

**Minutes of Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
March 18, 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-059R Approving the March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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-059R Approving the March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. 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.

- Public Comments

There were no public comments

- Commissioners and Manger Comments

Commissioner Eidson stated to keep in mind kids will be returning to school soon and to watch out for kids going and coming from the schools.

Commissioner Sims announced and invited everyone to come out to the kids fishing event at the Eunice lake this Saturday.

Commissioner Sena commented on finishing up the Judicial Complex and stated he hopes in the future the county will look into working on the event center.

Chair Long commented on the trash problem in Lea County.

**ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-060R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G21SN0017A between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Policy for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Drug Task Force Issued for 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2022. (*Wm Robert Sullivan, HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator*)

Coordinator Sullivan requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-060R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G21SN0017A between Lea County and the Office of National Drug Policy for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region VI Drug Task Force Issued for 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2022. 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-MAR-061R Approving Change Order No. 05 Between Lea County and Lasco Construction for the Lea County Regional Airport Terminal Expansion Project. (*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-061R Approving Change Order No. 05 Between Lea County and Lasco Construction for the Lea County Regional Airport Terminal Expansion Project. 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-062R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement HOB-C Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager*)

Assistant County Manager Needham 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-062R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement HOB-C Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. 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-063R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement HOB Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. (*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 Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-MAR-063R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement HOB Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. 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-064R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement E26 Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager*)

Assistant County Manager Needham asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution. No. 21-MAR-064R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement E26 Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. 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-065R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement E06 Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. (*Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager*)

Assistant County Manager Needham 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-065R Approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application/Agreement E06 Associated with the CARES ACT for Airports. 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-MAR-066R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Task Order with Constructors, Inc to Apply a Tom Overlay on County Road 1 (Orla Roadway) for 1.6 Miles. (*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-066R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Task Order with Constructors, Inc to Apply a Tom Overlay on County Road 1 (Orla Roadway) for 1.6 Miles. 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-067R Approving Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar and Monument. (*Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Manager*)

Emergency Manager Velasquez 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-067R Approving Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar and Monument. 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-MAR-068R Approving a Recommendation from the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board for the Approval of a Set-Back Variance for Green Meadows Subdivision, Unit 2, Block 6, Lot 11B in Section 17, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner on Behalf of the Planning & Zoning Board*)

County Planner Reid 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-068R Approving a Recommendation from the Lea County Planning & Zoning Board for the Approval of a Set-Back Variance for Green Meadows Subdivision, Unit 2, Block 6, Lot 11B in Section 17, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

County Planner Reid 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-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-070R Approving the Road Dedication of Reyna Street (Formerly Known as Jerry Lane) in Section 19 and 30, Township 18 South, Range 39 East, N.M.P.M. in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

County Planner Reid 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-070R Approving the Road Dedication of Reyna Street (Formerly Known as Jerry Lane) in Section 19 and 30, Township 18 South, Range 39 East, N.M.P.M. in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-071R Approving the Road Maintenance of Reyna Street (Formerly Known as Jerry Lane) in Section 19 and 30, Township 18 South, Range 39 East, N.M.P.M. in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

County Planner Reid requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-071R Approving the Road Maintenance of Reyna Street (Formerly Known as Jerry Lane) in Section 19 and 30, Township 18 South, Range 39 East, N.M.P.M. in Lea County, New Mexico. 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.

**Manager Gallagher stated that they were recommending three different members for the Freeholder Committee for the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center as mentioned in Resolution No. 21-MAR-069R.**

- Reconsideration of Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher requested reconsideration. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to reconsidered Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-MAR-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. (*Bruce Reid, County Planner*)

County Planner Reid requested approval. Chair Long asked if there were any public comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAR-069R Appointing a Freeholders Committee to Evaluate the Vacation of Dedicated Alley in Oil Center, Block 2, Being East of New Mexico Highway 8 and South of Atlantic Street in Oil Center in Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, N.M.P.M in Lea County, New Mexico. 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-MAR-072R Approving the Certification of County Fixed Assets List. (*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-072R Approving the Certification of County Fixed Assets List. 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-MAR-073R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Director Low 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-073R Authorizing Lea County's Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Long, yes; Vice Chair Jackson, no; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

**ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act. (*Michael Gallagher, County Manager*)

Manager Gallagher presented a discussion of American Rescue Plan Act.

**Chair Long requested a break at 10:32 a.m.**

**The meeting reconvened at 10:38 a.m.**

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

Director Low, Sheriff Helton, Director Martinez, Warden Quintana, Director Russell, Director Lara, Director Lathrop, Director Velasquez, and Assistant County Manager Needham presented a discussion of Lea County's FY 2021 – 2022 Budget.

- Discussion of Lea County's Financial Report (February 2021). (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Director Low presented a discussion of Lea County's Financial Report (February 2021).

- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable (February 2021). (*Chip Low, Finance Director*)

Director Low presented a discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable (February 2021).

**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 Pending Litigation Phillips v Lea County, D-506-CV-2020-00998, and the Disposal of Real Property in Hobbs, New Mexico, as Authorized by the NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (7) and (8) Respectively.

- At 11:47 a.m. Vice Chair Jackson moved to convene in Executive Session pursuant to **Section 10-15-1 H (7) and (8) Respectively, of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978; to Discuss limited personnel matters involving the Road Department, pending litigation Phillips v. Lea County, D-506-CV-2020-00998, Bland v. Lea County et. Al. 2:20-CV-00135, and the disposal of real property in Hobbs, New Mexico; as Authorized by the NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (2), (7) and (8) Respectively.** 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 1:10 p.m.

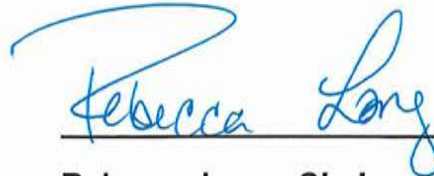
**ITEM 05: OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rebecca Long, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dean Jackson, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gary G. Eidson, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Sena, Member

Not Present  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hollye Shearer

