

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, February 14, 2019**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019 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 9:03 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

ROLL CALL: Deputy Clerk Pilar Salcido called roll. The following Commissioners constituting a quorum were present:

**Barbara L. Reedy, District 1
Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chair, District 2
John S. Sweetser, District 3**

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. **Swearing in of New LCDC Cadets:** LCDC Sargent Gallegos introduced the 13 new cadets and District Judge Delaney swore them in.
- b. **Retirement of Pete Loya:** LCDC Sargent Gallegos presented to Pete Loya a shadow box memorabilia for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Luna County Detention Center.
- c. **Safety Award Presentation:** Interim County Manager Glory Juarez presented Luna County with a Workman's Comp Safety Award of \$7,000 from NMAC to invest back into safety training and materials as necessary for the next fiscal year. Ms. Juarez thanked Mark Jasso and the safety committee for coordinating the safety programs, she also mentioned that the County works very hard on promoting safety within this organization.

SERVICE AWARDS: Sheriff Kelly Gannaway presented awards to the following LCSO individuals:

- Arthur Clark Smith LCSO 5yrs
- Laura Garcia LCSO 20yrs
- Valerie Tyler LCSO 5yrs
- Michael Brown LCSO 10yrs
- Thomas Eby LCSO 20yrs

Treasurer Gloria Rodriguez presented a 10 year pin to Kristie Hobbs.

PUBLIC INPUT: John Surra lives at 9585 La Bajada Road west of the Columbus Highway and north of Sunshine Road. Mr. Surra came before the board with complaints regarding his neighbor. He stated that for the past month, he has been concerned with a local farmer whom has changed from using an electric water pumping to using pumps with engines which run on natural gas. The farmer

has installed four so far and in the last four weeks one of the engine pumps have run continuously twenty four hours a day, which has caused a constant humming sound all night long. Mr. Surra stated that he recently filed a complaint with the Code Enforcement to no avail and asked for help from the County Commission.

Judy Hogan whose address is 3585 Sunshine Road also came before the board with the same complaint. She mentioned that machines have been running non-stop for a month and she hasn't had a decent night sleep in that time. Ms. Hogan has asked for some kind of provision for noise in Luna County, she feels her paradise on earth has been shattered with this constant noise. Ms. Hogan also mentioned the noise from the road is running at 80 disables and in her drive way it is running at 50-60 disables which she feels is unacceptable. Because her son works nights at the hospital she wants the noise back to a whisper silence like it was when they bought her property. She asks that they all work together to find a solution, be good neighbors and put the neighborhood back to what it was prior to the engine running pumps.

Eric Bardrof whose address is 2850 Yuma Rd SW, mentioned he is also concerned about the unending noise that has developed into their neighborhood. He stated he moved here because of the quiet beautiful area. Mr. Bardrof said they have Human Resources engines running 24/7. Mr. Bardrof mentioned that if the farmer had a decent muffler system in place the engines could be quiet and complained there hasn't been any effort whatsoever to quiet these engines down. He feels the noise has been a substantial change to the neighborhood which does a substantial job at derogating their quality of life.

Russ Howell extended an invitation to the Commissioners to attend a meeting on March 9th. Ms. Howell mentioned the meeting is not a political meeting, but a concerned citizens of Southern New Mexico meeting. Ms. Howell stated the purpose of the meeting is to to make everyone aware of the effects that illegal immigration has on citizens of Southern New Mexico and Arizona. Concerns being discussed at the meeting will be health issues, drugs, sex trafficking, animal disease, contamination and personal safety.

Page Latham whom is from Deming and a farmer mentioned that the situation with the wells is unnecessary and over the top.

Connie Valenzona lives in the Dove Meadow Estates and has been trying for a year and a half to get the County to accept maintaining the roads in this subdivision. Ms. Valenzona mentioned that Mr. Bolten the developer of Dove Meadow Estates didn't have enough foresight in his plans after developing the subdivision to continue maintenance. Ms. Valenzona also mentioned that the subdivision hasn't had any road maintenance in eight years and she feels that whenever a development is approved a bond should be required for future road maintenance.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DISCUSSION ON REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: The Luna County Board of County Commissioners presented the Regular Meeting Agenda items for presentation and discussion by attending members of the public. (**Note: Items were presented for discussion only and no actions were taken.*) The following agenda items were discussed:

Chair Smrkovsky asked for explanation in regards to the Budget Resolution 19-11 item (1) for the Sherriff Office. Budget & Procurement Director Joanne Hethcox explained she adjusted this item with a decrease in an effort to get the line item correct as they had expended some grants last year that

were carried over this year. Ms. Hethcox cleared that amount out and then added this year's new grant agreement amount in, she also mentioned this grant is for all the traffic safety programs.

Interim County Manager Glory Juarez brought to the attention of the Commission, Consent Agenda item g, Resolution 19-11 Budget Increases. She stated that in 2018 a discussion occurred regarding the addition of a Human Resource Assistant position. The Commissioners had approved the resolution with the exception of the addition to Human Resource Department. Ms. Juarez mentioned she has put that back on the agenda as the Human Resource Department is still in desperate need of assistant position. Ms. Juarez explained that as Mr. Kretek has had to take on more of the role in legal matters, he hasn't been able to engage himself in the daily Human Resource issues. Ms. Juarez stated the funding mentioned is just for the fiscal year, with the intent to add the position in the upcoming new fiscal year's budget. Ms. Juarez explained that in 2018 Human Resource processes were changed in an attempt to streamline Human Resource instead of letting all the department heads do their own hiring, firing and interviewing, which Ms. Juarez feels can be a huge liability to the County. Currently the Human Resource Director, which is a one person show, is responsible for the hiring selection, interviews, orientation, support to the employees and departments, coordinates training, on-boarding, off-boarding, reprimands, unemployment claims the list goes on and on. We have currently switched to personnel action forms where every decision made in regards to an employee has a form backing the action up and will be kept in the personnel file for easy access. Commissioner Sweetser asked if this department has historically been a one person operation. Ms. Juarez responded that yes this operation has been a one person operation and that the department has had significant issues within the past few years because of that. Ms. Hethcox explained that previously Human Resource and Payroll was all together, and now Human Resource was separated out because the employees have tripled in numbers, the budget has tripled or quadrupled in the 17 years that she has been here. Ms. Hethcox also mentioned that the rules and laws have changed which requires more attention and the amount of paperwork that is needed to substantiate action has changed and yet the personnel in the Human Resource Department hasn't changed to assist in that at all. Ms. Juarez explained that the Resolution contains several different increases the one being referred to now is item six within the Resolution 19-11. Commissioner Sweetser asked how much money is involved, Ms. Juarez explained to get to this fiscal year its \$17,320 and with benefits and all involved its \$52,000. Chair Smrkovsky requested that the position be advertised in the Deming Headlight that she feels we may be missing talent because we may not be communicating locally or in all appropriate locations. Ms. Juarez and Ms. Hethcox explained that advertising in the Headlight is very expensive and the personnel ordinance no longer mandates the County to advertise in the Headlight for job openings. Commissioner Reedy suggested the position be advertised similar to the manager's position. Further discussion ensued regarding the advertising and hiring processes.

Ms. Juarez requested to discuss Resolution 19-10 from the Consent Agenda, which involves the DWI Grant. Ms. Juarez explained this is routine documentation for this next fiscal year grant approval. Ms. Juarez also mentioned the New Business item concerning the appointment of members to the Multi-Line Membership Pool and Workers' Compensation Membership Fund. Ms. Juarez explained that the Board previously expressed wanting to wait until we had a permanent County Manager in place before making a decision, however, Kiki Arellano from the NMCA has encouraged the County to appoint members and not wait.

ADJOURN: Upon motion made by Commissioner Sweetser and a second made by Commissioner Reedy. Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

ATTEST:



Andrea Rodriguez, Luna County Clerk

Approved: March 14, 2019



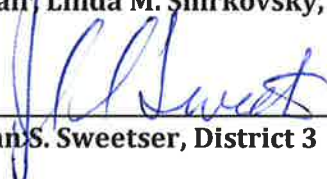
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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Barbara L. Reedy, District 1



Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2



John S. Sweetser, District 3