackson – made an open invitation for the High School Rodeo PRCA Event.

Chair Eidson – announced the death of his sister-in-law, Kay Broadus and thanked the County for the sympathy gestures.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-127R Approving a \$50,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to the Lovington Municipal Schools for Literacy and Reading Programs. *(Dean Jackson, District 1 Commissioner)*

Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-127R Approving a \$50,000 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Discretionary to the Lovington Municipal Schools for Literacy and Reading Programs. 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-MAY-128R Approving a \$50,000 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Discretionary Funding to the Lovington Municipal Schools for Literacy and Reading Programs. *(Pat Sims, District 5 Commissioner)*

Commissioner Sims requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-128R Approving a \$50,000 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Discretionary Funding to the Lovington Municipal Schools for Literacy and Reading Program. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Lovington School Board Member Bradley Bishop expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the generous grant Lea County funded to the Lovington Municipals Schools. Lovington School Board Superintendent Pam Quinones gave a brief explanation on how the funds will be used for the upcoming school projects. Lovington School Board President Dymorie Maker commented on the Mississippi Reading Miracle Program and thanked Lea County for the funding. Commissioner Sena thanked Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Sims for the Discretionary Funding to the Lovington Municipal Schools for Literacy and Reading Programs. Vice Chair Weber commented on the importance of learning reading skills. 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-129R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the Town of Tatum for Housing Projects. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-129R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the Town of Tatum for Housing Projects. 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-130R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for Housing. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-130R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for Housing Projects. 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-MAY-131R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for Housing Projects. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-131R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for Housing Projects. 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-MAY-132R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Eunice for Housing Projects. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-132R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Eunice for Housing Projects. 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-133R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Jal for Housing Projects. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-133R Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Jal for Housing Projects. 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-MAY-134R Authorizing the Purchase of a Vehicle Not to Exceed \$85,000. *(Kelly Livingston, Assistant County Manager of Justice and Human Services)*

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Assistant County Manager of Justice and Human Resources Kelly Livingston requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-134R Authorizing the Purchase of a Vehicle Not to Exceed \$85,000. 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-MAY-135R Approving a Road Construction and Maintenance Task Order with Constructors Inc for the Reconstruction of Arkansas Junction Road. *(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-MAY-135R Approving a Road Construction and Maintenance Task Order with Constructors Inc for the Construction of Arkansas Junction Road. 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-MAY-136R Approving a Road Construction and Maintenance Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction of Pearl Valley Road. *(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-MAY-136R Approving a Road Construction and Maintenance Task Order with Constructors Inc. for the Reconstruction of Pearl Valley Road. 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, abstained. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-137R Authorizing Out of State Travel June 12-15, 2024 to Miami, Florida for Three Lea County Employees to Attend the Miami Model Training and Tour. *(Aime Baeza, DWI & Probation Director)*

DWI & Probation Director Aime Baeza requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-137R Authorizing Out of State Travel June 12-15, 2024 to Miami, Florida for Three Lea County Employees to Attend the Miami Model Training and Tour. 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-MAY-138R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Task Order with D & D Automation & Electric, LLC for the Installation of a Network and Security System at Maljamar Station. *(Charlie Pruitt, Lea County Emergency Management)*

Lea County Emergency Management Charlie Pruitt requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-138R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Task Order with D & D Automation & Electric, LLC for the Installation of a Network and Security System at Maljamar Station. 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-139R Approving the Trusted Capital Group (TCG) for the Administration of Lea County's Additional Pension Plan. *(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)*

Human Resources Director Craig Bova requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-139R Approving the Trusted Capital Group (TCG) for the Administration of Lea County's Additional Pension Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Jackson expressed how Lea County is becoming a destination and not a stopover for employees with the competitive retirement plans the county has to offer. 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-140R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 4th Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting Analyst)*

Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY-140R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 4th Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund. 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, no; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-MAY-141R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 7 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget and Reporting)*

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Budget and Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-MAY141R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 7 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. 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.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Squatter Issue. *(John W. Caldwell, County Attorney)*

County Manager John W. Caldwell explained the supported policies and initiatives that deter criminal activities and reduce risks for residents and visitors.

- Discussion of the Community Wellness Initiative. *(Aime Baeza, DWI & Probation)*

DWI & Probation Aime Baeza gave a presentation on the Lea County Community Wellness vision and how community partners work together to create a comprehensive system of care. This system will focus on improving and recovering the individual's well-being, while also developing skills and raising awareness to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

- Discussion of April 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 grant total of \$171,726,318 for the year-to-date April 30, 2024.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:35 a.m. Vice Chair Weber moved that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSE SESSION to Discuss Threatened Litigation Concerning Contracts and to Discuss the Acquisition of Real Property in Northern and Central Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (7) and (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)

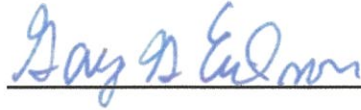
The Meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

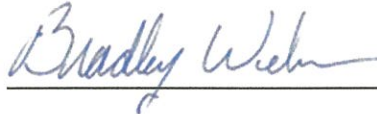
ADJOURN: 11:40 a.m.

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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

