

Lea County Communications Authority
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 24, 2025 ~ 9:30A.M.
Lea County Event Center Banquet Hall ~ 5101 N. Lovington Highway ~ Hobbs, N.M.

Notice of this Meeting has been given to the Public in Compliance with Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, translator, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Lea County Communications Authority Director's office located at 3720 W. College Lane, Hobbs, New Mexico at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Lea County Communications Authority Director's office at the Lea County Public Safety Complex at (575) 396-3611 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

MINUTES

Call to Order ~ Roll Call ~ Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Lorenzo Velasquez called the meeting to order at 9:36A.M.

Members present were Lea County Emergency Manager Lorenzo Velasquez, Hobbs City Manager Manny Gomez, Lea County Manager Corey Needham and Lea County Undersheriff Michael Walker.

Members Sheriff Corey Helton, Hobbs Fire Chief Mark Doporto and Hobbs Police Chief August Fons were absent.

Also present were Lea County Communications Authority Director Angela Martinez, Lea County Assistant Manager Kelly Livingston, Lea County Assistant County Manager Chip Low, Lea County Public Safety Administrator Charlie Pruitt and Lea County PIO Monica M. Russell,

Undersheriff Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 01: ACTION ITEMS

- **Consideration of Approval of the May 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Undersheriff Walker moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gomez and carried unanimously.

ITEM 02: COMMENTS

- **Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items)**

There were no comments from the public.

- **Comments from the Lea County Communications Authority Board Members**

Mr. Gomez thanked Ms. Martinez for setting up the Fourth of July fireworks hotline again this year. He stated the hotline is instrumental in streamlining resources addressing fireworks calls.

Mr. Velasquez commended Mr. Pruitt for his work with the fireworks stands throughout the county.

Mr. Velasquez also noted that City of Hobbs will be using the command post for their Fourth of July fireworks event at the air base in Hobbs.

*Chair: Corey Helton (Lea County); Vice-chair: Mark Doporto (City of Hobbs); Secretary: Lorenzo Velasquez (Lea County)
Board Members: Manny Gomez (City of Hobbs); August Fons (City of Hobbs); Corey Needham (Lea County); Michael Walker (Lea County)*

ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Discussion of Director's Report**

Ms. Martinez stated there were 11,999 calls for service in May, a decrease of 348 calls from April. ious month. There are four open positions, four people in the training program and one person in the hiring process.

Ms. Martinez advised the board the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority in Las Cruces has been approved by the State to host a satellite dispatch academy. Unlike the academy in Hobbs, neither of the academies in Santa Fe or Las Cruces charge a registration fee. The fee to attend the academy held at New Mexico Junior College is almost \$700 per participant, plus an extra fee to stay in the dorms during the training. This is proving to be a challenge to meet the required attendance of 10 dispatchers at the NMJC academy as agencies are choosing to send participants to the tuition-free trainings. She noted that dispatchers won't receive their scheduled pay raise until they successfully complete the state-mandated academy, but attending the three-week out of town training is a hardship for many of the candidates. This also affects trainees from Carlsbad, Artesia and any other agencies that prefer to attend local academies.

Ms. Martinez noted Las Cruces has already had their first academy with 26 attendees. Board members stated they would like to know where these attendees were from to find out if the local academy is losing potential attendees.

Ms. Martinez also stated that she would like to create a better graduation experience for the dispatchers.

Mr. Gomez proposed meeting between the LCCA board and NMJC representatives to discuss NMJC reconsidering their fees in order to keep the local academy active for the benefit of the community.

Ms. Martinez discussed the quality assurance numbers, focusing on the three non-compliant calls. These non-compliant calls we mostly handled by newer staff having a difficult time with airway control for medical dispatch. Ms. Martinez coordinated with Hobbs Fire Department, who conducted six training classes that were attended by all dispatchers. She thanked Chief Doporto for his help in arranging the training.

Mr. Needham asked for clarification of how calls are broken down for purposes of designating locations for any future emergency service agencies.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS - Set/Confirm Next Meeting(s)

- Wednesday, July 16, 2025 - Banquet Hall
- Wednesday, August 20, 2025 - Banquet Hall
- Wednesday, September 17, 2025 - Banquet Hall
- Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - Banquet Hall
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - Banquet Hall
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025 - Banquet Hall

The next meeting was confirmed for July 16, 2025, at the Lea County Event Center.

ADJOURN: Secretary Velasquez adjourned the meeting at 10:00A.M.

*Chair: Corey Helton (Lea County); Vice-chair: Mark Doporto (City of Hobbs); Secretary: Lorenzo Velasquez (Lea County)
Board Members: Manny Gomez (City of Hobbs); August Fons (City of Hobbs); Corey Needham (Lea County); Michael Walker (Lea County)*