

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
April 10, 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, Vice Chair Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Dee Ann Kimbro, District 1. Commissioner Tyson Pierce, District 4.

Commissioner absent were, to wit: Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioner Kimbro led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Vice Chair Weber.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-101R Approving the March 27, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

- Public Comments:

- Tim Boydstun asked the commission board to consider offering assigned parking spaces for veterans throughout Lea County.
- Community Relations Manager with Excel Energy Raelynn Dunlap introduced herself and offered her services to Lea County and the community.

- Commissioners and Manager Comments:

- Commissioner Kimbro commented on the steer roping event that took place at the Lea County Fairgrounds.
- Lea County Manager Corey Needham congratulated Lorenzo Velasquez for obtaining the State Fire Department Funding for Maljamar Station No. 2

ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Proclamation Recognizing April 13-19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

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

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-102R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and APIC Solutions, Inc for the Purchase and Implementation of a Jail Management System at the Lea County Detention Center.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-103R 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, absent. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-104R Approving a Preliminary Plat for South 40 Subdivision Located in Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-105R Approving Aviation Grant Agreement HOB-25-04 with New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for the Sewer Line Extension Design at the Lea County Regional Airport.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-106R Authorizing an Amendment to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Lea County and New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) for the Acquisition of Real Property Located in the City of Hobbs Addressed at 5419 North Lovington Highway within Section 7, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-107R Authorizing an Agreement Extension Between Lea County and the City of Hobbs for the Continued Use of Funds to Support Spay and Neuter Programs only.

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

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-108R Relating to the Proposed Industrial Revenue Bonds Entitled Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Gainer Solar, LLC. Project), Series 2025; Declaring the Intent of Lea County to Issue Such Industrial Revenue Bonds in an Aggregate Principal Amount up to \$672,000,000 in Connection with the Proposed Solar Generation Project Located within the Boundaries of Lea County for the Purpose of Inducing Gainer Solar, LLC. (Together with their Successors, Assigns, Affiliates, and Subsidiaries) to Construct and Install the Project.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-109R Relating to the Proposed Industrial Revenue Bonds Entitled Lea County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Stellar Gainer Bess, LLC. Project), Series 2025; Declaring the Intent of Lea County to Issue Such Industrial Revenue Bonds in an Aggregate Principal Amount up to \$505,000,000 in Connection with the Proposed Battery Energy Storage System Project Located within the Boundaries of Lea County for the Purpose of Inducing Stellar Gainer Bess, LLC. (Together with their Successors, Assigns, Affiliates, and Subsidiaries) to Construct and Install the Project.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-APR-110R Authorizing In-State Travel April 13 – 15, 2025, for County Commissioner Weber to Attend the 2025 Commissioners' Affiliate Retreat in Mescalero, New Mexico.

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

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION

- Discussion of Fairgrounds Master Plan.

Lea County Fairgrounds is embarking on a transformative plan to establish a secure, modern, accessible destination that honors its heritage while addressing the evolving needs of its visitors.

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Departmental Operating Budgets.

The annual budget preparation process includes presentations by each Elected Office and Department Director discussing operating plans and funding needs for the new budget year

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- Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Personnel Budget.

Lea County Manager Corey Needham presented the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Personnel Budget. He explained the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 and stated that 427 full time employees are employed in Lea County. After reviewing the 2025-2026 Personnel Budget the proposed increased percentage will be 9.67% for the FTES of 27 employees if approved with a total of 454 employees at the end of year.

- Treasurers Department = accountant technician.
- Fairgrounds = operation technician and administrator coordinator.
- IT Department = network technician, junior administrator, and in-house cybersecurity specialist.
- Solid Waste Authority = technician
- Detention Center = 20 detention officers

New Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is \$70,333,842 with a \$5 million increase.

He also proposed:

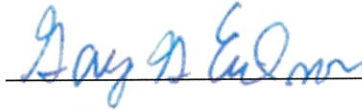
- 4% possible increase for C.O.L.A to keep up with inflation and cost of living.
- 7 – 8% increase in Health Insurance & other costs.
- Lea County can estimate/anticipate \$123,968,561 of revenue.
- Proposed to this year funds current available Year Operations budget is \$5,701,096.

ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS

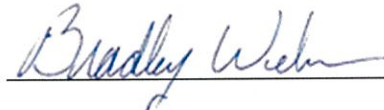
ADJOURN: 11:32 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Gary Eidson, Chair



Brad Weber, Vice Chair



Dee Ann Kimbro, Member



Absent

Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk



Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

