

BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Justin K. Bennett Commissioner Clayton F. Kiesling

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clerk Brenda Green Manager Brandy Thompson Assessor Hollie Sandoval
Sheriff James Lobb Sheriff Sergeant Curtis Skaggs
Emergency Manager Kris Lawrence

GUESTS:

Melissa Prante – CFO, Union County General Hospital
Shawn Nethery – CCO, Union County General Hospital
Carr Vincent Red Miller Joe Reeser
Frankie Aragon

At 8:58 a.m., Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order in the Commission Chambers located in the Union County Administration Building. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to suspend Roberts Rules of Order, due to the absence of Commissioner Hall. Chairman Bennett stepped down as Chairman, and seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL Aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the agenda and the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2022. Commissioner Bennett seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. The minutes were signed.

HOSPITAL REPORT

Tammie Stump, CEO, was unable to attend the meeting, Melissa Prante, CFO, reported on statistics for September. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, October 4, 2022", was distributed to the board. Items covered included the following (but not limited to the following): **Provider Recruitment Update; Financial Assistance/Compliance Update; Business Office/Revenue Cycle Update; Compliance; Radiology; Plant Services; Therapy Services; Pharmacy; Union County/Des Moines Health Centers; IT; HVAC/Vestibule/Cryogenic Tank 3000 gallon/Grade Survey.**

Shawn Nethery, CCO, reported on statistics for September. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Shawn Nethery, CCO, October 3, 2022", was distributed to the board. Items covered included the following (but not limited to the following): **Social Work; Home Health Care Report; Laboratory Services; Pharmacy; Clinical/Quality Updates.**

Melissa Prante, CFO, reported on financials for August. Before the meeting, the "Clayton Health Systems, Inc. Union County General Consolidated Executive Financial Summary, 2nd Month FYE 2023, and the "Clayton Health Systems October 3, 2022 MOR Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period ending August 31, 2022", was distributed to the board. Items covered included the following (but not limited to the following): **Key Statistics; Statement of Revenue and Expenses – YTD; Balance Sheet.**

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF WAIVER FOR HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBER ONE YEAR BREAK

Union County General Hospital's by-laws currently require a termed-out board member to sit out for one year before being able to serve again as a board member. The board has approved changing the by-laws to remove that requirement. The change also has to be approved by the Board of County Commission.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the removal of the one-year break requirement for termed-out Hospital board members from the Hospital Board bylaws. Commissioner Bennett seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

PHI RENEWAL

A proposed agreement to renew PHI Cares Memberships for Union County.

Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the Union County, New Mexico Agreement for PHI Cares Membership Benefits. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

PETITION TO VACATE PORTION OF PLAT – OWAISSA HEIMANN, CLINTON & OWIDA FRANZ

Petitioners Owaissa Heimann, and Clinton and Owida Franz, have requested the Board of County Commissioners approve the vacation of streets and alleys within or abutting Blocks 38, 39, 41, and 42 of the Sunnyside Addition to the Town of Clayton, which lies just outside of the city limits. This property is owned by the petitioners, and is part of pastureland that presently exists.

Mgr. Thompson was instructed to proceed with preparing the order to vacate, and acquiring the necessary documentation from the petitioners to place this as an action item for a future meeting.

RESOLUTION 2023-10 BAR LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT GRANT

A proposed resolution to authorize General Fund (401) (DFA #11000) budget increase, to reflect receipt of Law Enforcement Recruitment Grant funds by Union County.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution #2023-10, Authorization of General Fund (401) (DFA #11000) Budget Increase. Commissioner Bennett seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

ARPA FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mgr. Thompson gave an overview of ARPA funds that have been received, and funds that will be received in the future. She asked the Commission to consider possible uses for the funds, both immediate and long range. This will be an ongoing discussion at future meetings.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND PRIORITIES

Commissioner Kiesling and Mgr. Thompson gave an overview of a recent meeting with James Gallegos of NMDOT, regarding needed repairs for state roads within the county, and possible funding sources for repairs to county roads. It was suggested that the county pass a resolution prioritizing the state roads in need of repair, to help with securing funding for these projects. This item will be revisited at future meetings.

At 10:08 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break.

At 10:20 a.m., the meeting resumed.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

There was no one present for the Citizen's Forum.

NMC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Commissioner Bennett reported on his attendance of the recent NMC Board meeting where Legislative Priorities were chosen for the 2023 Legislative Session. All items presented will be supported by NMC, with major focus on HB2 Funding, a Public Safety Package, Courthouse Renovation Funding, and IPRA (Inspection of Public Records) reform. Mgr. Thompson was asked to inform Senator Woods and Representative Chatfield of the priorities chosen.

REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY

Mgr. Thompson gave an overview of a joint effort to establish a psychiatric hospital and mental health facility in Clovis. The cities of Clovis, Tucumcari, and Portales, along with the counties of Roosevelt, Curry, Quay, and De Baca, are participating in a feasibility study. In an effort to secure additional funding, other surrounding counties have been contacted to participate in the project, including Union County. More information will be forthcoming as this project progresses.

ROAD CROSSING PERMITS

Permit #479 submitted by Permittee ENMR Telephone Cooperative, for the purpose of allowing Permittee to lay cable for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across ROW of Mountain View Road, located in Sec. 30, T26N, R36E.

Commissioner Bennett moved to approve Road Crossing Permit #479. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

INVENTORY ITEMS DISPOSITION – ROAD DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL WATER TRUCK

There were no items presented for disposition.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills in the amount of \$109,723.56 were presented for review.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve bills in the amount of \$109,723.56, and to authorize payment of any bills presented through the end of the month. Commissioner Bennett seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE – APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

There were no claims presented for approval.

COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mgr. Thompson will attend the NMCA Board retreat in Cloudcroft, Cheryl Garcia will attend a Human Resources retreat in Ruidoso, Emergency Mgr. Lawrence will be attending multiple training sessions in multiple locations, and Commissioner Kiesling will be attending EPCOG and NERTPO meetings. All travel approved.

COURTHOUSE UPDATE

Mgr. Thompson gave an overview of a recent meeting with Pam May, CEO of District Court, regarding moving Magistrate Court to the Courthouse by the end of the year. Staff locations within the Courthouse will be temporary, until renovations are complete. Mgr. Thompson will provide updates as this project progresses.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Road Superintendent Kear was unable to attend the meeting, Mgr. Thompson reported on his behalf. The road project in progress in the north part of the county should be done by early December, and applications are being accepted for the open position.

FIRE COORDINATOR/EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

Emergency Mgr. Lawrence reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Quarterly report will be submitted soon; Overview of recent LEPC meeting; Recent meeting with CMS regarding active shooter training; Recent meeting with OXY for first responders; Scheduled attendance of multiple training programs. Due to the retirement of Fire Coordinator Jim O'Bryant, Mgr. Thompson reported on his behalf. Pump testing has been completed at all fire stations, and applications are being accepted for the Fire Coordinator position.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

Mgr. Thompson reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Grant application for funding for the Wildland Fire Coordinator has been completed; Applications are being accepted for the GIS position; Auditors will be here October 17-18.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Sheriff Lobb reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Asked the Commission’s support for HB35 and HB 68 in the upcoming Legislative Session; Thanked Mgr. Thompson and HR Cheryl Garcia for their help in securing the Law Enforcement Recruitment Grant funding for the Sheriff’s Office.

Assessor Sandoval reported that the Tax roll will be transferred to the Treasurer next Tuesday, so they can begin preparing the tax bills.

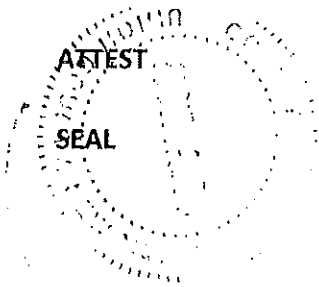
Clerk Green reported that Early voting in the Clerk’s Office will begin Tuesday, October 11th, and asked for everyone’s patience during the election, as the office will be without one person.

Commissioner Kiesling reported that he was contacted about the condition of the county owned park on Hwy 402 just south of Amistad, particularly about the trash. Mgr. Thompson will explore possible solutions and report to the Commission.

Commissioner Bennett reported that Joy Esparsen accepted a three year contract to be the new Executive Director of New Mexico Counties (NMC).

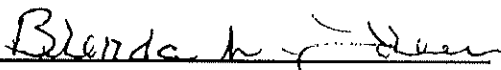
ADJOURN: At 11:27 a.m., Commissioner Kiesling moved to adjourn. Commissioner Bennett seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

Meeting Announcements: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communication meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.



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


Justin K. Bennett - Chairman


Brenda L. Green – County Clerk


Clayton F. Kiesling - Vice Chairman

