

LEA COUNTY COMMUNICATION AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Lea County Event Center, Front Meeting Room, 5101 Lovington Highway, Hobbs, NM

Call to Order

Chairman Mike Gallagher called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present were Hobbs Police Chief John Ortolano, Lea County Manager Mike Gallagher, Lea County Undersheriff Michael Walker, Lea County Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez, Hobbs Fire Battalion Chief Kevin Shearer and Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Manny Gomez.

Member absent was Lea County Sheriff Corey Helton.

Also present were Hobbs Deputy Police Chief August Fons and Ms. Angela Martinez, Lea County Communication Authority (LCCA) Director.

ITEM01: Election of LCCA Seventh Member

Lea County Manager Mike Gallagher stated per the LCCA By-Laws, the LCCA members from the City of Hobbs and Lea County must alternate the nomination for the seventh member position on the Board. He stated the nomination for the seventh member must come from the City of Hobbs.

Hobbs Police Chief John Ortolano nominated Hobbs Deputy Police Chief August Fons for the seventh member position. There being no other nominations, Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Manny Gomez seconded the nomination. The vote was recorded as follows: Ortolano yes, Gallagher yes, Walker yes, Velasquez yes, Shearer yes, Gomez yes. The motion carried.

The Board members expressed their appreciation to Lea County Undersheriff Michael Walker for his service to LCCA and the Board.

Hobbs Deputy Police Chief Fons took his place on the Board.

Election of LCCA Secretary

Hobbs Fire Battalion Chief Kevin Shearer nominated Lea County Emergency Manager Lorenzo Velasquez for the position of LCCA Secretary. There being no other nominations, Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Gomez seconded the

nomination. The vote was recorded as follows: Ortolano yes, Gallagher yes, Fons yes, Velasquez yes, Shearer yes, Gomez yes. The motion carried.

Election of LCCA Vice Chairman

Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Gomez nominated Hobbs Fire Battalion Chief Shearer for the position of LCCA Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, Hobbs Police Chief Ortolano seconded the nomination. The vote was recorded as follows: Ortolano yes, Gallagher yes, Fons yes, Velasquez yes, Shearer yes, Gomez yes. The motion carried.

LCCA Director Angela Martinez explained the position of LCCA Chairman was voted on in August, 2019, and is a two-year term; therefore, the Board would not need to vote on a new LCCA Chairman until August, 2021.

ITEM02: Consideration of Approval of September 30, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Hobbs Fire Battalion Chief Shearer moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Lea County Emergency Management Director Lorenzo Velasquez. The vote was recorded as follows: Ortolano yes, Gallagher yes, Fons yes, Velasquez yes, Shearer yes, Gomez yes. The motion carried.

ITEM03: Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Comments from the Board

Lea County Emergency Manager Velasquez stated Lea County is working actively against the spread of COVID-19. He further stated vaccinations are being administered alternately in Hobbs and Lovington. He added Nor Lea Hospital, Lea Regional Hospital, the New Mexico Department of Health and the United States Department of Homeland Security are assisting in the efforts to administer the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Gomez wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated 2020 was an interesting year and he expressed his appreciation to everyone for their continued efforts to assist the public.

Acting City Manager/Hobbs Fire Chief Gomez welcomed Hobbs Deputy Police Chief Fons and thanked Lea County Undersheriff Walker for all of his hard work for LCCA.

ITEM04: Discussion of Directors Report

LCCA Director Martinez stated the total 9-1-1 calls were 4,082 in the month of November, 2020. She further stated there were 16,846 administrative calls, for the total calls of 20,928 for the month of November, 2020.

LCCA Director Martinez stated on January 11, 2021, Lynco Electric will replace the generator at the Lovington Tower Site. She explained the generator currently at the Lovington Tower Site runs on propane and there is a leak in the propane tank. She further stated the Lovington Tower generator will be replaced with a larger generator that runs on diesel. LCCA Director Martinez stated the propane generator from the Lovington Tower Site will be moved to the Tatum Tower Site and replace the smaller generator that is currently being used. She further stated she originally anticipated radios to be down for the entire day but there will only be two times during the day when radios will be down for 10-15 minutes. She added hand-held radios will be used during this time. LCCA Director Martinez stated this project was budgeted at \$40,000.00. She further stated with the installation and move, this project will come in at budget.

LCCA Director Martinez stated she is on the NextGen 9-1-1 Committee. She stated the committee will hold their first meeting on January 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to begin discussions on infrastructure throughout the State with the intent to transition all New Mexico 9-1-1 Affiliates to NextGen 9-1-1 at the same time.

LCCA Director Martinez stated LCCA is severely shorthanded due to COVID-19. She further stated there are several people out due to positive tests and others out due to exposure. She added LCCA recently went back to 12-hour shifts, from 7:00 to 7:00. LCCA Director Martinez stated there is one position open and three positions are frozen. She further stated she has an interview for the open position scheduled on January 13, 2021. There will be four dispatchers in training.

LCCA Director Martinez stated she has been in contact with Motorola regarding the Auto-Attendant service for LCCA. She explained that Motorola has also been shorthanded due to COVID. She expressed her appreciation to Hobbs Police Chief Ortolano for his support regarding telephone numbers and assisting in redirecting non-emergency traffic away from LCCA.

LCCA Director Martinez stated the upcoming New Mexico Legislative Session will be held virtually beginning January 19, 2021. She stated she will be following discussions on the possibility of the State installing panic buttons at every school in the State. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of panic buttons being installed at each New Mexico school.

LCCA Director Martinez stated a bill may be introduced to reclassify dispatchers as first responders. She further stated the bill is sponsored by Senator David Gallegos.

ITEM05: Set Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at the Lea County Event Center, Front Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Hobbs Fire Battalion Chief Shearer moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 p.m. The motion was seconded Lea County Emergency Manager Velasquez. The vote was recorded as follows: Ortolano yes, Gallagher yes, Fons yes, Velasquez yes, Shearer yes, Gomez yes. The motion carried.


Lea County Communication Authority



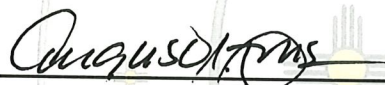
Mike Gallagher, Chair
Lea County Manager



Sheriff Corey Helton, Member
Lea County Sheriff's Office



Lorenzo Velasquez, Secretary
Lea County Emergency Manager



Deputy Chief August Fons, Member
Hobbs Police Department



Battalion Chief Kevin Shearer, Vice Chair
Hobbs Fire Department



Manny Gomez, Hobbs Fire Chief, Member
City of Hobbs Acting City Manager



Chief John Ortolano, Board Member
City of Hobbs Police Department