

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, August 10, 2023**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023, 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, Assistant to County Manager Yossie Nieblas, Executive Assistant Mayra Hernandez, County Attorney Charles Kretek, Administrative Assistant Grisel Taylor, Emergency Management Director Pablo Montoya, HR Legal Assistant Malarie Villegas, Projects Manager Bryan Reedy, Administrative Assistant Senior Toni Esparza, Clerk Berenda McWright, Probate Judge Diana May-Diaz, Assessor Michelle Holguin, Chief Deputy Assessor Isabelle Enciso, GIS Judy Hatch, Treasurer Kristie Hobbs, Chief Deputy Treasurer Jonathan Richmond, Planning and Zoning Director Lupita Hernandez, DWI Program Manager Edith Vazquez, JJCS Program Manager Anadely Martinez, Sheriff Mike Eby, LCDC Director Lee Cook, Deputy Warden Justin Porter, Road Department Director David Bailey, IT Technician Joseph "JT" Apodaca, IT Tech Nathan Ortberg.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Sweetser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. after 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:

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Chandler motioned to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on July 13, and the Special Meeting on July 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and was unanimously approved.

SERVICE AWARDS: Sheriff Eby presented Sgt. Investigator Kristopher Seats with his pin for five years of service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

- County Manager Chris Brice presented IT Director Elizabeth El-Bizri with a special plaque for her 14 years of dedicated service to the Luna County IT Department.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **JJCS/ JJAC End of Year Program Presentation by Anadely Martinez:** Program Manager Anadely Martinez stated that she heads both of these youth programs for both Luna and Hidalgo Counties. Ms. Martinez stated that the JJCS program provides leadership and advocacy to improve the juvenile justice system. The program provides prevention,

intervention, and mentorship to reduce delinquency. Ms. Martinez stated that the JJCS Program offers help to prevent the youth from going into the Juvenile Justice System. Ms. Martinez stated that the vision is to promote positive family engagement by encouraging the youth and their families to participate in education activities together and increase and improve academic involvement while strengthening family relationships. Ms. Martinez stated that the Boards are composed of 12 members including the Sixth Judicial District Court Judge Delaney who is the Chair of the Board, also a District Attorney, a Public Defender, the Juvenile Probation Office, Protective Services, Public Schools, Mental Health, County Manager Chris Brice, Law Enforcement, etc. Ms. Martinez stated that the members of the Board all work together to come up with effective ideas that can be used to help the Youth in both Luna and Hidalgo Counties. Ms. Martinez stated that JJAC is a CYFD program that offers a program called Strengthening Families. Ms. Martinez stated that the program is made to teach both parents and children to communicate more effectively with each other, such as having dinner together without the electronics, talking about how their day went, and things of this nature. Ms. Martinez stated that the outcome of this program helps the youth reduce the symptoms of depression and aggression, improves co-performance, and also improves pro-social behaviors. Ms. Martinez stated that the program is to also help parents increase supervision and mentoring, increase parenting skills with confidence, reduction of alcohol and substance abuse, and increase positive parenting. Ms. Martinez stated that this year with both counties combined there was a total of 19 referrals, with 18 families graduating successfully, 4 families in Hidalgo and 14 here in Luna County. Ms. Martinez stated that JJAC also offers a Boys Council and Girl's Circle. Ms. Martinez stated that both Boys Council and Girls Circle are programs that are targeted to teach both boys and girls how to have healthy relationships with others. Ms. Martinez stated that the biggest challenge is getting referrals, but they are working on more advertisements, so that the families know what the programs can offer and also they are working on offering more incentives. Ms. Martinez stated that here in Luna County there were about 20 kids that graduated and Hidalgo County had 84 kids that graduated. Ms. Martinez stated that JJCS/JJAC works together with Colores United, Helping Hands, Teen Court, DWI, and a few other distributions. Ms. Martinez stated that the goal this year is to work here in Luna County and they will start off strong next week with a school supply drive. She asked if anyone in the community is interested in helping JJCS/JJAC pass out backpacks with school supplies.

- Luna County Adult Treatment Certifications by Bobby Brookhouser:** Bobby Brookhouser stated that Luna County Adult Treatment Court is a specialized and judicial administrated treatment program that is designed for felony non-violent moderate to high-risk and high-needs defendants with addiction or substance misuse issues. Mr. Brookhouser stated that this program is an alternative for dependents allowing participation in intensive treatment while receiving intensive supervision, ongoing judicial interaction, and mandatory drug and alcohol screening. Mr. Brookhouser stated that case management and the use of court-imposed incentives and sanctions assist in breaking the cycle of substance misuse. Mr. Brookhouser stated that treatments focus on sobriety and accountability as primary goals, and operate with the utilization of substance abuse as a chronic progressive relapsing disorder that can be successfully treated. Mr. Brookhouser stated that the treatment team consists of CEO Angelic Munoz, District Court Judge Jennifer Delaney, Administrative Assistant Ray Chavira, Surveillance Officer Gary Gigante, Life Skills Coordinator Richard Pacheco, treatment Provider Manny Ortega from recovery management, District Attorney's

Office, Public Defender Steve Stevers, Probation and Parole Office and Deming PD. Mr. Brookhouser stated that the team also works closely with Luna County Detention Center, DWI, and JJCS. Mr. Brookhouser stated that the background on certification was an intensive look at the policy manuals and everyday interaction with participants. Mr. Brookhouser stated that Certification is a quality engagement initiative that identifies the measures that agree with the alignment of the treatment court standards which includes evidence-based criteria for assessing quality and identifies for improvement, expansion, and enhancement. Mr. Brookhouser stated that Luna County is one of four Treatment Courts in the state out of 58 Treatment Courts. Mr. Brookhouser, Angelic Munoz, and Judge Jennifer Delaney presented the Board of Luna County Commissioners and Manager Chris Brice with a plaque of honor and gratitude.

- **Opioid Remediation Collaborative updates by David Pato:** David Pato appeared before the commission via web cam. Mr. Pato stated that this program was created because of the opioid remediation funds that were coming in from the litigation. He stated that these funds were going to be restricted. Mr. Pato stated that there were several counties that were represented and they wanted to make sure that they developed an approach that extended these proceeds in accordance with a settlement agreement that was reached. Mr. Pato stated that the three primary goals of this program are to conduct a comprehensive gap analysis of existing harm reduction and addiction treatment and recovery services in each of the participating counties, to identify opioid strategies that can support existing services for sustainability purposes and to identify possibilities and opportunities to fill addiction service gaps, and finally to identify and develop a strong system of care infrastructure to build on recurring strategies based on available planning opportunities.
- **Finley Engineering Broadband Feasibility Study by Tim Arbeiter:** Tim Arbeiter Director of Consulting Services of Finley Engineering was present, and Doug Dawson with CCG Consulting was online for the presentation. Mr. Arbeiter and Mr. Dawson covered issues, engineering, design, and the cost of funding a project like this. Mr. Dawson reported on the recent analysis of Broadband in Luna County. Mr. Dawson stated that this showed the places where Broadband is already working, where Broadband is being promised, and places where broadband is just nonexistent. Mr. Dawson stated that with this analysis there were surveys for residences and businesses, speed tests, and community member interviews conducted. Mr. Dawson stated that the survey showed that 17% of homes do not have Broadband at all, 38% of the people are dissatisfied with speeds, 43% are dissatisfied with reliability, 47% are unhappy with the price, etc. Mr. Dawson stated that there were over 1,300 people that participated in this survey. Mr. Arbeiter stated that Finley Engineering has people that look at, design, and evaluate the technology. Mr. Arbeiter stated that complete data analytics of the County itself are done, for instance, what is already there and what is needed. Mr. Arbeiter stated that the RFP asked Finley Engineering to look at multiple solutions for the grant-eligible pocket areas. Mr. Arbeiter stated that in design considerations the company would look at the potential largest investments.
- **Physical Pen test by Michael Aguilar:** Micheal Aguilar a representative for Secure Works was online. Mr. Aguilar stated that Secure Works recently conducted a Physical Security Assessment for Luna County. Mr. Aguilar stated that during this assessment the company viewed multiple areas within Luna County looking at the general overall perspective that a

threat actor would take trying to gain access to these types of facilities. Mr. Aguilar stated that due to the location of Luna County, the types of interactions and the buildings, the threat actor profile would be somewhat probably aligned more with thievery. Mr. Aguilar stated that the County suffers from the same types of flaws and fixes that a large organization would encounter. Mr. Aguilar stated that nothing that was seen after performing this Pen Test was unexpected given the large nature of the County and the way that things operate. Mr. Aguilar stated that some of the buildings that were tested were the HR, IT, Courthouse, Starmax, the District Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office, Maintenance, LCDC, Sheriff's Satellite Dispatch in Columbus, and the Road Department. Mr. Aguilar stated that none of the findings were of critical nature.

- **Referendums by Representative Jennifer Jones:** State Representative Jennifer Jones reported on the Referendums. Ms. Jones stated that the Referendum is a recall of the bills that have been passed in the Legislative Session and went into law on July 1, 2023. Ms. Jones stated that the recall allows those bills to be placed on the 2024 ballot so that the people can have a voice to decide if they are for or against it. The Legislature passed these bills with overwhelming opposition from the public. Ms. Jones stated that there were over 400,000 emails alone that were sent to Legislatures in opposition to these questionable Bills. Ms. Jones stated that the New Mexico Constitution allows for this recall effort. She stated that it is written in our Constitution that, we people that are Elected Officials, are supposed to serve the public and pass laws and ordinances, and that the people should have a say in the matter. Ms. Jones stated that Bill SP180 an election Bill, forces Counties to use internet-connected Poll books, requires all Special Elections to be performed by absentee voting, removes safeguards around having a minor serve on an Election Board, prevents transparency by blocking the release of election information to the public, allows access by the Secretary of State to voters tax records. Ms. Jones stated that Bill HB4 another Election Bill allows convicted felons to vote immediately upon release even if still on parole, mandates increased use of drop boxes, creates a permanent absentee voter list, and automatic voter registration through the MVD. HB7 and HB207 gives unrestricted access to abortion and transgender services for minors without parental consent. Ms. Jones stated that these bills also strip municipalities of the right to restrict access to abortion and/or gender transition services. Ms. Jones stated that these bills also penalize teachers, nurses, etc. if they interfere with access to abortion and gender transitioning by telling the minors' parents. Ms. Jones stated that SB13 is protection for out-of-state providers and patients who come to New Mexico for abortions and gender-changing procedures. Ms. Jones stated that this violates free speech, protections by silencing electronic communications relating to abortion and transgender procedures. Ms. Jones stated that these Bills give no age restrictions or requirements for parental notification for minors to receive these services. Ms. Jones stated that HB397 increases funding for school-based clinics and expands access to abortion and gender-changing procedures on school grounds. Ms. Jones stated that in order for the Referendum to pass there has to be 10% of voter signatures which is about 1,500 signatures. The signatures are required to get these bills put on the 2024 ballot. Rosela Nanez stated that these petitions are at Dunne's Automotive and Copper Kettle if anyone would like to sign.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable: \$1,456,099.96
- Payroll: \$1,308,551.47
- Oath of Office: Deputy Sheriff Erick Olivas

Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution 23-61: Agreement between Luna County and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments & Appointments of Representatives.** County Manager Chris Brice stated that this is the agreement that is done between Luna County and the Council of Governments every year. Mr. Brice stated that in looking at the form the dollar amounts were incorrect and that the rates have gone up. Mr. Brice stated that all errors would be fixed. Mr. Brice stated that the recommendations for the representatives to the COG are County Manager Chris Brice as the primary, with Chair John Sweetser as the alternate. Mr. Brice stated that for the economic development side of the COG, Christie Ann Harvey as the primary with Executive Administrative Assistant Yossie Nieblas as the secondary. Mr. Brice stated that the RTPO which deals with roads will have David Bailey as the primary and Mr. Brice as the secondary. Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve Resolution 23-61: Agreement between Luna County and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments & Appointments of Representatives. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.
- **Resolution 23-62: Luna County Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY 25-29.** Mr. Brice stated that this resolution is an annual requirement that lists Luna County's top ten projects for Infrastructure that the County would like to see accomplished. Mr. Brice stated that there was a meeting to get input from the public. Mr. Brice stated that everything that the County requests through the COG, Capital Outlay, and Congressionally Directed Spending all have to be reflected in the ICIP. Commissioner Chandler motioned to approve Resolution 23-62: Luna County Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY 25-29. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.
- **Resolution 23-63: Authorizing Submission of an Application to the Water Trust Board for Transitioning of the Operation and Maintenance of the People's Water Co-op Project.** Mr. Brice stated that this is a lease of land obtained by the County from the state. Mr. Brice stated that his property had a well on it and the County put a pump in. Mr. Brice stated that the people in the Keeler Farm area had run out of water, and the County helped set up the water coop. Mr. Brice stated that the County is wanting to submit this application for funding and guidance from the Water Trust Board and maybe take this over to become the utility for the water in this area. Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve Resolution 23-63: Authorizing Submission of an Application to the Water Trust Board for Transitioning the Operation and Maintenance of the People's Water Coop Project. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

- **Resolution 23-64: Unclaimed and Abandoned Inmate Funds:** Mr. Brice stated that this resolution is for whenever an inmate is booked into LCDC whatever money they have on their person is put into an account for that inmate. Mr. Brice stated that once that inmate is released that money was then given back to them in check form. Mr. Brice stated that instead of having uncashed checks floating around, the County would like to just issue a card with the remaining funds. Commissioner Chandler motioned to approve Resolution 23-64: Unclaimed and Abandoned Inmate Funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.
- **Resolution 23-65: Budget Increases:** Mr. Brice stated that this is just to put the line items that were lost in the transitioning of the budget into the online system. Mr. Brice stated that this would be to add those lost line items to the system. Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve Resolution 23-65: Budget increases. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.
- **Recommendation of Freeholders Appointment as Viewers for Abandonment of a Portion of Red Onion Road.** Mr. Brice stated that there was a request from a farmer in the area, Mr. Ethan Wilkins, to abandon a portion of Red Onion Road that runs through a portion of his property, so there is no through traffic. Mr. Brice stated that there will be Viewers these are people that are familiar with the area and with roads. Mr. Brice stated that the Freeholders would go out and look at the road and develop a report to bring back with a recommendation to the Board regarding vacating the road or not. Commissioner Chandler motioned to approve the Recommendation of Freeholders Appointment as Viewers for Abandonment of a portion of Red Onion Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.
- **Luna County Strategic Plan FY24:** Mr. Brice stated that this is the Strategic Plan that was developed as a vision of where the County wants to be in the next few years. Commissioner Trejo motioned to approve Luna County Strategic Plan FY24. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

INDIGENT CLAIMS REPORT: Commissioner Chandler motioned to Recess as a County Commission Board and convene as Claims Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trejo and unanimously approved. County Manager reported that there were six claims for the month of July for a total of \$10,974.17. The total for this calendar year was \$97,625.47. Mr. Brice stated that the Indigent Claims Fund Balance is \$1,746,649.14.

Chair Sweetser motioned to approve the Indigent Claims report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Chandler motioned to recess as a Claims Board and reconvene as a County Commission Board. The motion was seconded by Chair Sweetser and was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT REPORTS:

- Deming Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tarcia Rebeiz reported that the Chamber of Commerce has had four new members since the last report in June. Ms. Rebeiz stated the Chamber of Commerce currently supports 252 businesses and two new Board members have been added. Ms. Rebeiz stated that a new part-time Administrative Assistant has been hired. Ms. Rebeiz stated that The Kingdom of the Suns Awards was a huge success with over 50 people in attendance. The Chamber of Commerce was invited to do the ribbon cutting for the City's new water park that over 600 people attended. Ms. Rebeiz stated that the Chamber of Commerce participated in National Night Out and engaged over 150 people with information about what the Chamber of Commerce does and how it serves that community and other businesses. Ms. Rebeiz stated that the Chamber of Commerce is currently taking registration for the Tournament of Ducks parade which can be done in person or online. Ms. Rebeiz stated that Hello Thursday Morning is being reintroduced which is the Chamber's networking event in September.
- Executive Director Christie Ann Harvey for the Economic Development Council stated that in cooperation with Luna County Manager Chris Brice, they have chosen the Council Chambers to be the next site of the next Boarder Authority meeting. Ms. Harvey stated that this meeting is to take place on August 24, 2023. Ms. Harvey stated that the meeting will begin in a private session from 9:00 am to 11:00 and will be open for the public session from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ms. Harvey stated that one of the guest speakers at this meeting will be Vice President James Johnson of Carzalia Valley Farms Produce. Ms. Harvey stated that Mr. Johnson will be talking about the work he does with regenerative agriculture. Ms. Harvey stated that the second guest speaker will be Russel Johnson who is a very outspoken Advocate for A Better Board. Ms. Harvey stated that along with Mr. Brice, she will be attending Better Boarder for a Better America in El Paso, TX at the Doubletree Hotel. Ms. Harvey stated that this is a Symposium put on by Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Ms. Harvey stated that along with Mr. Brice, they met at Western New Mexico University and had a meeting with Vice President Patricia West and two Directors, James Ortiz and Manny Rodriguez. Ms. Harvey stated that the purpose of this meeting was to charter the path forward on the development of new construction classes to be added to the technical education that is already offered at WNMU. Ms. Harvey stated that as a result of this meeting, a new construction trait program will begin in January. The first two offerings will be framing and drywall in addition to the welding class that already exists. Ms. Harvey stated that these will be college credit classes that will be taught in the space of one semester at a time and a certificate will be issued upon completion of each course. Ms. Harvey stated that as part of the negotiation with KFox TV for a targeted business attraction program is currently developing an Economic Development website. Ms. Harvey stated that StanTech Engineering has completed and delivered the final stamp sign engineering studies for the footing for the large County sign, and also includes stamp plans for LED solar lighting for the sign. Ms. Harvey stated that Ms. Evans Executive Director for Deming Mainstreet has agreed to pay out of funds that have been held in trust for many years as a result of Keep Luna County Beautiful to pay for the engineering as well as the installation of that project.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:

Assessor: Assessor Michelle Holguin stated that the in the Assessor's Office recently received their evaluation back from Property Tax Division. Ms. Holguin announced that there is an opening for County Specialist which the Assessor's Office will be interviewing for and filling that position soon. She reported that she is still in the process of looking at remedies to get aerial imaging software and that there have been three bids depending on the areas that are able to be covered. Ms. Holguin stated that some of the bids were quite costly if the whole County is to be covered. Ms. Holguin stated that she feels this would be very beneficial, not only to her department, but to other departments as well. Ms. Holguin stated that the appraisal staff is busy getting ready for their protest hearings. There are 46 protests and two that will be going to the Protest Board on August 22, 2023. Ms. Holguin stated that Jacqueline Tarazon is now a Certified Appraiser as she passed her final IAAO course. Ms. Holguin stated that her office is now only one Appraiser away from having a fully certified Appraisal Staff. Ms. Holguin stated that her office has completed its budget for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year, and with State Records and Archives Department approval, her office was also able to purge outdated records. Ms. Holguin stated that the Assessor's Office is busy reorganizing the remaining archives.

Clerk: Clerk Berenda McWright stated that the Clerk's Office is now preparing for the Regular Local Election that will be held on November 7, 2023. Ms. McWright stated that the Candidate filing day is August 29, 2023. Ms. McWright stated that the offices that are up for election are the City of Deming one Mayor for a four-year term, one District One councilor for a four-year term, one District four Councilor for a four-year term. Ms. McWright stated that the Village of Columbus will have one Mayor for a four-year term, four Trustees, two for a two-year term, and two for a four-year term. Ms. McWright stated that Caballo Soil and Water District has three supervisor positions, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District has three Supervisor positions, and Deming Soil and Water also has three Supervisor positions. Deming Public Schools District has three Board Members for a four-year term, District 4 for a four-year term, and District 5 for a four-year term, and one Bond Question.

Probate Judge: Probate Judge Diana Diaz stated that there are currently 17 new open probates for a total of 104 for the year, 11 of the probates had no wills and 10 were foreign. Ms. Diaz stated that there were two marriages performed. Ms. Diaz stated that she did attend the New Mexico Board of Directors meeting in Eddy County last Thursday and Friday at their Sheriff's Department office. Ms. Diaz stated that the focus was to have all of the new Board Members know thoroughly the Code of Conduct. Ms. Diaz stated that the Board set the Legislative agenda. Ms. Diaz stated that the Legislative Priorities are in House Bill 2 to continue the Detention Reimbursement Fund, the Detention Recruitment and Retention Fund, and the Prisoner Transport and Extradition Fund. Ms. Diaz stated that the Legislature also wants to make the Rise Funding a behavioral health care initiative to be put in a line item and to increase participation. Ms. Diaz stated that there is also more funding for courthouse renovations. Ms. Diaz stated that the EMS, the Department of Health Energy and Medical Health Services are all underfunded and would like to create a line item to address the underfunding of the EMS. Ms. Diaz stated that there is also an initiative for Detention Retention to do the same thing for Firefighter Retention. Ms. Diaz stated that NACO is wanting to build a Website called Public Lands Resources. Ms. Diaz stated that the Bi-laws for fire and

emergency were approved. Ms. Diaz stated that a judge has been appointed in the case from the General Service Division to help fund the Underfunded Fund. Ms. Diaz stated that the Declaratory Judgement has not yet been set because today the General Service Division will name their Council. Ms. Diaz stated that the next meeting will be held on September 29, 2023.

Treasurer: Treasurer Kristie Hobbs stated that the 2022 Tax Collection as of today is at \$14,488,595.91. Ms. Hobbs stated that due to the Ordinance that was passed, where the taxes had to be paid in advance, a total of \$200,579.57 has been collected to date in 2023. Ms. Hobbs stated that once it comes to distribution time, there would have to be a letter put into place, to explain the increase to the schools, Columbus, City of Deming, etc. Ms. Hobbs stated that these places will receive a very high volume at the beginning of the year in the paid advanced time instead of throughout the year. Ms. Hobbs stated that the State would be here on September 5, 2023, to start working on auctions. Ms. Hobbs stated that this year the State will be bringing in four people to work in Luna County in preparation for this auction. Ms. Hobbs stated that the list of the properties that will be going up for auction will be posted on the State Website 30 days prior. Ms. Hobbs stated that the list will also be posted at the Treasurer's Office and the properties will be marked off as they are paid for. Ms. Hobbs stated that they will be attending the Treasurer's Affiliate all next week. Ms. Hobbs stated that her office will be meeting with Triadic on the new system which will be a full-day meeting to see how it will work. Ms. Hobbs stated that another interest is on how this will work on cannabis accounts because of the cannabis rules FDIC does not insure any cannabis money. Ms. Hobbs stated on Resolution 23-64: Unclaimed and Abandoned Inmate Funds the Treasurer's Office will also be issuing a card instead of an actual check.

Sheriff: Sheriff, Mike Eby reported that for the month of July 2023, there were three burglaries in the following areas; 1800 block of Southwest Camila Rd, 2700 block of Northwest North Lane, and 2600 block of Southwest Canto Rd. Sheriff Eby stated that there were six larcenies in the Following areas, 100 Block of Lewis Lane Rd, 3000 Block of West Second St, 1000 Block of South Zinc St, 3900 Block of Southwest Adobe Rd, 4200 Block of Northwest Cherokee Trail, 2200 block of Southeast Columbus Hwy. Sheriff Eby stated that there were five larcenies of mail in the following areas, 2200 Block of Southwest Torion Rd, 3500 Block of Southwest 8th St, 500 Block of Southeast Yuma Rd, and 1000 Block of Northeast Apache Hills (twice). Sheriff Eby stated that there was one motor vehicle theft in the following area 6200 Block of Southeast Carlota Rd, and one recovered stolen motor vehicle in the following area; Hwy 11 and Sunshine Rd. Sheriff Eby stated that there were two DWIs in the following areas, one arrest at Hermanas Grade and Camila Rd SW. Sheriff Eby stated that there were five Juvenile citations issued at Waterloo Rd. and Hwy 11. Sheriff Eby stated that seven assaults, a total of 159 calls, and 126 of those calls were civil non-criminal calls, 23 were criminal, 8 were motor vehicle accidents, and two were DWI calls.

Commissioners: No comments from the Commissioners were forthcoming.

COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT:

- **Dispatch:** Mr. Brice stated that the Armory is still being worked on which will be where Central Dispatch will be moved to. Mr. Brice stated that the CAD Project which is another major part of Central Dispatch is on track as well.
- **IT:** Mr. Brice introduced Victor Gonzales as the new IT Director.
- **Planning Department:** Mr. Brice stated that Planning and Zoning Director Lupita Hernandez just received an email from the President of NACO selecting her to be on the International Economic Development Committee.
- **Starmax:** Mr. Brice stated that better drawings of the batting cages have been done and that the County decided to put pickleball courts alongside the basketball courts outside of Starmax. Mr. Brice stated that the expansion of the Starmax kitchen, bar, and restaurant area and the incorporation of outdoor seating and bathrooms next to the bar is close to starting as well, and this project is coming very close to being started. Mr. Brice stated that the expansion of the Starmax kitchen, bar, and restaurant area and the incorporation of outdoor seating and bathrooms next to the bar is close to starting as well.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Brice stated that the audit process will begin within the next two weeks and that a good 75% portion of the previous audit has been remedied, with some of the issues not able to be cleared up in time. Mr. Brice stated that the BERM Project in Columbus is on track and should be kicking off in early 2024. Mr. Brice stated that the road project in Columbus should go out for RFP in October. Mr. Brice stated that the County is still looking into how to remodel the plaza buildings to offer more office space and take some of the pressure off some of the Courthouse's main buildings and some of the overcrowded offices.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (Unless otherwise specified):

- County Offices will be closed on September 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day
- Citizen's College: Luna County Clerk's Office/ Probate Judge August 23, 2023, at 5:30 pm
- Public Input Work Session September 13, 2023, from 9:30-10:00 am
- Regular Meeting: September 23, 2023, at 10:00 am
- Luna County Strategic Plan Employee Meeting at Mimbres Valley Learning Center September 14, 2023 at Noon.

Adjourn: Chair Sweetser adjourned the meeting at 12:24 pm

ATTEST:

Berenda McWright
Berenda McWright, Luna County Clerk

Approved: 9-13-23

LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ray J. Trejo
Ray J. Trejo, District 1

Colette M. Chandler
Colette M. Chandler, District 2

John S. Sweetser
John S. Sweetser, District 3

