

**Minutes of Meeting  
Lea County Board of Commissioners  
May 26, 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 and Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

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

Vice Chair Eidson led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Sena.

**ITEM 01: COMMISSION**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-117R Approving the May 12, 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-MAY-117R Approving the May 12, 2022 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, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments
  - Lovington Police Chief David Miranda – Expressed his gratitude for the Lea County Commission's continued support of the Lovington Police Department. Outlined continued need for support as the department continues to rebuild. He thanked the Commission in advance for their consideration of Resolution 22-MAY-118R Approving \$200,000.00 Appropriation from District 2 Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 Discretionary Funding to the City of Lovington for Public Safety Vehicles and Engineering and Professional Services.
- Commissioner and Manager Comments
  - Commissioner Long – No Comment
  - Commissioner Sims – Commended Emergency Manager Lorenzo Velasquez and his crew for their quick response and containment of the multiple grass fires in our area lately.
  - Commissioner Sena – Recognized audience members from Jal, including the Mayor. Thanked them for their community dedication and hard work.

- Vice Chair Eidson – Spoke of the Uvalde tragedy and asked that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers.
- Chair Jackson – Agreed with Commissioner Sims comments and also spoke of the Uvalde tragedy adding a comment about parents instilling proper values in their children.
- Manager Gallagher – No Comment

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-118R Approving \$200,000.00 Appropriation from District 2 fiscal year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the City of Lovington for Public Safety Vehicles and Engineering and Professional Services. (Commissioner Rebecca Long, District 2).

Commissioner Long requested approval and Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments. Chair Jackson moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-118R Approving \$200,000.00 Appropriation from District 2 fiscal year 2021-2022 Discretionary Funding to the City of Lovington for Public Safety Vehicles and Engineering and Professional Services. 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.

- Discussion of Broadband Expansion Services in Lea County.  
(David Jimenez, CEO of LEACO)

**ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS**

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-119R Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G22SN0017A 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 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023. (Wm Robert Sullivan, HIDTA Region VI Drug Task Force Coordinator)

Task Force Coordinator Sullivan requested approval and Chair Jackson asked for any public or Commissioner comments. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution Approving Application SF-424, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Grant Agreement No. G22SN0017A 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 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2023. 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-MAY-120R Adopting Procedures for the Acceptance of Payments by Credit Card, Debit Card or Other Electronic Means. *(Susan Marinovich, County Treasurer)*

Treasurer Marinovich requested approval. Chair Jackson asked for any public or Commissioner comments. Commissioner Long moved to approve Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-120R Adopting Procedures for the Acceptance of Payments by Credit Card, Debit Card or Other Electronic Means. 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-MAY-121R Adopting Lea County's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. *(Mike Gallagher, County Manager)*

Manager Gallagher requested approval. 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-MAY-121R Adopting Lea County's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. 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-MAY-122R Approving the Increase of the Allocation of America Rescue Plan Act Funding from \$6,902,257.00 to \$8,224,216.00 for improvements at the Lea County Detention Center. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher requested approval. 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-MAY-122R Approving the Increase of the Allocation of America Rescue Plan Act Funding from \$6,902,257.00 to \$8,224,216.00 for improvements at the Lea County Detention Center. 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-MAY-123R Approving the Allocation of \$5,554,647.00 of America Rescue Plan Act Funds to the Teague Switch Roadway Improvement Project. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher requested approval. 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-MAY-123R Approving the Allocation of \$5,554,647.00 of America Rescue Plan Act Funds to the Teague Switch Roadway Improvement Project. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Eidson. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Vice Commissioner Sena, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-124R Approving Lea County's Annual Membership in the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments (SNMEDD/COG) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. *(Michael Gallagher, County Manager)*

County Manager Gallagher requested approval. 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-MAY-124R Approving Lea County's Annual Membership in the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments (SNMEDD/COG) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sena. Secretary polled the Commission. Chair Jackson, yes; Vice Chair Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sena, abstain; Commissioner Sims, yes; Commissioner Long, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 22-MAY-125R Authorizing Out of State Travel June 11-16, 2022 to Louisville, Kentucky for Danette Flores, Training Administrator for the Lea County Communication Authority to Attend the 2022 National Emergency Number Association Conference. *(Angela Martinez, Communication Authority Director)*

Director Martinez requested approval. 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-MAY-125R Authorizing Out of State Travel June 11-16, 2022 to Louisville, Kentucky for Danette Flores, Training Administrator for the Lea County Communication Authority to Attend the 2022 National Emergency Number



Association Conference. 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-MAY-126R Awarding the Request for Proposals No. 05 2021-2022 Jail Health Services for the Lea County Detention Center. (*Ruben Quintana, Detention Center Warden*)

Warden Quintana requested approval. 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-MAY-126R Awarding the Request for Proposals No. 05 2021-2022 Jail Health Services for the Lea County Detention Center. 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-MAY-127R Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between Lea County and the United States Department of Energy, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Represented by the Carlsbad Field Office for Biannual Review. (*Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Manager*)

Emergency Manager Velasquez requested approval. 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-MAY-127R Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between Lea County and the United States Department of Energy, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Represented by the Carlsbad Field Office for Biannual Review. 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-MAY-128R Awarding Bid No. 07 2021-2022 One Gooseneck Command Trailer for Lea County Emergency Management. (*Lorenzo Velasquez, Emergency Manager*)

Emergency Manager Velasquez 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-MAY-128R Awarding Bid No. 07 2021-2022 One Gooseneck

Command Trailer for Lea County Emergency Management. 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-MAY-129R Approving Lea County's Public Employees Retirement Association Contribution for Employees. *(Craig Bova, Human Resources Director)*

HR Director Bova requested approval. 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-MAY-129R Approving Lea County's Public Employees Retirement Association Contribution for Employees. 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-MAY-130R Approving the Creation of General Fund Operating Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. 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-MAY-130R Approving the Creation of General Fund Operating Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves. 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-MAY-131R Approving the Creation of Reserves for Operating Reserves for Operating Transfers in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. 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-MAY-131R Approving the Creation of Reserves for Operating Reserves for Operating Transfers in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves. 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-MAY-132R Amending Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAY-111R Approving Capital Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves.  
*(Chip Low, Finance Director)*

Finance Director Low requested approval. Chair Jackson asked if there were any public or Commissioner comments concerning this agenda item. Commissioner Long moved to approve No. 22-MAY-132R Amending Lea County Resolution No. 21-MAY-111R Approving Capital Reserves in Excess of Local Government Division Required Reserves. 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.

### **ITEM 03: DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Discussion of Lea County's Animal Control Operations – Spay and Neutering Programs. *(Lorenzo Velasquez, Environmental Services Director)*  
Director Velasquez began his discussion with "Please don't litter, spay and neuter your critter" He spoke of his contact with the local humane society in which he found out that they have spay and neuter clinics four times per year on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Each day up to 15 dogs and cats can be spayed or neutered and are also given vaccinations and microchips. These clinics are held until the 3k to 5k grant funding they receive for this purpose is depleted.

Commissioner Long added that she too had been in contact with the Humane Society. They are currently in the process of getting funding and looking for a larger building. She added they would like to be able to perform 100 – 200 spays or neuters per day.

Commissioner Sena questioned if they should think about going beyond clinics and put something in place that would fine people for irresponsible breeding and also require permits for having litters?

Commissioner Long reminded everyone that they were only speaking of providing funding for programs and the rest will be left up to the Humane Society.

- Discussion of Right of Way Acceptance on Lea County Claim of Exemption Plats. *(Corey Needham, Assistant County Manager)*  
Assistant Manager Needham Explained the current procedure for separating and re-plating subdivisions according to current regulations and statutes. He spoke of the 15 exemptions that could be claimed in this process and the need for County Staff to be able to sign off on certain plats where the County is already maintaining the roadways.
- Discussion of Lea County's Financial Report. *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*  
Finance Director Low presented the current financial report. He explained that all was well, as the County is under expenses and over on revenue.
- Discussion of Lea County's Accounts Payable *(Chip Low, Finance Director)*  
Finance Director Low presented Lea County's YTD Accounts Payable

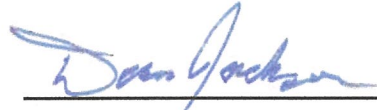
**ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

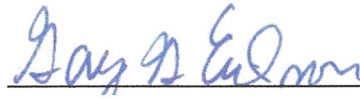
Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.



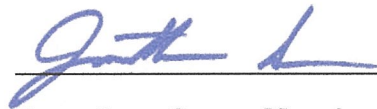
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Dean Jackson, Chair



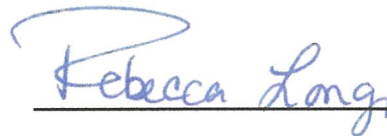
Gary G. Eidson, Vice Chair



Jonathan Sena, Member



Pat Sims, Member



Rebecca Long, Member

ATTEST: Keith Manes

Lea County Clerk



Teri Davis, Deputy Clerk

