

MINUTES
Special Meeting
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Friday, January 19, 2024

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024, in the Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting any and all business to come properly before the Board.

Call to Order: Chair Chandler Called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

Roll Call: Deputy Clerk Toni Esparza called Roll. The following Board Members constituting a quorum were present:

Ray J Trejo, District 1
Colette M Chandler, Chair District 2
John S. Sweetser, District 3

Old Business:

Resolution 24-14: A Resolution Regarding the Mimbres Valley Peaks Monument: Commissioner Chandler stated that there are two items that are needing to be taken care of, one being the Old Business of the Resolution 24-14 which was tabled at the last commission meeting. Chair Chandler called for a motion for Resolution 24-14. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to delete Resolution 24-14. The motion was seconded by Chair Chandler. A roll call vote ensued with all of the Commissioners voting in the negative. Chair Chandler stated that the resolution was shot down and that the reasoning behind it was because of all of the feedback that was received from the community about the resolution was that it did not clearly state where the county stood.

New Business:

Resolution 24-15: A Resolution regarding the Mimbres Peak National Monument. Chair Chandler stated that this resolution is being considered due to the overwhelming response from the majority of the public regarding this issue. The responses have not just come from farmers and ranchers but everyone in the community including the city and county. Chair Chandler stated that a lot of the community went up to the mountains, some just looked at them, and some did not have anything to do with them, but they all responded overwhelmingly against the monument. Chair Chandler stated that it is their jobs as commissioners to represent the majority of the people. Chair Chandler stated that part of the resolution was re-written so that it is very clear that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners does not support the establishment of the Mimbres Peak National Monument. Commissioner Trejo stated that the majority of the community that he had spoken with want to see something come to our community that is going to uplift it.

Commissioner Trejo stated that this was something that was decided as a county in Ruidoso during the Strategic Planning Meeting where it was decided that the county would make outdoor recreation and tourism economy a priority. Commissioner Trejo stated that it was the county's goal and the outcome of the Strategic Planning Meeting. Commissioner Trejo stated that while working in the schools for a long time and other places where you see strategic plans that come to the surface, typically there is never any follow-up, and that is why he was bringing this up. Commissioner Trejo stated that he believes that this very well could be a social injustice, because the people that could stand to benefit the most were not in the chamber today. Commissioner Trejo stated that the people that were missing were his constituents that live within the city limits. Commissioner Trejo stated that as elected officials that they have a duty to serve the community at large. Commissioner Trejo stated that this would be another opportunity to bring money into the community by receiving Lodger's Tax and people coming in and spending money. Commissioner Chandler stated that the first part of the Resolution 24-15 stated that this was not a topic of discussion at the two day Strategic Planning Meeting in Ruidoso. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to approve Resolution 24-15: A Resolution Regarding the Mimbres Peak National Monument. The motion was seconded by Chair Chandler and was approved following a roll call vote with Commissioner Trejo voting in the negative.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (unless otherwise specified):


- Silver Spikes: Santa Fe – January 29- January 30, 2024
- Public Input Work Session: February 8, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Regular Meeting: February 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair Chandler adjourned the Meeting at 10:14 a.m.


ATTEST:


**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**


Berenda McWright, Luna County Clerk


Ray J. Trejo,
Commissioner, District 1

Approved: 2-8-24


Colette M. Chandler, Chairperson
Commissioner, District 2


John S. Sweetser
Commissioner, District 3

