

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

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-047R Approving the February 18, 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-MAR-047R Approving the February 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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

- Commissioners and Manger Comments

Commissioner Sims, Chair Long, and Manager Gallagher all made comments in regards to trash in Lea County.

Vice Chair Jackson stated he did not want to hear anyone thanking the Governor regarding Covid Restrictions because they should not have been how they have been.

Commissioner Sena made comments in regards to the expansion of abortion that the State is working on.

Manager Gallagher stated that there will be an event Friday night at the Fairgrounds for people to watch the Lovington Wildcats Football game.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-048R Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board. (*Rebecca Long, Commission Chair*)

Chair Long 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-MAR-048 Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board. 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-MAR-049 Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the New Horizons Foundation Board. (*Rebecca Long, Commission Chair*)

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-MAR-049 Approving/Confirming Appointment(s) to the New Horizons Foundation 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-MAR-050 Approving a Financial Commitment of \$300,000.00 to the City of Hobbs for the Purpose of Constructing a Veterans Memorial. (*Jonathan Sena, Commissioner – District 4*)

Chair Long requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Interim City Manager Manny Gomez made comments in regards to approving this resolution. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-050 Approving a Financial Commitment of \$300,000.00 to the City of Hobbs for the Purpose of Constructing a Veterans Memorial. 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.

- Discussion of Threats to the Oil & Gas Industry in Lea County. (*Pat Sims, Commissioner – District 5*)

Commissioner Sims presented a discussion of Threats to the Oil & Gas Industry in Lea County.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-051R Authorizing the Approval and Execution of an Application for Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) for FY 2021 – 2022. (*Corey Helton, County Sheriff*)

Sheriff Helton 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-MAR-051R Authorizing the Approval and Execution of an Application for Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) for FY 2021 – 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-MAR-052R Approving the Investment Policy for Lea County. (*Susan Marinovich, County Treasurer*)

Treasurer Marinovich asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Vice Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-MAR-052R Approving the Investment Policy for Lea County. 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-MAR-053R Approving Grant Agreement No. E2595 between Lea County and New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for a Capital Outlay Appropriation for the Lea County Courthouse Renovations. (*Mike Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-053R Approving Grant Agreement No. E2595 between Lea County and New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for a Capital Outlay Appropriation for the Lea County Courthouse Renovations. 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-MAR-054R Approving Award of Request for Proposal No. 01 (2020 – 2021) Multi-Term Insurance Broker for Lea County. (*John W. Caldwell, County Attorney*)

Attorney Caldwell 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-MAR-054R Approving Award of Request for Proposal No. 01 (2020 – 2021) Multi-Term Insurance Broker for Lea County. 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-MAR-055R Authorizing Out of State Travel March 10 – 11, 2021 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training for the Lea County Regional Airport ARFF Fire Department. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager*)

Assistant County Manager Needham 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-MAR-055R Authorizing Out of State Travel March 10 – 11, 2021 to Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas to Attend Annual Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training for the Lea County Regional Airport ARFF Fire Department. 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-MAR-056R Approving Recommendations from a Freeholders Committee Regarding the Vacation of Dedicated Right of Way Being 25th Street, South of Elm Street in the Five-O Subdivision, Unit 2, in Section 5, Township 16 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M Lea County (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager*)

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Ray Rivera made comments in regards to why he is asking for this to be vacated. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-056R Approving Recommendations from a Freeholders Committee Regarding the Vacation of Dedicated Right of Way Being 25th Street, South of Elm Street in the Five-O Subdivision, Unit 2, in Section 5, Township 16 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M Lea County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, no; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-057R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 02 FY 2020 – 2021. (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Director Low 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-MAR-057R Approving Budget Adjustment No. 02 FY 2020 – 2021. 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 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Lea County's FY 2021 – 2022 Budget. (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Director Low, Assessor Kennedy, Clerk Manes, Treasurer Marinovich, Director Livingston, General Manager Kemp and Director Bova presented a discussion of Lea County's FY 2021 – 2022 Budget.

ITEM 04: EXECUTIVE SESSION

• **Board of County Commissioners**

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

• At 10:55 a.m. Vice Chair Jackson moved to convene in Executive Session pursuant to **Section 10-15-1 H (2) and (7), of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978; to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters, Namely the Interim Facilities Director and threatened litigation subject to attorney-client privilege involving a breach of contract related to an easement permit in which the county may become a participant; as Authorized by the NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (2) and (7).** 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 11:39 a.m.

ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-058R Approving the Appointment of Edmundo R. Lara II to the Position of Facilities Director. (*Mike Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher 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-MAR-058R Approving the Appointment of Edmundo R. Lara II to the Position of Facilities Director. 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.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

