

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
December 12, 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-DEC-310R Approving the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Eidson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-310R Approving the November 21, 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*)

City of Hobbs Assistant Manager Todd Randall thanked Lea County for the collaboration on project for the housing infrastructure for the City of Hobbs.

City of Hobbs General Services Director Sheila Baker provided an update for the pavement maintenance project for the City of Hobbs.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

- ❖ Commissioner Sims - Welcomed the audience to the board meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Sena - Expressed gratitude to the commission board and the Lea County personnel.
- ❖ Commissioner Jackson – Thanked Lea County for letting him serve.
- ❖ Vice Chair Weber – Expressed his goodbyes to the commissioners stepping down and welcomed the new elected commissioners. He also congratulated and wished Michael Gallagher the best in the future.

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At 9:16 a.m. Commissioner Elect Dee Ann Kimbro joined the board meeting via telephone call to ask the commission board to consider approving the Salaries of Lea County Elected Officials.

At 9:20 a.m. Chair Eidson and County Manager Gallagher recognized and honored Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Sena for the exceptional contribution to Lea County.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-311R Approving a \$300,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for Purchases for the High School Band. (*Gary Eidson, District 3, Chair*)

Chair Eidson requested approval. Chair Eidson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-311R Approving a \$300,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for Purchases for the High School Band. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for Hobbs Schools Brian Byrd thanked Lea County for the continued support to the Hobbs Schools. 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-DEC-312R Approving a \$50,000.00 Appropriation from District 2 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for Additional Services. (*Brad Weber, District 2, Vice Chair*)

Vice Chair Weber requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-312R Approving a \$50,000.00 Appropriation from District 2 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for Additional Services. 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-DEC-313R Approving a \$100,000.00 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for Additional Services. (*Dean Jackson, District 1, Commissioner*)

Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-313R Approving a \$100,000.00 Appropriation from District 1 Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Discretionary Funding to the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County for Additional Services. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Weber. Chair Eidson asked if there were any public or commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Economic Development Corporation of Lea County President Jennifer Grassham thanked Lea County for the investment. 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-DEC-314R Supporting the New Mexico Counties 2025 Legislative Priorities. *(Dean Jackson, District 1, Commissioner)*

Commissioner Jackson requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-314R Supporting the New Mexico Counties 2025 Legislative Priorities. 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 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-315R Approving the Award of Bid No. 05 (24 – 25) Aggregate for Surface Treatment to Constructors Inc. for 3 Regions. *(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-DEC-315R Approving the Award of Bid No. 05 (24 – 25) Aggregate for Surface Treatment to Constructors Inc. for 3 Regions. 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-DEC-316R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Design Roof Services, LLC for Roof Replacements and Improvements at the Historic Courthouse. *(Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)*

Facilities Director Edmundo Lara requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-316R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Design Roof Services, LLC for Roof Replacements and Improvements at the Historic Courthouse. 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-DEC-317R Approving Timberworks Lumberjack Show as the Small Stage Act During the 2025 Lea County Fair & PRCA Rodeo. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

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Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-317R Approving Timberworks Lumberjack Show as the Small Stage Act During the 2025 Lea County Fair & PRCA Rodeo. 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-DEC-318R Awarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 01 (24 – 25) for Food Service Meals and Commissary Between the Lea County Detention Center and Summit Food Service for Adult and Juvenile Detainees. *(Mark Gallegos, Detention Center Director)*

Detention Center Director Mark Gallegos requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-318R Awarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 01 (24 – 25) for Food Service Meals and Commissary Between the Lea County Detention Center and Summit Food Service for Adult and Juvenile Detainees. 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-DEC-319R Approving the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 5 (24 – 25) or Planning & Programming Services for a Community Wellness Facility. *(Michael Nevarez, Health & Wellness Director)*

Health & Wellness Director Michael Nevarez requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-319R Approving the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 5 (24 – 25) or Planning & Programming Services for a Community Wellness Facility. 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-DEC-320R Authorizing the 2nd Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith requested approval. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-320R Authorizing the 2nd 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.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-321R Authorizing In-State Travel February 6 – 7, 2025 for the County Commissioners, County Commissioner Elects and County Manager to Attend the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County's Evening with Lea County Event in Santa Fe, New Mexico. *(Sarah Chanesman, Executive Administrative Coordinator)*

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-321R Authorizing In-State Travel February 6 – 7, 2025 for the County Commissioners, County Commissioner Elects and County Manager to Attend the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County's Evening with Lea County Event in Santa Fe, 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-DEC-322R Approving the Salaries of Lea County Elected Officials. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-322R Approving the Salaries of Lea County Elected Officials. 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, abstain. The motion passed.

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of the Proposed Horse Barn. *(Wyatt Duncan, Fairgrounds Director)*

Fairgrounds Director Wyatt Duncan gave an update on the contract with Dekker Parich & Sabatin to design the Lea County Horse Barn in December 2023. The design team has taken all aspects needed from fairgrounds staff and implemented them into the design. The current horse stalls/barn will accommodate only 30 horses. The new horse barn design will have the means of housing 130+ horses and have a covered warm-up pin. The barn will have full water & electricity, with (6) six fans to circulate air through the barn.

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

Executive Administrative Coordinator Sarah Chanesman talked about a career transition initiative by the Department of Defense that connects service members nearing the end of their military service with civilian training opportunities. It allows eligible members to gain valuable work experience in the civilian sector while still on active duty. Through partnerships with businesses and organizations, the program provides training, apprenticeships, and internships, helping service members smoothly transition into post-military careers.

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- Discussion of Lea County's November 2024 Finance Report. *(Erin Smith, Senior Accountant)*

Senior Accountant Erin Smith reviewed the Revenue versus Expenditures by Fund Type year to date November 30, 2024 totaling the amount of \$83,634,374.

- Discussion of Lea County's November 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 \$4,953,916.83

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:17 a.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the Finance Director, the Assistant County Manager for Operations, the County Manager, the Interim County Manager, and Personnel within the Community Engagement Department, 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 meeting was reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-323R Approving the Appointment of the Finance Director. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-323R Approving the Appointment of the Finance Director. 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-DEC-324R Approving the Appointment of Sandra Brito as the Community Engagement Director. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

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County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-324R Approving the Appointment of Sandra Brito as the Community Engagement Director. 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, no; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

At 10:33 a.m. Vice Chair Eidson moved to recess until 2:30 p.m. to reconvene at the commission chambers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:30 p.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the Finance Director, the Assistant County Manager for Operations, the County Manager, the Interim County Manager, and Personnel within the Community Engagement Department, 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 meeting reconvened at 3:28p.m.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-325R Approving an Employment Agreement Between Lea County and Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations. (*John Caldwell, County Attorney*)

County Attorney John Caldwell requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-325R Approving an Employment Agreement Between Lea County and Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager for Operations. 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-DEC-326R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and Michael Gallagher. (*John Caldwell, County Attorney*)

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County Attorney John Caldwell requested approval. Vice Chair Weber moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-326R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and Michael Gallagher. 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.

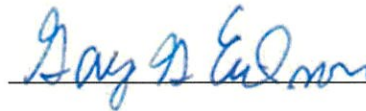
- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 24-DEC-327R Approving the Appointment of Corey Needham as Interim County Manager. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

County Manager Michael Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-DEC-327R Approving the Appointment of Corey Needham as Interim County Manager. 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.

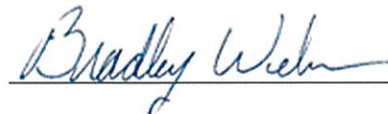
ADJOURN 3:34 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dee Ann Kimbro, Member



Tyson Pierce, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Recording Secretary

