

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
February 27, 2025**

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 Dee Ann Kimbro, District 1. Commissioner Tyson Pierce, District 4, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioner Pierce led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Kimbro.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-066R Approving the February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- **Commissioners and Manager Comments**

Commissioner Sims thanked the Lea County Staff for their well wishes on his birthday. He also welcomed the NMDOT personnel.

Chair Eidson welcomed Hobbs Municipal School District Superintendent Gene Strickland to the commission meeting.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-067R Approving a \$250,000.00 Appropriation from District 4 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Discretionary Funding for Improvement at the Hobbs Municipal Schools' Baseball and Softball Facilities Located at the Veteran's Memorial Complex. Hobbs School District Superintendent Gene Strickland expressed his appreciation for the continued partnership between the Hobbs Municipal Schools and Lea County.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-068R Approving Grant No. G24SN0017A Modification Between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Increasing Funds for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Awarded 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2025.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-069R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and Hartman & Majewski Design Group for Planning & Programming at the Lea County Community Wellness Facility.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-070R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Kirkmeyer Electric for the Purchase and Installation of Exterior Lighting Located in the Parking Lot Areas of the Lea County Detention Center. Mark Gallegos, Detention Center Director, introduced Amy Combs as the new business manager for the Lea County Detention Center.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, abstain. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-071R Approving the 2025-2026 3rd Option to Review for Reflectorized Durable Traffic Striping to San Bar Construction Corp.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-072R Approving the Recommendations of the Lea County Planning and Zoning Board to Approve the Preliminary Plat for the Northland Estates-East Subdivision Located in Section 10, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, abstain; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

Interim County Manager Corey Needham - Introduced John Portulano as the new County Planner.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-073R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-074R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Protiviti for an Assessment of the Human Resources Department.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-FEB-075R Authorizing In-State travel April 13-15, 2025 for County Commissioner Kimbro to Attend the 2025 Commissioners Affiliate Retreat in Mescalero, New Mexico.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, abstain; Commissioner Pierce, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION

- Discussion of the Stellar Sollar Project in Northern Lea County.

Sully Ford and Liam Gildea from Stella Solar and Nathan Runyan from Holland & Hart Company gave a presentation outlining Gainer Solar & BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), a proposed 500 MW solar and 500 MW battery storage project in Lea County, New Mexico. The proposal seeks Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) approval from the Lea County Board of Commissioners to enhance project feasibility by reducing costs for potential energy buyers.

- Discussion of New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Projects in Lea County.

Francisco Sanchez and Michael Smelker, New Mexico Department of Transportation gave a presentation highlighting the region's transportation infrastructure, economic reliance on industries like mining and oil, and the impact of heavy truck traffic on road safety and maintenance. A key project is the \$50 million Jal Roadway Improvement Project, which includes new signalized intersections, full road reconstruction, widening, and pedestrian enhancements to improve safety and accommodate increasing freight transport.

- Discussion of January 2025 Finance Report.

Senior Staff Account Erin Smith reviewed the revenue vs expenditures for the month of January 31, 2025 ending with a grand total of \$ 117,270,742.

- Discussion of January 2025 Accounts Payable.

Senior Staff Account Erin Smith reviewed the January 2025 Accounts Payable / Purchase Card Register with a total of \$9,688,241.83.

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ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:58 a.m. Vice Chair Weber move that the COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to Discuss Threatened of Real Litigation Regarding Open Meetings and the Inspection of Public Records and to Discuss the Acquisition of real Property in Central and Southern Lea County, as Authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (7) and (8). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimbro.

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

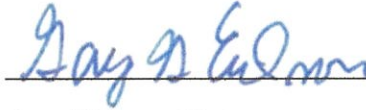
The Meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

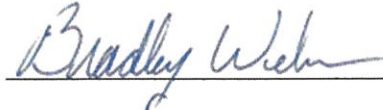
ADJOURN: 11:41 a.m.

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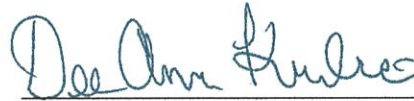
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dee Ann Kimbro, Member



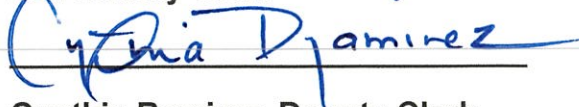
Tyson Pierce, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

