

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, May 25, 2017**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 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 County Manager Glory Juarez, County Clerk Andrea Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Clerk Berenda McWright, Deputy Clerk JoAnna Zurinsky, Assessor Delilah Rojo, Chief Deputy Assessor Barbara Cobos, Treasurer Gloria Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Treasurer Dora Madrid, Human Resources Director Danny Gonzales, Budget and Procurement Director Joanne Hethcox, Sheriff Kelly Gannaway, Captain Michael Brown, Administrative Assistant Estella Ortiz, Special Projects and Facilities Management Director Billy Ruiz, Community Projects Director Jessica Etcheverry

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico.

ROLL CALL: Deputy Clerk JoAnna Zurinsky called roll. The following members of the Board constituting a quorum were present:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair Smrkovsky opened the floor to Public Comment: Larry Caldwell came before the Board and stated based on his analysis of Fiscal Years 104 through 106, and the property tax is not pulling their weight as far as the cost of County Government is concerned. Mr. Caldwell used an example of the DFA valuation of FY106 proposed budget of \$594M, which is 1/3rd of the total assessed value. Mr. Caldwell further explained his figures to the Board, and beseeched them to come up with a solution for valuation and to come up with a protocol go outside the assessment value (millage) in some way, and he suggested declaring Pecan Park area, issuing General Obligation Bonds or increasing the Road Tax, otherwise the property tax issue would remain a problem. Mr. Caldwell also stated more needed to be done in the way of social programming. Mr. Caldwell also requested the reimplement of COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) in the budget, and suggested a raise in the Road Tax.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Resolution 17-32 Approving the 2017-2018 Preliminary Fiscal Budget:**
 Commissioner Sweetser applauded the effort of everyone working together to get a preliminary budget. Chair Smrkovsky stated that she was not in favor of the two percent increase pass/fail evaluation Ordinance (number 23), and she would like to see a revisit, and would like to get together with the County Manager and see if something can be done on more of a performance based incentive. Assistant Manager Glory Juarez explained the Evaluation Process in greater detail, and stated that the evaluation process couldn't be revamped by July 1st. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the Board and the County Manager about the feasibility and timeframe of improving and revising the evaluation process in the Personnel Ordinance. Mr. Pearson suggested approving in the budget 'an up to 2 percent increase' and revise the Personnel Ordinance per proper ordinance procedure, in a given timeframe. Chair Smrkovsky stated why she did not like the current evaluation plan, and why she would like to see it revamped. Mr. Pearson stated that he would make it a priority and also summarized small changes on the budget revenue changes of 20k in the Hold Harmless payment, and there was an increase in the payment to the Chamber of Commerce from \$750 to \$2,750. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to Amend and Approve Resolution 17-32 Approving the 2017-2018 Preliminary Fiscal Budget. Chair Smrkovsky seconded the motion which carried unanimously following a roll-call vote.

ADJOURN: Chairwoman Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

ATTEST:

LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Andrea Rodriguez
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, CLERK

ATTENDED/APPROVED TELEPHONICALLY
JOE L. MILO, JR., DISTRICT 1

APPROVED: 6-8-17
by: Berenata Mowbrigt
Chief Deputy Clerk

Linda M. Smrkovsky
LINDA M. SMRKOVSKY, DISTRICT 2

John S. Sweetser
JOHN S. SWEETSER, DISTRICT 3