

**BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 15, 2022**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Justin K. Bennett                      Commissioner Clayton F. Kiesling                      Commissioner Frankie J Aragon

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Clerk Brenda Green                                      Manager Brandy Thompson                                      Treasurer Shea Arnett  
Sheriff James Lobb                                      Assessor Hollie Sandoval

**GUESTS:**

Carr Vincent – Commissioner-Elect    Dean McFadden- Apollo MedFlight    Debbie Snyder – UC Leader  
Tammie Stump – CEO, Union County General Hospital

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order in the Commission Chambers located in the Union County Administration Building. Chairman Bennett welcomed Frankie Aragon to the Board, and thanked him for serving the remainder of Commissioner Hall’s term. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the agenda and the regular meeting minutes of October 4, 2022. Chairman Bennett stepped down as chairman and seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE.  
The minutes were signed.

Due to a conflict of schedules, the Hospital report was tabled until later in the meeting.

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

**CANVASS ELECTION**

Clerk Green gave an overview of the various reports presented, which reflect the election reporting process. There were a total of 1517 qualified ballots cast, which is a 60% turnout for Union County. After review by the Board, Certificates of Canvass were signed.

**APOLLO FLIGHT PRESENTATION**

Dean McFadden of Apollo MedFlight, gave an overview of their current services, and asked that the Commission consider them in the future as a provider for Union County.

**RESOLUTION 2023-11 RENEWAL GALLEGOS WIND PROJECT PERMIT**

A proposed renewal of Resolution #106-34, to permit, approve and allow the construction of a Phase of the Gallegos Wind Farm.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution 2023-11, Approving Renewal of the Gallegos Wind Project Permit. Chairman Bennett stepped down as chairman and seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-12 RENEWAL PNE WIND PROJECT PERMIT**

A proposed resolution to renew the sitting permit issued by Union County on November 10, 2020, for the construction of a wind energy project by Gladstone New Energy LLC, A subsidiary of PNE USA, Inc.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution #2023-12, Approving Renewal of the Gladstone New Energy, LLC Wind Farm Permit. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

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

At 10:17 a.m., the meeting resumed.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

At 10:18 a.m., Chairman Bennett opened the floor for Citizen's Forum.

Kelly Ricks, Des Moines Senior Center Director, gave a presentation on current projects and needs of the Senior Center. The center is facing a funding shortfall, and asked the Commission to provide the needed funding. This item will be on the December meeting agenda.

At 10:35 a.m., Chairman Bennett closed the floor for Citizen's Forum.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION 2023-10 BAR LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT/RETENTION GRANT**

A proposed amended resolution authorizing the Law Enforcement Fund (605) (DFA #21200) budget increase.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-13 BAR OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

A proposed resolution authorizing the Local Government Abatement Fund (606) (DFA #27000) budget increase.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-14 BAR RABBIT EAR FIRE DEPARTMENT FEES**

A proposed resolution authorizing the Rabbit Ear Fire Department (410) (DFA #20900) budget increase.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-15 BAR LDWI GRANT**

A proposed resolution authorizing the DWI (425) (DFA #22300) budget increase.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-16 BAR LEPP**

A proposed resolution authorizing the Law Enforcement Protection Fund (605) (DFA #21100) budget increase.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-17 BAR LATCF**

A proposed resolution authorizing the Special Revenue Grant Fund (604) (DFA #29000) budget increase.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolutions #2023-10, #2023-13, #2023-14, #2023-15, #2023-16, and #2023-17, as presented. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolutions signed.

### **CUCEDP LEDA PROJECT APPLICATION**

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-18 ACCEPTANCE OF CUCEDP LEDA PROJECT APPLICATION**

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-19 ACCEPTANCE OF NMC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

A proposed resolution supporting the New Mexico Counties 2023 legislative priorities.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution 2023-19, Supporting the New Mexico Counties 2023 Legislative Priorities. Commissioner Aragon, seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

### **ORDER TO VACATE PLAT – UNINCORPORATED SUNNYSIDE SUBDIVISION**

A proposed order to vacate the undeveloped portion of Baca Street separating Block 38, Block 39, and Block 42; the undeveloped portion of Pinard Street separating Block 39, Block 41, and Block 42; and the undeveloped alleys in Block 38, Block 39, Block 41, and Block 42, lying north of Highway 56/64 in the unincorporated portion of the Sunnyside Addition, as requested by Owaissa Heiman, and Owida and Clinton Franz.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the Application for Vacation of Alleys and Undeveloped Land Within the Unincorporated Portion of the Sunnyside Addition. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **SUBDIVISION EXEMPTION – JESSIE SHIELDS**

This item was tabled pending submission of required paperwork by the requestor.

### **DISCUSSION OLD RABBIT EAR FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING**

Mgr. Thompson gave an overview of conversations with the Sheriff's office regarding use of the old Rabbit Ears Fire Department building. After some discussion, Mgr. Thompson was instructed to send a letter to all elected officials and departments asking for suggestions and requests for use of the building.

### **CONFLICT WAIVER ATTORNEY SERVICES**

Mgr. Thompson requested the commission to consider signing a conflict waiver agreement for attorney services, in the event attorney services were needed from our county attorney, for non-county issues.

Chairman Bennett moved to approve signing a Conflict Waiver for services with County Attorney Stephen Ross. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **UPDATE SIGNATURE CARDS NMB&T AND F&S BANK EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023**

Treasurer Arnett requested that the Board approve updating signatures on county accounts at New Mexico Bank and Trust, and Farmers and Stockmens Bank, effective January 1, 2023. Signatures for Justin Bennett and Walter Hall will be removed, and signatures for Lloyd Miller and Carr Vincent will be added.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Updating Signature Cards at New Mexico Bank and Trust, and Farmers and Stockmens Bank, effective January 1, 2023. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE; ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **MET TOWER PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications presented for approval.

### **ROAD CROSSING PERMITS**

Permit #480 submitted by Permittee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permittee to lay cable for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation beneath County Road 67 aka Wisdom Road, located in Sec 32, T24N, R35E, and Sec 5, T23n, R35E.

Permit #481 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 Perico Creek Road, located in Sec. 33 & 32, T26N, R33E.

Permit #482 submitted by Permittee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permittee to lay cable for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation beneath Saddle Mountain Road, located in Sec. 20 & 17, T26N, R36E.

Permit #483 submitted by Permittee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permittee to lay cable for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation parallel to Alamos Road, located in Sec. 6, T27N, R35E.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Road Crossing Permits #480 thru #483 as presented. Commissioner Aragon 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 \$374,832.36 were presented for review.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve bills in the amount of \$374,832.36. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

## **HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE – APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

There were no healthcare assistance claims presented.

## **COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Commissioner Kiesling, along with Commissioners-Elect Miller and Vincent, and Assessor Sandoval, Clerk Green, and Sheriff-Elect Skaggs, will be attending BIPO (Better Informed Public Official) training in Albuquerque December 6-8. All travel approved.

## **ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Road Superintendent Kear was not present for the meeting, due to the death of his mother.

## **FIRE COORDINATOR/EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT**

Emergency Manager Kris Lawrence was not present for the meeting due to attendance of training in Albuquerque.

Mgr. Thompson reported that applications are still being accepted for the Fire Coordinator position.

## **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**

Mgr. Thompson reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Recent meeting with AOC regarding courthouse renovations and the move of Magistrate Court to the courthouse mid-December; Status of hiring a bailiff for the Courthouse; Update on status of the Armory; Update on the CAD system; 2023 Legislative Luncheon will be January 23; Update on the Elder Summit being held this Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

**Sheriff Lobb** reported on a project to replace firearms currently in use by the sheriff's office. These items will be placed on the December agenda for disposition approval. Funding for the purchase of new firearms will come from LEPP.

**Assessor Sandoval** reported that the Assessor's pickup is broke down, so are unable to conduct reassessments, and the RFP for new Assessor programing has be published.

At 12:14 p.m., the meeting recessed for lunch.

At 2:04 p.m., the meeting resumed.

## **HOSPITAL REPORT**

Tammie Stump, CEO, reported on statistics for October. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, November 15, 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, recently resigned. Tammie Stump, CEO, reported on statistics for October. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Shawn Nethery, CCO, November 15, 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, was unable to attend the meeting, due to the passing of her father. Tammie Stump, CEO, reported on financials for September. Before the meeting, the "Clayton Health Systems, Inc. Union County General Consolidated Executive Financial Summary, 3rd Month FYE 2023, and the "Clayton Health Systems October 26, 2022 MOR Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period ending September 30, 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.**

At 2:41 P.m., Chairman Bennett stepped down as chairman and moved to go into Executive Session Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)9 – Hospital Strategic and Long-Term Business Plans. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: Commissioner Kiesling –YES, Commissioner Bennett – YES, Commissioner Aragon – YES. Motion carried.

At 3:52 p.m., Commissioner Kiesling moved to come out of Executive Session, and affirmed that matters discussed in the closed session were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure. No action was taken during the closed session. Commissioner Aragon seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: Commissioner Kiesling – YES, Commissioner Bennett – YES, Commissioner Aragon – YES. Motion carried.

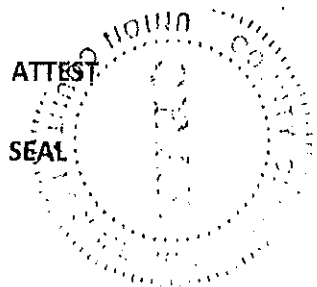
### **ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS continued**

Clerk Green reported the election went smoothly, and now that the election is complete, she will resume the process of getting quotes for a vehicle for the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Kiesling reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Upcoming election of Ports-to-Plains board members; Update on CUCEDP and Main Street; A "One Stop" for NM Workforce Solutions is now open in Raton; The National Women in Agriculture Association, New Mexico Chapter, has asked for a letter of support from the Commission. Mgr. Thompson was directed to provide the letter.

**ADJOURN:** At 4:03 p.m., Commissioner Kiesling moved to adjourn. Chairman Bennett stepped down as Chairman and seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

**Meeting Announcements:** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 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  
Justin K. Bennett - Chairman

Brenda L. Green  
Brenda L. Green – County Clerk

Clayton F. Kiesling  
Clayton F. Kiesling - Vice Chairman

Frankie J. Aragon  
Frankie J Aragon - Member

