

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
May 8, 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 Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioners absent were, to wit: Commissioner Tyson Pierce, District 4.

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

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-MAY-128R Approving the April 24, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Public Comments

Code Compliance Manager, Levi Hill, requested assistance of \$10,000 to conduct a no fee dog spay/neuter drive for the benefit of the residents of the City of Jal. This initiative would reduce the stray population, support public safety and animal welfare efforts, assist low-income pet owners and mitigate long term costs associated with animal control and sheltering.

Commissioner and Manager Comments

Commissioner Sims – Expressed his concern about education taught to Lea County students.

Commissioner Kimbro – Believes Lea County offers a great education.

County Manager Needham – Noted that in April at the New Mexico Municipal League Conference, Lea County Regional Airport received the Airport of the Year Award.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-MAY-129R Approving a \$500,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for the Installation of Two Artificial Turf Practice Fields at Watson Stadium.

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

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ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-MAY-130R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholder's Committee to Review and Recommend the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in Chaves Addition No. 2, Between Blocks 27 and 28 in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 31 in Township 15 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico.

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 25-MAY-131R Approving the Appointment of a Freeholder's Committee to Review and Recommend the Vacation of a Dedicated Roadway in Unit Two of the Five-O Subdivision, Between Blocks 4 and 5 in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 5 in Township 16 South, Range 38 East in Lea County, New Mexico.

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

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION

- Discussion of Upcoming Information Technology (IT) Projects to Improve the Lea County IT Infrastructure.

Robert Francis, IT Director, stated that there's a need to modernize the infrastructure in Lea County. IT is proposing 4 projects to begin this modernization effort.

- 1) Implementation of a server virtualization system.
- 2) Replacing legacy servers at satellite office with mini-virtualization systems.
- 3) Satellite internet as backup at each site.
- 4) SolarWinds infrastructure monitoring systems.

- Discussion of the Status of the Lea County Correctional Facility.

John Caldwell, County Attorney, explained Lea County's first right of refusal to purchase the facility. April 21, 2025, Lea County received a letter from the New Mexico Corrections Department that stated they would cease sending inmates and move current inmates by June 30th, 2025. There was discussion of the land being reverted to the City of Hobbs.

- Discussion about Establishing a Lea County Permanent Fund.

Corey Needham, County Manager, presented information regarding a permanent fund. The New Mexico Statue 6-6-19 allows local government to establish permanent funds and income funds by ordinance. The interest earned from the permanent fund can be used for operations, salaries, capital, and reinvested in the permanent fund annually.

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- Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget for Lea County.

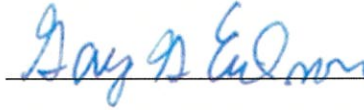
Chip Low, Co-County Manager, stated on May 22nd, 2025, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary budget for Lea County will be presented for final approval. The preliminary budget will then be submitted to the State for approval.

ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS

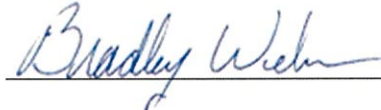
ADJOURN: 10:42 a.m.

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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, Recording Secretary

