

**Minutes of Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
March 31, 2022**

**Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.**

**Commissioners present were, to wit: Chair Dean Jackson, District 1, Vice Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3, Commissioner Rebecca Long District 2, Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4. 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. 22-MAR-067R

Approving:

- ❖ March 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes.
- ❖ March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chair Jackson requested approval and asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item.  
Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 22-MAR-067R  
Approving: March 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Edison. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

Chair Jackson requested approval and asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item.  
Commissioner Sims moved to approve Resolution No. 22-MAR-067R  
Approving: March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments
  - None
- Commissioner and Manager Comments

- Commissioner Long - Recognized Lorenzo Velasquez for his firefighting participation
- Commissioner Sims – No Comment
- Commissioner Sena – Expressed his appreciation for community support of USW.
- Vice Chair Eidson – As a member of the Board of Trustees at USW expressed his gratitude for Lea County's overwhelming support.
- Chair Jackson – Expressed his appreciation for the people of Lea County and their support of USW.
- Manager Gallagher – Spoke of receiving our 7<sup>th</sup> budget award for current fiscal year.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-068R  
Approving/Confirming Appointments to the Lea County DWI Advisory Council.

- Replace Winford Gibson with Susana Arvizu

Commissioner Sena requested approval and Chair Jackson asked for any public or Commissioner comments. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-068R Approving /Confirming Appointments to the Lea County DWI Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-069R  
Approving/Confirming Appointments to the Lea County Solid Waste Authority.

- Replace Commissioner Long with Chair Jackson.

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-069R Approving/Confirming Appointments to the Lea County Solid Waste Authority. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-070R  
Approving \$165,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2021-2022



Discretionary Funding to the Regional Education Cooperative VII for their Facility Project. *(Vice Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3)*

Vice Chair Eidson requested approval and asked for any public or Commissioner comments. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-070R Approving \$165,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 fiscal Year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the Regional Education Cooperative VII for their Facility Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, abstain; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-071R Approving \$35,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for their Central Kitchen Upgrade. *(Vice Chair Gary G. Eidson, District 3)*

Vice Chair Eidson requested approval. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Vice Chair Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-071R Approving \$35,000.00 Appropriation from District 3 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for their Central Kitchen Upgrade. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, abstain; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-072R Approving \$90,000.00 Appropriation from District 4 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for their Central Kitchen upgrade. *(Commissioner Jonathan Sena, District 4)*

Commissioner Sena requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-072R Approving \$90,000.00 Appropriation from District 4 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the Hobbs Municipal Schools for their Central Kitchen upgrade. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes;

Commissioner Sims, abstain; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-073R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory Regarding the Transfer of a Vehicle to Guadalupe County, New Mexico. *(Commissioner Rebecca Long, District 2)*

Commissioner Long requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve, Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-073R Approving the Findings and Proposed Disposition of Inventory Regarding the Transfer of a Vehicle to Guadalupe County, New Mexico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

**ITEM 02: PRESENTATION**

- Presentation of Lea County Economic Analysis. *(Julian Baca, M.A.; Dr. Michael O'Donnell, PhD – University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research) – via ZOOM*

**ITEM 03: ACTION ITEMS**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-074R Approving a Recommendation from the Lea County Fair and Rodeo Board Authorizing an Agreement between Lea county and Wally Roberts for VIP Catering Services for the Rodeo Contestants During the 2022 Lea county PRCA Rodeo. *(Jim Kemp, General Manager, Fairgrounds)*

Fairgrounds General Manager Kemp, requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-074R Approving a Recommendation from the Lea County Fair and Rodeo Board Authorizing an Agreement between Lea County and Wally Roberts for VIP Catering Services for the Rodeo Contestants During the 2022 Lea County PRCA Rodeo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission.



Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-075R  
Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for improvements to a Portion of Commercial Street. (Michael Gallagher, County Manager)

County Manager Gallagher requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-075R Approving an Agreement Between Lea County and the City of Lovington for improvements to a Portion of Commercial Street The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-076R  
Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Task Order with Constructor's Inc.to Widen and Overlay South Commercial Street from Avenue D to NM 18. – Approximately 1.25 Miles. (Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)

Assistant Manager Needham requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-076R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services Task Order with Constructor's Inc.to Widen and Overlay South Commercial Street from Avenue D to NM 18. – Approximately 1.25 Miles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-077R  
Approving an Agreement between Lea County and the City of Hobbs to Construct and Provide Municipal Water to the Lea County Regional Airport. (Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)

Assistant Manager Needham requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-077R Approving an Agreement between Lea County and the City of Hobbs to Construct and Provide Municipal Water to the Lea County Regional Airport. The motion was seconded by

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

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-078R  
Approving Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Volunteer Fire Department's 2022 Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar, and Monument.  
(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)

Assistant County Manager Needham requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-078R Approving Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Volunteer Fire Department's 2022 Annual Reporting for Knowles, Maljamar, and Monument The motion was seconded by Chair Jackson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-079R  
Approving a Spring Entertainment Event at the Lea County Event Center.  
(Monica Russell, Event Center General Manager)

Event Center Manager, Russel requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-079R Approving a Spring Entertainment Event at the Lea County Event Center The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-080R  
Approving Salary Adjustments for Certain County Departments and Offices.  
(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)

Human Resource Director, Bova requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution 22-MAR-080R Approving Salary Adjustments for Certain County Departments and Offices. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.



- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-081R  
Authorizing 3 Additional Full Time Positions. (Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)

HR Director Bova requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-081R Authorizing 3 Additional Full Time Positions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-082R  
Approving a Proposal from Honeywell changing Vendors for Lennox to Daiken. (Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director)

Facilities Director Lara, requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Eidson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-082R Approving a Proposal from Honeywell changing Vendors for Lennox to Daiken. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sims. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-083R  
Approving Budget Adjustment No. 05 for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022. (Chip Low, Finance Director)

Finance Director Low, requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-083R Approving Budget Adjustment No.05 for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 04: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Video Recording Board Meetings (Robert Lathrop, Information Technology Director)
  - Spoke about video recording and live streaming all future meetings
- Discussion of Lea County Employee Benefits. (Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)
  - Discussed Sheriff's Office Fitness Program, the proposal of paying 75% of employee PERA contributions and Longevity pay.
- Discussion of Lea County's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget: (Michael Gallagher County Manager, Chip Low, Finance Director)
  - County Departments/Offices Presentations
    - **County Clerk** - Chief Deputy Clerk Hassen spoke about the need of funds to purchase a new van to transport tabulator/voting machines and to cover salaries of certain election workers.
    - **Probate Judge** – County Manager Michael Gallagher spoke on behalf of Judge Sandra Goad stating there would be no budget increase necessary for this department.
    - **Lea County Sheriff's Office** – Sheriff Helton proposed a 41% budget increase for his department of which 31% are carryovers from vehicles and ammunition ordered in FY 21-22 that have yet to come in.
    - **Treasurer** – Treasurer Susan Marinovich mentioned that current charges for printing and publishing have increased by \$500 but requested no changes to her current budget.
    - **Finance** – Finance Director Chip Low spoke about his department being fully staffed.
    - **Human Resources** – Human Resource Manager Craig Bova spoke about current positions in his department and the possibility of adding a 4<sup>th</sup> position in the near future. He also mentioned specialized training that various employees were currently enrolled in or had already completed.
    - **IT** – IT Administrator Robert Lathrop made the following four requests:
      - \$24,000 for continuing education
      - \$50,000 for disaster recovery/antivirus and 24-hour monitoring
      - \$200,000 for server upgrades
      - \$10,000 for network equipment
- Discussion of Lea County's Financial Report. (Chip Low, Finance Director)  
Finance Director Low spoke positively of Lea County's overall budget
- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable (Chip Low, Finance Director)



Finance director presented the County's Accounts Payable for review.

**ITEM 05: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 H (2) and (7) Respectively of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978; to Discuss Limited Personnel Matters Regarding the General Manager of the Lea County Fairgrounds; Threatened Litigation Regarding Employment Hiring/Compensation Practices, and Threatened Litigation Regarding Inspection of Public Records/ Pending Litigation Regarding Congressional Redistricting, and Pending Litigation Regarding Detention Center and Healthcare.

- At 11:07\_a.m. Vice Chair Eidson 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 Regarding the General Manager of the Lea County Fairgrounds; Threatened litigation Regarding Employment Hiring/Compensation Practices, and Threatened Litigation Regarding Inspection of Public Records/ Pending Litigation Regarding Congressional Redistricting, and Pending Litigation Regarding Detention Center and Healthcare.. As Authorized by NMSA 1978 § 10-15-1 H (7) and (8).**

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

The meeting reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

**ITEM 06: OTHER BUSINESS**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-084R Approving the Promotion of Monica Russell as the Lea County Public Information Officer. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher, requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sena moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-084R Approving the Promotion of Monica Russell as the Lea County Public Information Officer. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

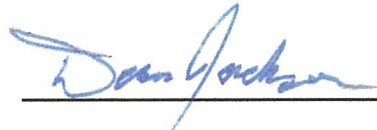
- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-085R Approving the Promotion of Jim Kemp as the Director of the Lea County Event Center and Fairgrounds. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher, requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Sims moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAR-085R Approving the Promotion of Jim Kemp as the Director of the Lea County Event Center and Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, no; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

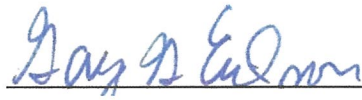
Chair Jackson asked if there was any other business. There being no other business, he requested a Motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Long made a Motion to Adjourn. The Motion was Seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. The Meeting Adjourned at 12:14 p.m.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Dean Jackson, Chair



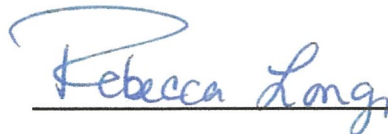
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



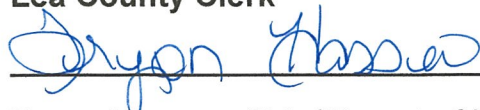
Pat Sims, Member



Rebecca Long, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Tryon Hassen, Chief Deputy Clerk

