

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
November 21, 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-NOV-287R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - November 14, 2024 Special Meeting

Chair Eidson requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-287R Approving the Following Meeting Minutes October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting and November 14, 2024 Special Meeting. 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*)

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

Commissioner Sims – Thanked the audience for attending the board meeting.

Commissioner Sena – Thanked the county personnel for their hard work and support.

Vice Chair Weber – Shared his experience in the blessing of the new Knowles Fire Department.

Chair Eidson – Recognized Sandra Brito and her team for organizing the open house event for the new Knowles Fire Station.

County Manager Michael Gallagher – Asked Assistant County Manager Kelly Livingston to introduce the new director of the detention facility Dr. Mark Gallegos.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-288R Approving a \$55,000.00 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the City of Eunice for Improvements to the Eunice Youth Center. *(Pat Sims, Commissioner, District 5)*

Commissioner Sims requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-288R Approving a \$55,000.00 Appropriation from District 5 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the City of Eunice for Improvements to the Eunice Youth Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Recreational Director Gayla Rouse introduced herself and expressed the upcoming projects for the Eunice Youth Center. 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-NOV-289R Authorizing a Letter of Support for Yvette Harrell to be Appointed to the Trump Administration. *(Dean Jackson, Commissioner, District 1)*

Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-289R Authorizing a Letter of Support for Yvette Harrell to be Appointed to the Trump Administration. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena stated he supports this. 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-NOV-290R Approving the Award of Bid No. 4 (24 – 25) to Anissa Construction, Inc. for the Lovington Convenience Center Improvements. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations)*

Assistant Manager for Operations Corey Needham requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-290R Approving the Award of Bid No. 4 (24 – 25) to Anissa Construction, Inc. for the Lovington Convenience Center Improvements. 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-NOV-291R Approving a Grant Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

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Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-291R Approving a Grant Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. 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-NOV-292R Approving the Award of Bid No. 7 (24 – 25) to Artesia Fire Equipment for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Equipment for \$406,300.00. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-292R Approving the Award of Bid No. 7 (24 – 25) to Artesia Fire Equipment for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Equipment for \$406,300.00. 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-NOV-293R Approving a Proposal for Engineering Services Between Lea County and Parkhill. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-293R Approving a Proposal for Engineering Services Between Lea County and Parkhill. 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-NOV-294R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel December 19 – 20, 2024 for Emergency Management Staff Members to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Management Director)*

Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-294R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel December 19 – 20, 2024 for Emergency Management Staff Members to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. 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-NOV-295R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Deny the Vacation of Dedicated Roadway Chavez Addition No. 2 Between Block 27 and Block 28 in Section 31, Township 15 South, Range 36 East in Lea County, New Mexico. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-295R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Deny the Vacation of Dedicated Roadway Chavez Addition No. 2 Between Block 27 and Block 28 in Section 31, Township 15 South, Range 36 East in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-NOV-296R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Vacation of a Dedicated Alley in Block 29 and Roadways Between Blocks 29, 30, & 31 in the South Subdivision in Section 28, Township 12 South, Range 36 East in Lea County, New Mexico. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-296R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Vacation of a Dedicated Alley in Block 29 and Roadways Between Blocks 29, 30, & 31 in the South Subdivision in Section 28, 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.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-297R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Vacate Dedicated Alleys and Roadways in the Hughes Subdivision in Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico. *(Bruce Reid, County Planner)*

County Planner Bruce Reid requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-297R Approving the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Vacate Dedicated Alleys and Roadways in the Hughes Subdivision in Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-NOV-298R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and Bradbury Stamm Construction for the Lea County Event Center Project. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

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County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-298R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and Bradbury Stamm Construction for the Lea County Event Center Project. 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.

Commissioner Sims left the meeting 9:41 a.m.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-299R Declaring the Intent of Lea County to Issue an Industrial Revenue Bond Entitled Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (AC Ranch Solar, LLC Project), Series 2024, in an Aggregate Principal Amount of Up to \$85,215,000 in Connection with the Construction of Solar Energy Generating Facilities to be Located in the Unincorporated Portion of Lea County, New Mexico, for the Purpose of Inducing AC Ranch Solar, LLC or its Successors or Assigns, to Acquire and Construct the Project and to Reimburse Temporary Advances Made for Capital Expenditures from Proceeds of the Bonds; and Concerning Related Matters. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

Commissioner Sims resumed the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-299R Declaring the Intent of Lea County to Issue an Industrial Revenue Bond Entitled Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (AC Ranch Solar, LLC Project), Series 2024, in an Aggregate Principal Amount of Up to \$85,215,000 in Connection with the Construction of Solar Energy Generating Facilities to be Located in the Unincorporated Portion of Lea County, New Mexico, for the Purpose of Inducing AC Ranch Solar, LLC or its Successors or Assigns, to Acquire and Construct the Project and to Reimburse Temporary Advances Made for Capital Expenditures from Proceeds of the Bonds; and Concerning Related Matters. President Vance Nobe for Akari Energy introduced himself and this team and explained the various solar projects completed 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-NOV-300R Authorizing a Letter of Intent Between Lea County and Green Salt Products, LLC for the Transfer of Real Property. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-300R Authorizing a Letter of Intent Between Lea County and Green Salt Products, LLC for the Transfer of Real Property. 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, no. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-301R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Hobbs Health Clinic Located at 1923 N. Dal Paso. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-301R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Hobbs Health Clinic Located at 1923 N. Dal Paso. 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-NOV-302R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Hobbs Family Health Center Located at 515 E. Main. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-302R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Hobbs Family Health Center Located at 515 E. Main. 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-NOV-303R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Lovington Health Clinic Located at 302 N. 5th Street. (*Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director*)

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-303R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Contract from Design Roof Services, LLC to Re-Roof the Lovington Health Clinic Located at 302 N. 5th Street. 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.

Chair Eidson called break 10:14 a.m.
Break resumed 10:25 a.m.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-304R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Design Roof Services, LLC to Apply an Acrylic Elastomeric Membrane on the Chaparral Building's Metal Roof. (*Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director*)

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Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-304R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Design Roof Services, LLC to Apply an Acrylic Elastomeric Membrane on the Chaparral Building's Metal Roof. 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-NOV-305R Approving Lea County's Strategic Plan. *(Anthony Dobbs, Budget & Reporting Analyst)*

Budget & Reporting Analyst Anthony Dobbs requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-305R Approving Lea County's Strategic Plan. 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-NOV-306R Approving an Amended Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for Detainee Housing. *(Johel Maldonado, Detention Assistant Director)*

Detention Assistant Director Johel Maldonado requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-306R Approving an Amended Memorandum of Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for Detainee Housing. 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-NOV-307R Authorizing In-State Travel January 20 – 23, 2025 for the County Commissioners, County Commissioner Elects, and the County Manager to Attend the 2025 New Mexico Counties (NMC) Legislative Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. *(Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator)*

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-307R Authorizing In-State Travel January 20 – 23, 2025 for the County Commissioners, County Commissioner Elects, and the County Manager to Attend the 2025 New Mexico Counties (NMC) Legislative Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-308R Authorizing In-State Travel December 10 – 12, 2024 for County Commissioner Elect Kimbro to Attend the 2024 Better Informed Public Officials (BIPO) Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. *(Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator)*

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-308R Authorizing In-State Travel December 10 – 12, 2024 for County Commissioner Elect Kimbro to Attend the 2024 Better Informed Public Officials (BIPO) Conference in Albuquerque, 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

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of October 2024 Finance Report. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*
Senior Accountant Erin Smith review the Revenue versus Expenditures by Fund Type Year to date October 31, 2024 totaling the amount of \$83,145,716.
- Discussion of Lea County's October 2024 Accounts Payable. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*
Senior Accountant Erin Smith gave the total amount for the Lea County's Accounts Payable/Purchase card register with a grand total of \$17,390,466.10.
- Discussion of New Mexico's Constitutional Amendment No. 4, County Officers' Salary Amendment. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

In the November 5, 2024, election, New Mexico voters approved Constitutional Amendment 4, which transfers the authority to set salaries for county officials from the state legislature to local boards of county commissioners. This change allows each of the state's 33 counties to independently determine compensation for positions such as county commissioners, treasurers, assessors, sheriffs, county clerks, and probate judges. As this amendment is implemented, it is important for county governments to establish transparent processes and safeguards. County Clerk Keith Manes stated he is for the same pay other department heads make, because elected officials are department heads with a lot of responsibility. County Assessor Ava Benge stated she would like staff who have the knowledge and training of the office step up and take the position as Assessor without a pay cut. Sheriff Helton, spoke of agreement with the other elected officials and talk about how much more money his undersheriff made than he made. County Treasurer Susan Marinovich stated she also supports what the previous elected officials have presented and agrees with the need to increase the elected official salaries. Vice Chair Weber said this was going to be a difficult decision to make. Chair Eidson commented we will need to do something before the end of the year.

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ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:00 a.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the Information Technology Director and Finance Director, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 H (2). 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 motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

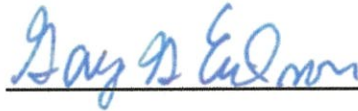
- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-NOV-309R Approving the Appointment of the Information Technology Director. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-NOV-309R Approving the Appointment of the Information Technology Director. 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.

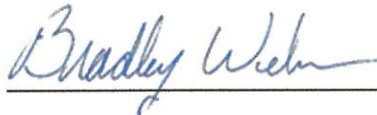
ADJOURN: 12:25 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary G. Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dean Jackson, Member



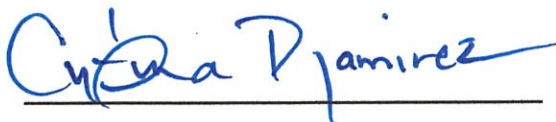
Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

