

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thursday June 13, 2019**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 13, 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**

SERVICE AWARDS:

- Joe Padilla from Economic Development was presented his five year pin by Patsy Rodriguez.
- Cody Owens from the Road Department was not present to receive his five year service pin.
- Felipe Chavez from Maintenance Department was not present to accept his ten year service pin.

PRESENTATIONS:

- a. **NM Highway 11 Corridor Study Update by Wilson & Co.:** Mario Juarez-Infante gave an extensive update on the NM Highway 11 Corridor. Mr. Juarez went over the project overview study area, process and schedule, purpose and need, goals and objectives, who the steering committee is and the alternatives being evaluated in the next steps. Mr. Juarez confirmed the next public meeting regarding this topic will be held in Deming on July 16th at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Commissioner Sweetser asked Mr. Juarez who would make the final decision on this project. Mr. Juarez responded that the steering committee is an advisory committee and the New Mexico Department of Transportation "NMDOT" ultimately makes final decisions. The NMDOT makes sure the project is within the guidance and compliance of the location study procedures. He also mentioned that if DOT is not in agreement with the project they cannot move into the next phase. County Manager David McSherry mentioned that most of the 36 miles of this corridor lie within Luna County and if this Board of Commissioners does not buy into the end product, they will not support the project when it is presented to the NMDOT. He also mentioned that the updates on the Luna County website regarding this study seem to be two years behind. Mr. Juarez agreed to work with the County to update the website. The public is concerned communication is not getting out regarding meetings being held pertaining to NM Highway 11 Corridor Study.

- b. **Land Port of Entry Diversion Berm Update by Wilson & Co.:** Mario Juarez gave an update on the LPOE Diversion Berm. Mr. Juarez mentioned key milestones are materializing the first week of July. The following plans will be submitted:
 - a. Phase one encompasses the west diversion berm west of NM 11
 - b. Phase two is the bridge on NM 11
 - c. Phase three is the channel improvement downstream of NM 11 on the eastside
- c. **Farm and Range Improvement Fund Program by Deming Soil & Water Conservation District:** Rick Holdridge gave an extensive presentation on what the Farm and Range Improvement Fund Program "FRIF" is about. Mr. Holdridge explained they are an elected body who coordinates soil and water conservation efforts working both with producers and the federal government. He explained that part of the money paid to Bureau of Land Management "BLM" by the ranchers is returned to the State to be used for improvement of the land. BLM sends money to the County and the County divides that money between two organizations, the FRIF program and Animal Damage Control. FRIF allows land owners and anyone who has a BLM lease to apply for this money twice a year, which can be used for either BLM, State or private land improvements. Mr. Holdridge asked the Board to think of them during the budget process and to remind them that their return on investment is high and is very well spent by FRIF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were forthcoming.

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:

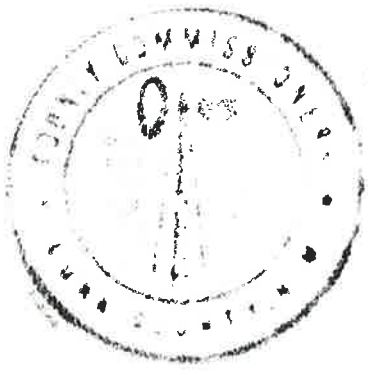
Commissioner Reedy asked the County Manager David McSherry if the homeowners at the Dove Meadows Subdivision agreed to pay for the road improvements as discussed at a previous meeting. County Manager David McSherry explained that they are in the middle of the Dove Meadows project and that the County has taken the first step in smoothing the roads for evaluation purpose. He also mentioned they will now evaluate the road conditions and see how they will fit to the existing County Road Ordinances. Mr. McSherry explained that notifying the homeowners in the Dove Meadows subdivision will be part of the evaluation process. Marty Miller explained that the two miles of road at the Dove Meadows Subdivision was included in the certified mileage which makes it the responsibility of the road maintenance department. Ms. Reedy mentioned that there is at least one homeowner in the Dove Meadows Subdivision that is not willing to pay for any road improvements. Mr. Miller explained that the State considers the road in question as a Certified County Road since it was added to the Road Mileage for the year so Luna County is now responsible for maintenance and also the drainage of the road. County Manager David McSherry clarified that the ordinance needs to be reviewed and updated, he plans to give recommendations to the Board in the near future.

ADJOURN: Upon motion made by Commissioner Sweetser and a second made by Commissioner Reedy. Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

ATTEST:

Andrea Rodriguez
Andrea Rodriguez, Luna County Clerk

Approved: July 12, 2019



LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara L. Reedy
Barbara L. Reedy, District 1

Linda M. Smrkovsky
Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2

John S. Sweetser
John S. Sweetser, District 3