

**Minutes of Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
February 4, 2021**

**Chair Long called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse**

**Commissioners present were, to wit: Vice Chair Dean Jackson, District 1, Chair Rebecca Long, District 2, Commissioner Gary G. Eidson, District 3, Jonathan Sena, District 4, and Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.**

**Also present were Lea County Manager Michael P. Gallagher II, and Lea County Attorney John W. Caldwell.**

**Commissioner Sims led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Sena.**

Chair Long requested to move around items on the agenda.

**ITEM 01: COMMISSION**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-023R Approving the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Long requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-FEB-023R Approving the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-031R Supporting State Legislation that Requires Local School Boards to Determine if Public Schools Should Open for On-Campus Instruction During a Time When the State Has Issued a Public Health Emergency Order, *Including* Such Orders Issued During the Remainder of the 2020 – 2021 School Year or Other School Year If the Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19) Remains at Epidemic Levels In New Mexico; Requiring Each Local School Board to Make the Determination Base On Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations. *(Rebecca Long, Commission Chair)*

Chair Long requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Senator David Gallegos, Superintendent T.J Parks, and Andrea Goff made comments in regards to support the resolution. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-FEB-031R Supporting State Legislation that Requires Local School Boards to Determine if Public Schools Should Open for On-Campus Instruction During a Time When the State Has Issued a Public Health Emergency Order, *Including* Such Orders Issued During the Remainder of the 2020 – 2021 School Year or Other School Year If the Coronavirus Disease (COVID

19) Remains at Epidemic Levels In New Mexico; Requiring Each Local School Board to Make the Determination Base On Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments

There were no public comments

- Commissioner and Manager Comments

Commissioner Eidson made comments in regards to the resolution that was just passed. He also thanked Senator David Gallegos, Superintendent T.J Parks, and Andrea Goff for coming in to support the resolution.

Commissioner Sims made comments in regards to having a discussion about considering making Lea County a part of Texas.

Commissioner Sena thanked Senator David Gallegos, Superintendent T.J Parks, and Andrea Goff. He also made comments in regards to reckless driving in Lea County.

Vice Chair Jackson made comments in regards to local entities speaking up to make a difference.

Chair Long made comments in regards to Commissioner Sena's discussion on reckless driving in Lea County.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-032R Supporting the Unborn.

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-FEB-032R Supporting the Unborn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-033R Opposing U.S. President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and Opposing the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Order No. 3395, Regarding the 60 Day Temporary Suspension of Delegated Authority to Issue an On-Shore or Off-Shore Fossil Fuel Lease or Permit to Drill.

Manager Gallagher asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. No. 21-FEB-033R Opposing U.S. President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and Opposing the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Order No. 3395, Regarding the 60 Day Temporary Suspension of Delegated Authority to Issue an On-Shore or Off-Shore Fossil Fuel Lease or Permit to Drill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-034R Opposing House Bill 4 of the First Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature; Urging the New Mexico Legislature to Provide More Resources for Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment, Since Behavioral Health Issues and the Root Cause of Many Civil Rights Claims Against Local Governments; and Recommending Damage Caps on Any New Civil Rights Cause of Action as Well as Funding for Any Increased Costs Association with It.

Chair Long requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Sheriff Corey Helton made comments in regards to supporting the resolution. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-034R Opposing House Bill 4 of the First Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature; Urging the New Mexico Legislature to Provide More Resources for Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment, Since Behavioral Health Issues and the Root Cause of Many Civil Rights Claims Against Local Governments; and Recommending Damage Caps on Any New Civil Rights Cause of Action as Well as Funding for Any Increased Costs Association with It. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-024R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Airports Advisory Board.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No.21-FEB-024R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Airports Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-025R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County DWI Advisory Council.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-025R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County DWI Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-026R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Environmental Services Advisory Committee.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-026R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Environmental Services Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-027R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Memorial Committee.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No. 21-JAN-027R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Memorial Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion was passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-028R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-028R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-029R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Road Advisory Committee.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-029R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Road Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-030R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Commission.

Chair Long requested postponement. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-030R Approving Appointment(s) and/or Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lovington – Lea County Extraterritorial Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

## **ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-035R Approving Lifting the Hiring Freeze for Two (2) Positions Within the Lea County Sheriff's Office.  
*(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Sheriff Corey Helton made comments in regards to supporting the resolution. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-035R Approving Lifting the Hiring Freeze for Two (2) Positions Within the Lea County Sheriff's Office. The motion was seconded by Chair Long. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-036R Approving the Implementation of a Longevity Incentive Plan for Lea County Employees. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-036R Approving the Implementation of a Longevity Incentive Plan for Lea County Employees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-037R Approving the 2020 Annual Certified County Maintained Mileage Report. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager – Operations)*

Assistant Manager Needham requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-037R Approving the 2020 Annual Certified County Maintained Mileage Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-038R Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program for Fiscal Year 2022. *(Kelly Livingston, DWI/Probation Director)*

Director Livingston requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-038R Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program for Fiscal Year 2022. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jackson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-039R Approving the Publication of Notice of Hearing to Adopt Amendments to Lea County Personnel Ordinance, Number 89. (*Craig Bova, Human Resources Director*)

Director Bova requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to postpone indefinitely Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-039R Approving the Publication of Notice of Hearing to Adopt Amendments to Lea County Personnel Ordinance, Number 89. The motion was seconded by Chair Long. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion was passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-040R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Lasco Construction for Interior/Exterior Finishing at the Lea County Judicial Complex. (*Edmundo Lara, Interim Facilities Director*)

Director Lara requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments regarding this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-FEB-040R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Proposal from Lasco Construction for Interior/Exterior Finishing at the Lea County Judicial Complex. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

Break 10:26 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

**ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Discussion of Lea County's Boards and Committees. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher presented a discussion Lea County's Boards and Committees.

- Discussion of Lea County's Revenue FY 2021 – 2022. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher presented of Lea County's Revenue FY 2021 – 2022.

- Discussion of Lea County's Employment Vacancies and Frozen Positions. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager, Chip Low, Finance Director, Craig Bova, Human Resource Director)*

Manager Gallagher, Director Low, and Director Bova presented a discussion of Lea County's Employment Vacancies and Frozen Positions.

- Discussion of Lea County's Outside Agencies FY 2021 – 2022. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager and Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Manager Gallagher and Director Low presented a discussion of Lea County's Outside Agencies FY 2021 – 2022.

**ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **Board of County Commissioners**

- Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H2) of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978; to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters, Namely the County Manager; as Authorized by the NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (2).

• At 11:35 a.m. Vice Chair Jackson moved to convene in Executive Session pursuant to **Section 10-15-1 (H2), of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978; to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters, Namely the County Manager; as Authorized by the NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (2).** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

The meeting reconvened at 1:06 p.m.

Let the record reflect that only those matters announced in the motion to go into closed session were discussed.

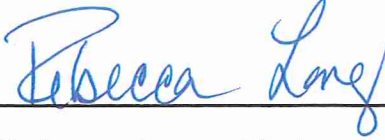
**ITEM 06: OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Rebecca Long, Chair



Dean Jackson, Vice Chair



Gary G. Eidson, Member



Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Hollye Shearer

