

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
Thursday, May 26, 2022**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022 in the County 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.

**The following staff and elected officials were present:** County Manager Chris Brice, Administrative Assistant Malarie Villegas, Clerk Berenda McWright, Deputy Clerk Pilar Salcido, Deputy Clerk Toni Esparza, Treasurer Kristie Hobbs, Assessor Michelle Holguin, Chief Deputy Assessor Isabelle Enciso, Economic Development & Community Director Christie Ann Harvey, Community Development Liaison Mary Mackey, Attorney Charles Kretek, IT Technician Nathan Ortberg, HR Director Rosa Porras, Emergency Services Director Pablo Montoya, Director Lee Cook, Budget & Procurement Director Joanne Hethcox, Planning Supervisor Lupita Hernandez, Sherriff Gannaway,

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico.

**ROLL CALL:** Deputy Clerk Toni Esparza called roll. The following members of the Board constituting a quorum were present:

**Barbara L. Reedy, District 1  
Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chair District 2  
John S. Sweetser, District 3**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Smrkovsky opened the floor for public comment. Several members of the community came forward and offered comments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **2022-2023 Preliminary Fiscal Budget FY111:** Chair Smrkovsky spoke of the new positions to be added to the budget, and title changes. The Business Office Director is now the Chief Financial Officer. Chair Smrkovsky explained that there will be 3 to 4 custodial positions opening up due to the fact that the cost of bidding out for a cleaning service to come in to clean was costly. The HR Recruiting and Training Specialist position will be an assistant to the HR Director. The Maintenance Director will be the supervisor overseeing both the Custodial and Maintenance Crew. IT will need to add another technician to its department. Chair Smrkovsky reported that there is also an Administrative Assistant position being added in the Planning and Zoning Department. The director position for Planning and Zoning was done away

with and Lupita Hernandez is now the Planning Supervisor. A GIS Mapping Department will be added no sooner than the fall. The department will consist of a GIS Director and two GIS Technicians. The preliminary budget will be sent to the Department of Finance for approval and will be sent back to make the necessary changes. The budget includes a 5% to 7% increase across the board for employee raises due to inflation. Assessor Michelle commented for the Board to really consider that all newly elected officials be brought up to the amount approved by the Legislature in 2018. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to approve the 2022-2023 Preliminary Fiscal Budget FY11. It was decided that the 5% increase would be put into place. If Inflation becomes worse the topic to move to the 7% increase can be revisited in six months and changes can be made at that time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reedy and was approved unanimously following a roll call vote.

- b. Resolution 22-37: Authorizing the Sale of County Property:** County Manager Chris Brice explained that the deal with the Presbyterian Health Clinic property on Diamond Street was that they would be rent-free based on the fact they were providing health care to county residents and to the LCDC. The county now has multiple rural health care providers including Ben Archer and some others. They negotiated with Presbyterian to start leasing the building otherwise it would be considered a donation for what they do. They agreed to the lease but then in turn decided to purchase the property instead. This resolution, Mr. Brice explained, is to give him permission to be able to negotiate the sale of this location. The appraisal for this building came back at approximately \$422,000. Chair Smrkovsky entertained a motion to approve Resolution 22-37; Authorizing the Sale of County Property. Commissioner Reedy motioned to approve Resolution 22-37. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and was approved unanimously following a roll call vote.
- c. Luna County Comprehensive Plan: This item is for Discussion only:** Deputy Director of Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments Emily Gojkovich gave an extensive update on the Luna County Comprehensive plan.
- d. Award of RFP 110-04 Fire Protection Water System:** County Manager Chris Brice recommended this item be tabled due to cost. Chair Smrkovsky entertained a motion to table the Award of RFP 110-the 04 Fire Protection Water System. Commissioner Reedy motioned to table this item due to increased cost. The motion to table was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and was approved unanimously following a roll call vote.

**Executive Session is pursuant to Section 10-15-1H (2) NMSA 1978- limited personnel matters:** Commissioner Reedy motioned to go into Executive Session is pursuant to Section 10-15-1H (2) NMSA 1978- limited personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:53 a.m. and returned from Executive Session at 1:33 p.m.

Commissioner Reedy moved to return from Executive Session is pursuant to Section 10-15-1H (2) NMSA 1978- limited personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

Chair Smrkovsky entertained a motion to increase County Managers Chris Brice's salary by 5% effective June 1, 2022, with a two-year renewable contract. Commissioner Reedy motioned to approve the 5% salary increase for County Manager Chris Brice. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events (Unless otherwise specified):**

Regular Meeting: June 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.  
Special Zoom Meeting: June 13, 2022 at 10: a.m.

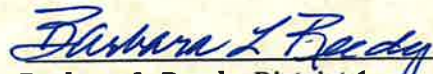
**ADJOURN:** Upon a motion by Chair Smrkovsky the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

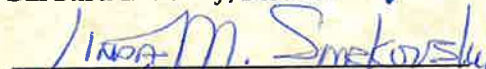
**ATTEST:**

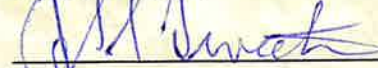
  
Berenda McWright, Luna County Clerk

Approved: 6-9-22

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Barbara L. Reedy, District 1

  
Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2

  
John S. Sweetser, District 3

