

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Friday, February 22, 2019**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019 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: IT Technician Henry Bukurson, Attorney Charles Kretek, Clerk Andrea Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Assessor Isabelle Enciso, and Administrative Assistant Erica Carlos.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico.

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT: Chair Smrkovsky opened the floor for Public Comment. Leanna Rossi spoke on behave of Resolution 19-13. Ms. Rossi feels in a short few months we have gone from being masters of our own destiny through the Representatives to being slaves. Ms. Rossi mentioned this County is law abiding, God fearing and gun toting and the County must stand up and say this is wrong.

Carlos Poblet commented that he is a proud American Citizen whom was born in Argentina. He mentioned his father was a military man who had to flee from Argentina because of political issues in that Country. Mr. Poblet said he learned from his father the ability to defend oneself, after seeing in Argentina that many individuals could not defend themselves, which he thought was horrible. When they immigrated to the United States they lived in Chicago and he has learned to love this Country. Mr. Poblet stated that he values the right for people to be able to defend themselves and we must look at the Second Amendment as self-protection.

Alexander May mentioned he is a 38 year police officer who is now disabled and can no longer return to work. Mr. May believes we need to be specific in our resolution and would like to see something like this added to it "Whereas the transfer of any firearm between lawful citizens not otherwise prohibited by federal laws shall not be infringed and record keeping of any fire arms serial number shall not be mandated. Any person victimized by theft of a fire arm or other unlawful act committed against them and violation shall not be held criminally or civilly liable against them." Mr. May also mentioned that Federal law already prohibits a certain class of people not to have a firearm and these laws have nothing to do with the health welfare or the safety of every Luna County resident other

than criminalize him when he gifts a firearm to his brother or loans a firearm to the Sherriff. Mr. May asked the Chair and Commissioners to add this little part into the Resolution and take into consideration that they work for the public.

Gwyn Ruebush mentioned that the New Mexico Bill of Rights Article 2 Section 2 says that all political power invested in and derived from the people and that all government of right originates with the people is founded upon their will and instituted solely for their good. Ms. Ruebush asked the Commission to please listen to the people of this County.

Mike Meyer mentioned he is Master Sargent Retired in the US Air force. He came here to get away from the politics of DC. Mr. Meyer said that when he was in DC President Obama commissioned the CDC and the FBI to look at a claim made by a pro-gun person named John Lott who claimed that 2.5 million people were saved in a year because of the use of a guns. Mr. Meyers mentioned that CDC and FBI came up with results claiming 2.1 and 2.3 million people were actually saved yearly by the use of guns. Mr. Meyers indicated that he gets irritated when he hears "if it saves one life" because with guns your saving 35 lives to everyone that is lost, this study was done by people who were anti-guns believers.

Rick Holdridge stated that he was born and raised in Deming and had two issues to talk about. One is somewhat philosophical, we often hear about the Second Amendment being used so we can go hunting and so that we can protect our homes, which is true. He stated that the primary reason our founding fathers created the Second Amendment was to protect ourselves from the Government. The second thing is practicalities. Mr. Holdridge feels there is a problem with these many laws going through the State Legislature. There is no data provided that crime statistics will change. Another thing is our Legislature doesn't realize that when laws are made, maybe a criminal may not get access to a gun, but what is happening is they force millions of normal law abiding citizens into having to make the decision to either break the law intentionally and with thought or to follow a law which they do not believe in.

T.B. Sanders mentioned that the laws under consideration strike him as being unconstitutional they are against the Second Amendment.

Mike Jackson expressed his opinion that some of the laws being considered are an evasion of our Second Amendment rights and he believes schools should be armed.

Rex Gardner mentioned that the law wouldn't be his law if he wouldn't be able to give his guns to his kids. Mr. Gardner asks that we keep the Second Amendment and our freedom.

Cliff Denshire commented that today we all have the opportunity to choose which side of the Constitution we are going to stand on, the side with the founding fathers or the socialist currently occupying the Round House and Governor's Office. He also mentioned that the Second Amendment is very simple yet brilliant. The last four words of the Amendment says "shall not be infringed" Bills HB 8, 9 and 83 and SB 8 infringe on our rights to keep and bear arms. Mr. Denshire hopes the Commissioners have the courage to join the 14 other Counties and make Luna County a Sanctuary County and with that sending a message to Santa Fe that New Mexico does not support Socialism.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Resolution 19-13 - Recognition of Second Amendment Rights:** Chair Smrkovsky read Resolution 19-13 to the public. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to adopt Resolution 19-13 Recognition of Second Amendment Rights. Commissioner Reedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Reedy motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sweetser and carried unanimously. Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

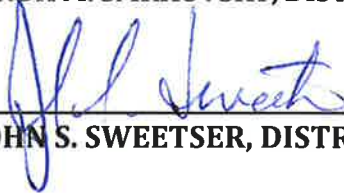
**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**


ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, CLERK


BARBARA L. REEDY, DISTRICT 1

APPROVED: March 14, 2019


LINDA M. SMRKOVSKY, DISTRICT 2


JOHN S. SWEETSER, DISTRICT 3

