

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 4:06 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting a Work Session.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Sweetser called the meeting to order at 4:06 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-Not Present  
Colette M. Chandler, District 2  
John S. Sweetser Chair, District 3**

**DISCUSSION ITEM:** Luna County Ordinance 29: Re-establishing a Planning Commission for Luna County. Commissioner Chandler stated that implementing a Planning Commission would be helpful in the sense that having more people would help the Board of County Commissioners in reaching out and talking to more of the community. Ms. Chandler stated that the Planning Commission would only look into things that are asked by the Commissioners and County Manager, and at the same time, the Commission board will have the right to say yay or nah. Ms. Chandler stated that this research information gathered by the Planning Commission would come from actual community members, not people from outside of the community who look at things from a scholastic standpoint. Ms. Chandler stated that this would give community members the feeling that they are doing something to help the community function better. Ms. Chandler stated that she has received phone calls from community members about the concern of having a lot of outside money pouring into Luna County if the County sells land to outside people that are not in any way interested in helping Luna County develop. Ms. Chandler stated that she is very much in favor of giving the community voice outside of just the Commission meetings. County Attorney Charles Kretek stated that if the Planning Committee will be allowed to go beyond planning and zoning that there would have to be a new ordinance put into place for things to be done right. Ms. Chandler stated that the Planning Committee members would have meetings of their own and then report to the Commission Board. Ms. Chandler stated that the Planning Committee would be assigned certain tasks to research and report their findings back to the Board. County Manager Chris Brice stated that the Call to amend Ordinance 29 could be made at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Commission meeting. **(\*Note: Items were presented for discussion only and no actions were taken.)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Sweetser opened the floor to public comment. Phillip Butz, Wesley Light, and Alberta Morgan commented. Mr. Butz, Mr. Light, and Ms. Morgan all spoke in favor of the Planning Commission for Luna County. Mr. Light and Mr. Butz both stated that it would be wise that on the Planning Committee there be farmers, ranchers, realtors, surveyors, appraisers, etc. the more people with land experience the more successful the committee will be.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (unless otherwise specified):

County College: Luna County Planning Department: March 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting: April 06, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN:** Chair Sweetser motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 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: 4-6-23

Colette M. Chandler  
Colette M. Chandler, District 2

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

