

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Thursday, May 25, 2023**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023, in Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting a Special Meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Sweetser called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.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 Commissioners constituting a quorum were present:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2023-2024 FY 112 Preliminary Budget:** County Manager Chris Brice stated that he had gone to the retreat for both Strategic Planning and the Budget as has been done every year. Mr. Brice stated that the new Fiscal Year would be started with a flat budget, this means essentially that the same amount that was requested and given last year will be the same amount received for this new Fiscal Year. Mr. Brice stated that the only difference that there would be is the cost of living for the employees which was discussed and approved by the Commission Board, and any special projects that any of the departments may have. Mr. Brice stated that the Sherrif's office did ask for some new positions and was agreed upon at the retreat for three new positions for deputies. Mr. Brice stated that it was also agreed that there will be a Grant Department which will consist of the Grants Director, Grant Writer/Manager, and an Administrative Assistant to help keep track of the grant money. Mr. Brice stated that a five percent cost of living increase was approved. Mr. Brice explained that the new system for the budget allows the public to see where the money is going online. Mr. Brice stated that the greater majority of the General Fund goes to the Sherrif's Department. The Commission Board looked at what each of the non-profits asked for and what would be given to each.

	Requested Amount	Granted Amount
• Chamber of Commerce-	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00
• Country Club Golf Course-	\$ 25,000.00	\$25,000.00
• Deming Animal Guardians Rescue-	\$25,000.00	\$35,000.00
• Deming Arts Council-	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
• Deming Humane Society-	\$162,000.00	\$162,000.00

• Deming Senior Center-	\$150,000.00	\$160,000.00
• Deming Historical Society-	\$ 40,000.00	\$25,000.00
• La Casa(Healing House)-	\$ 30,000.00	\$30,000.00
• Play Sharity -	\$ 60,000.00	\$50,000.00
• Deming Main Street-	\$ 30,000.00	\$30,000.00
• Silver Linings-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
• State Fair-	\$ 60,000.00	\$35,000.00
• USDA-	\$ 43,250.00	\$43,250.00

Commissioner Chandler motioned to approve the 2023-2024 FY 112 Preliminary Budget as discussed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

- **Amend Resolution 23-42: A Resolution confirming Luna County to Participate in the NMDOT Project Fund (Hermanas Road Truck Route):** Road Department Director David Bailey stated that this Resolution is for a TPF grant that was submitted a few months back. Mr. Bailey stated that in the beginning, the Road Department had applied for seven miles of Hermanas Road which is always in need of repair. Mr. Bailey stated that this project needs to be reset again as part of the truck route that is being done which will be pavement. Mr. Bailey stated that the recommendations from the DOT for approval were that the Road Department do a preliminary design for the entire 15-mile stretch from New Mexico Nine all the way to New Frontier Road. Mr. Bailey stated that the final design is for the seven miles to go under construction in 2025. Mr. Bailey stated that this would be an amendment in a cost increase of about \$200,000 in the TPF grants which the match is only five percent, which is about \$30,000.00. Mr. Bailey stated that these funds would get the Road Department the 15 miles of preliminary design and the seven miles of the final design. Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve to Amend Resolution 23-42: A Resolution confirming Luna County to Participate in the NMDOT Project Fund (Hermanas Road Truck Route). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

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

- County College: Luna County Public Safety May 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting: June 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Mr. Brice stated that at the next Regular Meeting on June 8, 2023, the Commission Board will convene at 9:30 a.m. for Public Comments on agenda items and general public comment. Mr. Brice stated that once the meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. there will be no more public input in order to conduct business and move through the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Alberta Morgan asked about what had been done in the budget for the youth. Mr. Brice Stated that the budget for Starmax has been increased, and funded. Also, the County is getting the final design on the basketball courts, and batting cages. The skate park will be relocated to Starmax, and there will also be a roller skating rink. Mr. Brice stated that he is hoping to go out to construction on this sometime in the Fall. Mr. Brice stated that there is about \$900,000, with a \$250,000 grant that was applied for two years ago.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Trejo motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

Berenda McWright  
Berenda McWright, Luna County Clerk

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Ray J. Trejo  
Ray J. Trejo, District 1

Approved: 6-8-23

Colette M. Chandler  
Colette M. Chandler, District 2

John S. Sweetser  
Chair, John S. Sweetser, District 3

