

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Monday, September 23, 2019**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 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: County Manager David McSherry, Deputy Manager Byron Hollister, Attorney Charles Kretek, Executive Assistant Laura Garcia, Clerk Andrea Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Clerk Berenda McWright, Assessor Michelle Holguin, Chief Deputy Assessor Isabelle Enciso, Administration Assistant Debra Seats, IT Technician Judy Hatch.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.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 was present telephonically.

**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. No public comment was forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Columbus Flooding Declaration:** County Manager David McSherry asked the Commission to consider approving Resolution 19-50 which is an Emergency Disaster Declaration. Mr. McSherry stated that the recent heavy rainfall in various parts of the County on September 15th caused additional damage to infrastructure and mostly roads. Mr. McSherry provided photos and a description of the damaged areas. Mr. McSherry asked the Board to consider including the Village of Columbus to this Declaration as much of their damaged infrastructure feeds into Luna County's damaged infrastructure.

Eric Kiltz Recovery Officer from the Response and Recovery Bureau of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management from the State of New Mexico came before the Board and reported that a damage assessment was completed last week with the Mayor of the Village of Columbus Esequiel Salas and Luna County Emergency Manager Michael O'Donnell. Mr. Kiltz said the damages sustained qualify the County for State

assistance, he mentioned he believes the threshold amount is in the \$60,000 to \$80,000 range and he is certain Luna County is going to exceed that. In order to actually get State assistance the County needs the approved Declaration and the completed Request for Disaster Assistant, this has already been given to the Emergency Manager Michael O'Donnell. Mr. Kiltz mentioned the State will need an estimate of the financial impact to the County. He stated that when they were out last week assessing the situation, they figured the amount to be about \$150,000, that was before they realized more roads were impacted and not considered in that amount. Mr. Kiltz said they were going out again to get a better firm estimate. The next step would be to figure out where to go to get money to assist the County. Both Luna County and Socorro Counties were impacted. He said the plan is to go to the Governor and ask for an Executive Order. Mr. Kiltz explained the process is not a quick process and it is a reimbursement based process. The County will have to expend funds to fix the roads first, then the County will be reimbursed based on eligible expenses. They reimburse 75% of eligible expenses so the County pays for 25% of expenses.

Chair Smrkovsky entertained a motion to approve Resolution 19-50 Emergency Disaster Declaration. Commissioner Sweetser motioned to approve Resolution 19-50 Emergency Disaster Declaration. Commissioner Reedy seconded the motion with a statement (below) which carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

Statement by Commissioner Reedy:
"I would like to disclose that I have family residing on one of the identified road. My position on the Declaration is not effected or influenced by that fact. My position is based on the numerous reports given in the meeting today and at the Managers office by the NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency and at the request of a Luna County resident"

ADJOURN: Commissioner Sweetser motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reedy and carried unanimously. Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

ATTEST:

Andrea Rodriguez
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, CLERK

APPROVED: 10/10/19

LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara L. Reedy
BARBARA L. REEDY, DISTRICT 1

Linda M. Smrkovsky
LINDA M. SMRKOVSKY, DISTRICT 2

Telephonically Approved - JS
JOHN S. SWEETSER, DISTRICT 3

