

**BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 2018**

UNION COUNTY, NM
DOCUMENT #201800336
04/10/18 11:31:42 AM
1 of 7
BY Brenda Green

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Justin Bennett Commissioner Walter C. Hall Commissioner W. Carr Vincent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clerk Mary Lou Harkins Treasurer Brandy Thompson Sheriff James Lobb
Mgr. Angie Gonzales Assessor Frankie Aragon Superintendent Russell Kear
Emergency Mgr. Dusty Russell Admin Assistant Cheryl Garcia Deputy Sheriff Jody Reeser
Fire Coordinator Jim O'Bryant

GUESTS:

Zachary Osborn - Des Moines EMS Director
Sue Richardson, Reporter - Union County Leader
Terri Martinez, CFO - Union County General Hospital
Tammi Stump, CEO - Union County General Hospital
Bob Williams - Clayton Health Systems Board Member
Judy Steen - Clayton Health Systems Board Member
April Gallegos, Executive Director - Clayton/Union County Chamber of Commerce
Ernest Sanchez - Town of Clayton Mayor
Freddie Rael, President - Union County/Clayton Chamber of Commerce
Clayton Kiesling - 2018 candidate for county commissioner
Tony Naranjo - 2018 candidate for county commissioner
Georgia Sneed - 2018 candidate for county commissioner
Jerrett Gilbreath - 2018 candidate for county commissioner

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order, in the Union County Commissioner's Office, located in the Union County Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the agenda and the regular meeting minutes of February 13, 2018. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Minutes signed.

HOSPITAL REPORT

Tammie Stump, CEO, distributed copies of the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, dated February 13, 2018 (I believe the date to be incorrect and should be that of March", attached as an exhibit. Stump reported on the following: Payor Credentialing Update for Dr. Van Wormer, Dr. O'Rourke, Dr. Khanlian and Jay Fluhman; Physician Recruitment Update, Dr. Weaver; Rural Health Clinic Update with an e-mail attachment from Mike Santillanes of the Department of Health; Business Office/Revenue Cycle Update; Financial Assistance: UCGH Stump thanked Administrative Assistant Cheryl Garcia for the financial assistance education given to hospital staff; Union County Health Fair; Scrub Camp for Students; HQII Hospital Quality Improvement Initiative and Construction Updates; Stump handed out a copy of a notice which will be posted at the clinic registration desk; The Des Moines Superintendent has asked if the

hospital will consider opening the school clinic next year. Stump agreed to look into this and will try to re-open the school clinic hopefully by the middle of next year once Dr. Weaver is in place; Chairman Bennett asked about the increase in member size for the hospital board. Stump relayed that Mrs. Rael has submitted her resignation and one letter of interest as submitted by Craig Reeves. The hospital board voted in favor of his appointment pending county commissioner approval. The hospital board also voted in favor of increasing the board size from five (5) to seven (7) members. The advertisement has been made for letters of interest. Appointments will be made at the beginning of the new fiscal year because of the member position terms.

Terri Martinez, CFO, supplied a copy of the "Clayton Health Systems, February 21, 2017, Notes to Financial Statements, Period Ending January 31, 2017", "Clayton Health Systems, Inc., Union County General Consolidated, Executive Financial Summary, 6 Months FY 2018", attached as exhibits. Martinez spoke regarding, but not limited to the following: income statements, balances, statistics, revenues and expenses. Additionally, Martinez reported that a certified coder has been hired for billing. The next hospital meeting is April 3rd at noon.

At 9:30 a.m., the meeting recessed for the attendance of the Joint Communications meeting. At 11:18 a.m., the meeting resumed.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Zachary Osborn, Des Moines Ambulance - EMS Director hand delivered the "July 2018 – June 2019 Fiscal Year Budget request for Capulin EMS in the amount of \$5,300; Des Moines Ambulance - EMS in the amount of \$14,500; Folsom EMS in the amount of \$16,500; and Grenville Rescue in the amount of \$15,000. Osborn reported on various unplanned expenses, number of indigent claims, and thanked the board for past support.

Freddie Rael, President - Union County/Clayton Chamber of Commerce Rael voiced concerns for local veterans and their healthcare needs and, stated that the Tricare issue at the hospital is very concerning because this will force veterans to travel elsewhere for care. Rael asked if the hospital accepted the Choice Program which is also a veteran's program. **CHS Hospital Board member Steen** stated that veterans can get services at the hospital.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

CLAYTON HEALTH SYSTEMS BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION

Chairman Bennett reported that the person nominated by the hospital board was Craig Reeves. Last month's meeting packet contained a letter of interest as submitted by Reeves. The replacement is required to fill a vacancy.

Commissioner Vincent moved to confirm the appointment of Craig Reeves to the Clayton Health Systems Board. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Board Member Steen will provide a copy of the term limit schedule for board members. Mgr. Gonzales will also contact CEO Stump for the schedule.

RESOLUTION #106-32 ROAD AUDIT

A proposed resolution certifying that Union County has 1, 188.99 miles of county-maintained roads was reviewed. Superintendent Russell verified that the list was in good standing.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution #106-32 2018 Road Audit with the attached "Union County Maintained Route Description for Annual Certified County Maintained Mileage Report Year 2017". The audit is complete to the best of the board's knowledge. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Resolution signed.

RESOLUTION #106-33 ANNEX MEETING ROOM RULES

A proposed resolution authorizing and approving a policy for the use of the meeting room located in the Union County Courthouse Annex was reviewed and discussed. The resolution included an attached Rules and Regulations for the Neighborhood Facility Meeting Room.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution #106-33 Annex Meeting Room Rules with the attached Rules and Regulations for the Neighborhood Facility Meeting Room. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Resolution signed.

RESOLUTION #106-34 GALLEGOS WIND FARM - DON CARLOS RIDGE

A proposed resolution permitting (up to December 31, 2022) Gallegos Wind Farm, LLC to construct a phase of the Gallegos Wind Farm in western Union County, along a portion of the Don Carlos Ridge, to consist of no more than 180 MW of wind turbines and infrastructure; and Lucky Corridor, LLC wants to also construct the Mora Line; and a portion of the wind project's gen-tie in western Union County, which is planned as a 115 kV line, to carry the electricity toward an interconnection point with Public Services Company of New Mexico at a point near Las Vegas, NM. Union County would permit, approve and allow the construction of the portions of the Mora Line transmission project and the wind farm gen-tie subject to compliance by Lucky and with all existing local, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, and statutes was reviewed and discussed. Union County would extend its full support to the Gallegos Wind Farm and the Mora Line transmission project owned by Lucky Corridor, LLC to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution #106-34 Gallegos Wind Farm - Don Carlos Ridge. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Resolution signed.

Road Superintendent Kear reported that he has had no further contact with Lynn Greene, CEO of Lucky Corridor, LLC, and he has not bladed the road from the Gladstone Mercantile to the Triple M Ranch. A tour of the wind farm is tentatively scheduled during the first week in April. If the tour is scheduled, Mgr. Gonzales will advertise for the quorum accordingly.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION FUND APPLICATION

An application for requested distribution in the amount of \$22,400 for Class 1 Municipalities and Counties pursuant to Chapter 29, Article 13, NMSA 1978 for the July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019, Fiscal Year was reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Law Enforcement Protection Fund Application. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Application signed by Chairman Bennett and Sheriff Lobb.

CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Chairman Bennett reported on his attendance at the last regular school board meeting and gave an update on the Kiser School Building disposition. Chairman Bennett was able to express frustrations and told the school board that the county will move on if need be. Commissioner Vincent also expressed his dissatisfaction with the school board; Superintendent Kear reported that a request was made to move a pile of debris, which is east of the Jr. High; it has been recommended by the county attorney, Stephen C. Ross, that the county should undertake any inspections that may be warranted and recommends that the roof, heating and cooling and an asbestos check be done at a minimum before any documents are signed. Ross also strongly suggested a Phase I environmental survey. Mgr. Gonzales stated that architect, Dave Little, will be able to assist with the property inspection.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and discussed bills in the amount of \$223,094.00, plus a single remaining bill from C&J in an amount less than \$20,000 which is to be paid out of mill levy monies.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the payment of bills in the amount \$243,094.00. Commissioner Hall seconded. There being no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

At 12:00 p.m., the meeting recessed for lunch. At 1:36 p.m., the meeting resumed.

ROAD CROSSING PERMIT

Permit number 280 was reviewed and is for the purpose of allowing Permittee (E.N.M.R. Telephone Cooperative) to lay pipe or cable for the purpose of laying fiber optic telecommunication lines longitudinally along Holland Road. Superintendent Kear reported that he is okay with the permit.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve road crossing permit 280. Commissioner Hall seconded. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Permit signed.

INVENTORY ITEMS DISPOSITION

No auction items presented for disposition.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Approval of Claims

No claims were submitted for approval.

COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS

The following employees reported/requested travel approval: **Emergency Manager Russell** attended an emergency manager conference; **County Clerk Harkins, Deputy Green, Deputy Gonzalez, and Technician DeHererra** will be attending election school in Albuquerque on March 25-28th; **Chairman Bennett, Commissioner Vincent, Treasurer Thompson, Deputy Assessor Trujillo and Mapper Cruz** may attend the District Legislative Update meeting in Las Vegas on March 27th (if quorum of commissioners attend, mgr. will advertise); **Commissioner Hall** will attend the NERTPO (Northeast Regional Transportation and Planning Organization) meeting in Eagle Nest on the 28th; **Chairman Bennett** will attend an LFC hearing for extension services in Santa Fe on March 28-29th; Mgr. Gonzales will be attending a refresher on the Local Government Management System on April 3rd. All travel approved.

UNION COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN WITH NM ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT

The New Mexico Finance Authority Application for Local Government Planning Fund was signed and was previously discussed, and approved at the last regular meeting.

ORDINANCE #5 DOG ORDINANCE REVIEW

Ordinance No. 5, regulating the owning, keeping, impounding and disposition of dogs in the interest of public health, safety or welfare of the County of Union, and providing penalties for the violation thereof was discussed. Ordinance #5 was passed on January 7, 1980. Discussion followed on county obligations and state laws. Deputy Reeser gave his opinion and recommendation on behalf of the sheriff's office. Chairman Bennett acknowledged valid points and updated language and suggested that county staff be allowed a couple weeks to review and comment on the ordinance before sending it to the county attorney with suggestions for update/modification. Sheriff Lobb asked that the attorney verify that they may shoot and kill a dog/animal that is harming livestock, without liability issues because of the state laws that may affect this ordinance. Commissioner Hall commented that the at-large dog issue is a problem, and recommended keeping an ordinance to protect the sheriff's department. Item tabled.

BUDGET 2019 WORKSHOP

Mgr. Gonzales handed out copies of the preliminary department budgets; reported that she has received requests from the bookmobile, New Mexico State University, sheriff's Law Enforcement Protection Fund, all of the Emergency Medical Services, Des Moines Sr. Citizen Center and possibly the Union County Community Development Corporation. Chairman Bennett asked that department reports be given followed by budget discussions.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Kear reported on the following: bladed a fire guard for the railroad from Clayton to Des Moines; cattle guard replacement; cattle guards are being built; lots of county equipment maintenance (budget has been hammered with repairs); was going to start this year's projects in the south part of the county, but ran into caliche pit issues and decided to go North to Atencio Road and do the 2nd half out to 370. The other half of Atencio Road is complete; routine road maintenance kept to a minimum because of the dry weather conditions; over the weekend he and a couple road department employees spent time out at Black Mesa fighting fires. The proposed budget remains the same.

Mgr. Gonzales reported that Union County was awarded \$150,000 from the state for road maintenance.

Superintendent Kear reported that his department needs to dispose of piles of old tires and culverts. Discussion followed.

EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

Manager Russell reported that an ambulance PRC Inspection will be held next Wednesday afternoon and will also get a DOT Inspection.

Commissioner Vincent spoke about the communications problems and will be addressing radio etiquette at his next fire meeting. Mgr. Russell agreed that radio etiquette should be implemented, and commented that this was brought to his attention in an attempt to remedy some of the communication problems.

FIRE COORDINATOR

O'Bryant reported during this morning's Joint Communication meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Sheriff Lobb reported on the following: last week a site visit was made by the National Guard Armory Board. Repair will begin on Monday for windows, concrete work, heaters, leaks, and replacement of a motor on the garage door in the sally port; disposition of the building may happen because the National Guard intends on diversifying. Lobb reported on the number of transports, citations, warnings, civil services, offense incidents/crash/accident reports, and various arrests; applications are being reviewed for the deputy position and interviews will begin after background checks are complete; local law enforcement breakfast will be on Friday. A couple of his deputies will be trained by the prison so that they may assist with prison riots; abandoned vehicles which are left on the highways have been discussed with the New Mexico Department of Transportation about who is responsible for the removal of the vehicles. The sheriff's jurisdiction is that of county roads. The department may be liable for tow fees if the owner does not pay. The county attorney intervened and wrote a letter to NMDOT stating that the county was not responsible for the removal of abandoned vehicles off of state highway. The proposed budget was discussed which included a \$2500 increase for possible tow expenses and a raise for the department secretary. The raise was not reflected in the proposed budget. Mgr. Gonzales will add this to the department's proposed budget.

Assessor Aragon reported that the proposed budget is nearly the same, and includes an increase of \$1,000 for a new computer(s); on the Reappraisal portion of the budget, an increase was made to reflect the certification increase by \$1500 for Hollie Cruz and an increase of \$100 for office supplies. Windel Neely, Oxy Senior Tax Specialist, will be here on Wednesday the 21st to go over everything that has been rendered so that everyone is on the same page. Notice of Values will be mailed out next week.

Treasurer Thompson commented that the proposed budget will remain the same.

Clerk Harkins reported that village and municipal elections are being completed; Primary Election declaration day was yesterday and twelve (12) candidates were qualified; completion of another digitizing project for deed books 44-63 and Oil & Gas books 15-23; index complete for DD214's; last year's numbers include one election, 1,087 document recordings, 43 marriages and 13 probates. The proposed budget remains the same.

Commissioner Vincent reported on the attendance of the RC&D meeting. The RC&D may have monies available to bring an entomologist to Union County from the New Mexico State University to study the current infestation of Broom Weed for prevention purposes; promotion of the local Clayton High School woodworking class was suggested, as well as, the possibility of the sale of quality wood projects produced by the students; the possibility of securing Industrial Revenue Bonds for a housing development in the name of economic development was suggested.

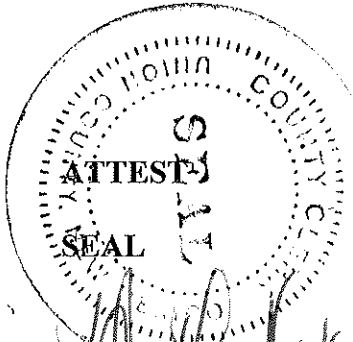
Commissioner Hall reported that he attended the Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NERTPO) meeting in Santa Rosa on February 28th; structural problems which exist at the Rabbit Ear Fire Department were discussed and he suggested three (3) estimates for repairs. Mgr. Gonzales reported that an estimate is in the works, and an insurance adjuster was on site yesterday. The building's property maintenance continues to be a concern of Hall's, and he suggested that the waist-high grass is mowed in the back. If the county does not need the building any longer, he suggested that options be explored or be sold. Commissioner Vincent concurred with Hall and suggested that once the building is emptied and repaired, that availability is advertised. On another note, Hall will be reaching out to U.S Representative Pearce about the lack of cooperation and lack

of utilization of resources of the Bureau of Land Management/forest service. Chairman Bennett suggested that if Hall can arrange so that a representative of Pearce can appear at a regular/special meeting that this topic is added to the agenda.

Chairman Bennett reported that Union County entered Level II drought effective January 1st, and proceeded to comment on the current farm bill and the livestock feed program.

Meeting Announcements: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communications meeting date is pending.

ADJOURN: At 3:37 p.m., Commissioner Vincent moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Mary Lou Hartins
Mary Lou Hartins - Clerk

**Board of County Commission
Union County, New Mexico**

Justin K. Bennett
Justin K. Bennett - Chairman

Walter C. Hall
Walter C. Hall - Vice Chairman

W. Carr Vincent
W. Carr Vincent - Member