

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 10, 2017**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in work session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017 in the County Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting a Work Session.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Commissioners constituting a quorum were present:

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

Following the Roll Call a moment of silence was held in honor of Ann ShineRing.

SERVICE AWARDS: Assistant to the County Manager Glory Juarez presented the service award for IT/Planning Judit Ortiz for 5 years of service. Detention Director Chris Brice presented a service award for Nathan Ortberg for ten years of service. Neither Judit nor Nathan were present to accept their awards.

PRESENTATIONS: County Manager Ira Pearson administered the Oath of Office to newly hired Detention Officers.

William Bayne Anderson of the Luna County Historical Society gave a presentation regarding the three elements of the Historical Society which include the Museum, The Custom's House and the Archives. He stated that they have partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a facebook page which has increased the attendance for the Museum. Museum Executive Director Susanne Stuart also spoke about the activities and advertising that is going on for the Museum. She reported the museum averages about 10,000 visitors per year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Local resident Larry Caldwell gave a presentation regarding the Luna County Taxation Process. He provided a written analysis regarding the difference between the property tax and gross receipts tax that is collected by the County. Mr. Caldwell stated that property tax is not holding up its end of the bargain and requested the commissioners do something about it. County Assessor Delilah Rojo explained that property values cannot be increased to raise taxes per state statute other than 6% every two years if the market analysis allows it and the mill could not be increased without the approval of DFA.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DISCUSSION ON REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: The Amended Joint Power Agreement NM Cap Entity was brought up for discussion. Chair Smrkovsky stated Luna County is a member of NM Cap Entity and when they voted to be part of the cap entity it was not to say they promote the Arizona Water Settlement Act but to ensure Luna County has a seat at the table. Commissioner Sweetser stated there is a slight change to the agreement that makes it legal to investigate the possibility of using a mining company's infrastructure to get water. The following concerned citizens came before the board and spoke against the amended joint powers agreement: Larry Caldwell, Joel Chinkes, Reverend Manuel Ibarra, Walter Hoefer, Margaret Fairman and Maria Garten.

*(*Note: Items were presented for discussion only and no actions were taken.)*

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no time for public input.

ADJOURN: Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Andrea Rodriguez,
Luna County Clerk

(Vacant pending Governor's Appointment), District 1

Approved: September 19, 2017



Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2



John S. Sweetser, District 3

