

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2018 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: Chief Deputy Clerk Berenda McWright 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: There were no service awards presented.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DISCUSSION ON REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: The Luna County Board of County Commissioners presented the Regular Meeting Agenda items for discussion only no actions were taken. The following agenda items were discussed:

- **Approval of Commission on Aging Board Member – Patsy Leyba:** Chair Smrkovsky questioned if this agenda item should be considered under New Business, rather than the Consent Agenda.
- **Appoint Member to Labor Management Relations Board:** Mr. Pearson explained that John Strand was appointed by the Board to be the representative for Luna County. The Labor Management Relations Board is made up of three members, one is appointed by the County, one is appointed by the Labor Union, and those two appointments appoint a third member. The Labor Union would like to appoint Mark Myers as their representative.
- **Participation in a Class Action lawsuit regarding the right to recover additional sums under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act for FY 2015, 2016, & 2017:** Mr. Pearson explained that one County in another state filed a law suit against the Federal Government and a Federal Judge ruled that the United States Government did owe that County past payments for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The Judge also made it a Class Action lawsuit stating the Federal Government owes back payments to all of the counties in the United States. Luna County is owed approximately \$60,000 to \$80,000 and if the County chose to opt in could possibly get approximately 70% of what is owed back. The County has until September to opt in.
- **Indigent Claims Report:** Chair Smrkovsky asked for some clarification regarding the report which was provided by Joanne Hethcox.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS: Mr. Pearson announced that all of the Elected Officials would have a round table discussion regarding the four day work week. Assessor Delilah Rojo spoke for herself as well as the Treasurer and the Clerk in favor of keeping the four day work week. Ms. Rojo provided several reasons that the four day work week seems to be working. The Title Companies have adjusted and one submitted a letter of support. The working citizens are able to obtain services without having to take time off work. The Assessor's Office is able to do assessments on properties before and after working hours which is very convenient for the citizens who want to be home. Ms. Rojo reported that they have not received any complaints from the public.

Commissioner Reedy stated that since she became a Commissioner the issue comes up all the time. She commended all of the Elected Officials and Department Heads for a job well done and suggested they figure out a way for the Courthouse to stay open on Fridays and still allow the employees to work four ten hour shifts.

Commissioner Sweetser stated that he is not hearing anything new from the Elected Officials regarding the issue. He reported that he has sat in front of the Courthouse for about ten minutes on a Friday afternoon and saw two customers turned away. He also stated that the agenda did not state that the issue would be discussed and the public did not have a chance to participate.


Commissioner Smrkovsky stated that she felt like the public was not properly educated in the beginning and requested the cost savings be reviewed.

PUBLIC INPUT: Alberta Morgan came before the Board and spoke against the County's four day work schedule. She also suggested the County put information in the City utility bills to better communicate with the public.

ADJOURN: Upon motion made by Commissioner Reedy and a second made by Chair Smrkovsky. Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

ATTEST:

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Andrea Rodriguez, Luna County Clerk




Barbara L. Reedy, District 1

Approved: August 9, 2018



Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2



John S. Sweetser, District 3

