

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
Thursday, November 9, 2017**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017 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 Ira Pearson, Assistant to County Manager Glory Juarez, Executive Assistant Yossie Nieblas, Luna County Attorney Charles K. Kretek, Chief Deputy Clerk Berenda McWright, Deputy Clerk Myrna Duarte, Treasurer Gloria Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Treasurer Dora Madrid, County Assessor Delilah Rojo, Chief Deputy Assessor Barbara Cobos, Sheriff Kelly Gannaway, Road Department Director Marty Miller and Community Health and Well-Being Director Jecca Jara.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

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

**Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chair, District 2  
John S. Sweetser, District 3**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for today's regular meeting was presented to the Board for approval. Chair Smrkovsky motioned to amend the agenda, adding number 5 A, to number 5. This will include recognition for Veterans Day. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Chair Smrkovsky, which carried unanimously.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:** Treasurer Gloria Rodriguez reported that her department has sent out the 2017 tax bills and 93% of 2016 taxes were collected. The Treasurer's Report is almost balanced, the office is only awaiting two deposits. Mrs. Rodriguez reminded everyone that the tax bills are due November 10, 2017 to December 10, 2017. After December 10, 2017 one percent in penalties will be applied.

Luna County Assessor Delilah Rojo reported that her office had several protests at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Three hotels were rescheduled, three orders were not changed. Mrs. Rojo thanked the Board for hiring Luna County Attorney Charles K. Kretek. Mrs. Rojo was able to attend the Fall Assessor's Conference in Silver City. Mrs. Rojo advised that the Tax Consultant has requested that the County Attorney be present at the December 4, 2017 protest. Mrs. Rojo notified that she has a position open

in her department left vacant by Becky Ramsey who has a terminal illness. The Assessor's Office will not be posting the position until the beginning of January. Sheriff Kelly Gannaway reported that crime statistics for the month of October increased, burglaries are down, one vehicle theft, one recovered stolen vehicle and DWI accidents have decreased. The total value of stolen property is \$39,000 and the value of recovered property is approximately \$10,000. His Department has a position open for Court Security Officer. The department is processing interviews at the moment. A deputy has resigned, making November 13, 2017 his last day with the department. Two Captains traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to pick up a new 2017 Ford. The Sheriff's Department is currently working on preparing older vehicles for auction. Chair Smrkovsky thanked Commissioner Sweetser for attending the New Mexico of Association of Counties Meeting in her place.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Smrkovsky announced to Mr. Larry Caldwell that the agenda was amended to add an announcement in recognition of Veterans Day.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:** County Manager Ira Pearson reported on the following items:

- a. **Dispatch calls for September:** Intake on wireless phone calls are lower than the 2016.
  - Landline 911 Calls- 199.
  - Wireless 911 Calls- 1056.
  - Dispatchers will attend the new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) Training in Las Cruces Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>. Dispatch is going to be on working on the new CAD system along with State Police. The new CAD system will go live December 18, 2017 at 3:00 a.m.
- b. **Detention Center:**
  - LCDC Daily average population for October:

Population Analysis	Male	Female	Juvenile	Total
Number of Inmates Incarcerated	327	67	9	403
Number of Inmates Released	331	59	7	397
Inmate Daily Average Population	284	42	3	329
Inmate USMS Daily Average Population	179	20	1	200
Inmate Local Daily Average Population	104	17	1	122
Inmate Average Length of Stay	45		6	

- Construction is going as planned and looking to be final in May 2018.
  - Walk through of the detention center will be done next meeting in December.
- c. **Road Department:** The department has begun chip sealing and sand sealing on the following roads, Gage Station RD SW, Deming Station RD SW, Pelayo, Scallion RD, Ventura, Dona Ana RD SE, Tapia RD SE, and De Baca RD SE. The Department is currently working on the roads on the north end of town, Keeler RD NW, Overhill Drive, Apache Hills, Highland Drive, Arrowhead, and Tennyson RD. Future Roads to be worked on are New Frontier RD, Prairie RD and Lucca RD. The Road Department almost has all staff trained to be blade operators.

- d. **Leadership Training:** Jessica Etcheverry and Matt Robinson lead a class for 19 employees on November 1, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The training was very successful.
- e. **Maintenance Department:** The department is working with the Safety Department working on the lighting in the county parking lot.
- f. **Starmax:** October sales were \$84,865, sales were lower than October 2016 due to lack of movies. The arcade area is being cleared and getting new entertainment that is family oriented.
- g. **Update on Port Of Entry:** There are many complaints on the by-pass road that was made to detour to the stock yards. The Mayor of Columbus is talking to the contractor to have the by-pass road fixed.
- h. **NM 11 Corridor Study Meeting** will be held November 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting will be held at the Special Events Center 2300 E. Pine St.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Smrkovsky opened the floor to Public Comment: Ray Krecji had questions regarding the investigation of the Luna County Detention Center. Mr. Pearson advised Mr. Krecji that the investigation is being done by the Deming Police Department and we are unable to comment.

Sean Blaine commented on the sign that is located at the front entrance prohibiting weapons into the Luna County Court House. Mr. Blaine also requested that the meetings be held at 1:00 p.m. to allow the public to attend. Chair Smrkovsky advised him the Board is still awaiting for the Governor to appoint a commissioner. At the time that the new commissioner is appointed they will discuss having afternoon and/or evening meetings.

**CONSIDER MINUTES:** Upon motion of Commissioner Sweetser, seconded by Chair Smrkovsky, the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Work Session were unanimously approved. Upon motion of Commissioner Sweetser, seconded by Chair Smrkovsky, the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion of Commissioner Sweetser, seconded by Chair Smrkovsky, the following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved following a roll call vote.

- a. **Accounts Payable: \$1,247,109.12**
- b. **Payroll: \$1,045,151.04**
- c. **Amended Resolution 17-57 Budget Increases**
- d. **Amended Resolution 17-58 Budget Transfers**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chair Smrkovsky reviewed each item on the New Business agenda with the Commissioners:

- a. **Disposal of Assets – Sheriff’s Department Vehicles:** Commissioner Sweetser motioned to approve the disposal of assets listed of the Sheriff’s Department Vehicles. Chair Smrkovsky seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- b. **Discussion of Auctioneering Services:** Chair Smrkovsky suggested management look into the best way to conduct the auction. Mr. Pearson stated the County will have more information as to what, when and how the auction may take place at a later date.

**INDIGENT CLAIMS REPORT:** Upon motion of Commissioner Sweetser seconded by Chair Smrkovsky, the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was unanimously recessed and the meeting of the Indigent Hospital Claims Board convened. Luna County Manager Ira Pearson reported the claims for the month of October 2017 totaled \$5,904.61. Commissioner Sweetser moved to approve the claims dated for October, 2017. Chair Smrkovsky seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Commissioner Sweetser moved to recess as Claims Board and to reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Chair Smrkovsky seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING:** Chair Smrkovsky announced the following upcoming meetings:

- Special Board Meeting November 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
- Work Session December 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
- Regular Meeting December 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

**REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Russ Howell requested the County address the conditions on county roads. She also requested the Board pressure the Governor's Office to appoint a new commissioner.

Larry Caldwell requested the Board to consider the minimum wage in Luna County.

Chair Smrkovsky advised that the County has had a lot of rain and the county does have a new system for the Road Department. She also stated that the Board will put the minimum wage on a work session agenda for discussion.

**ADJOURN:** Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, LUNA COUNTY CLERK

  
(DISTRICT 1 vacant pending appointment by the Governor)

**APPROVED:** 

  
LINDA M. SMRKOVSKY, DISTRICT 2

  
JOHN S. SWEETSER, DISTRICT 3

