

**BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 16, 2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Clayton F. Kiesling                      Commissioner W. Carr Vincent                      Commissioner Lloyd 'Red' Miller

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Clerk Brenda Green                      Manager Brandy Thompson                      Treasurer Shea Arnett  
Assessor Hollie Sandoval                      Sheriff Curtis Skaggs  
County Attorney Steve Ross via ZOOM

**GUESTS:**

Melissa Prante – CFO, Union County General Hospital  
Amanda Boggs – CNO, Union County General Hospital  
Chris Garner – Pattillo, Brown & Hill CPAs  
Hannah Larkin - Invenergy

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

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the agenda and the regular meeting minutes of April 11, 2023. Commissioner Miller 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 March. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, May 16, 2023", 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; Laboratory; Home Health; Union County/Des Moines Health Centers; IT; HVAC/Vestibule/Cryogenic Tank 3000 gallon/Grade Survey.**

Melissa Prante, CFO, reported on financials for March. Before the meeting, the "Clayton Health Systems, Inc. Union County General Consolidated Executive Financial Summary, 9th month FYE 2023", and, the "Clayton Health Systems April 25, 2023 MOR Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period ending March 31, 2023", 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**

### **RESOLUTION 2023-37 ACCEPTANCE OF FY 22 AUDIT**

Chris Garner of Pattillo, Brown & Hill, CPAs, gave an overview of the FY22 Audit, and answered questions from the Board.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve Resolution 2023-37, Acceptance and Approval of the FY 22 Audit. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

### **MET TOWER APPLICATIONS – INVENERGY, BLUEARTH**

MET tower applications submitted by Invenergy and BluEarth were reviewed by the Board. Hannah Larkin from Invenergy was present to answer questions, and thanked the Board for their continued support.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve MET tower applications submitted by Invenergy and BluEarth. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **BLUEARTH RENEWABLES PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW SUBMISSION**

BluEarth Renewables preliminary plan for the Capulin Wind Project was submitted for review by the Board.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the BluEarth Renewables Preliminary Plan for the Capulin Wind Project. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-38 PROCLAMATION TO RESTRICT FIREWORKS SALE AND USE DUE TO EXTREME DROUGHT**

A proposed resolution to proclaim extreme or severe drought conditions within Union County and to ban the sale and use of certain fireworks in the unincorporated portions of the county.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution 2023-38, A Proclamation to Restrict Fireworks Sales and Use Due to Extreme Drought. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-39 ACCEPTANCE OF UPDATED SALARY PLAN COMP SCHEDULE**

A proposed resolution approving and adopting update to the county position classification and salary plan.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution 2023-39, Approving and Adopting Update to the County Position Classification and Salary Plan. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

At 9:57 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break.

At 10:06 a.m., the meeting resumed.

At 10:07 a.m., Commissioner Vincent moved to go into Executive Session Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)7 – Attorney-Client Privilege Pertaining to Threatened or Pending Litigation in which the County is or may become a participant: UCGH and Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)1. Commissioner Miller

seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: Commissioner Vincent – Yes, Commissioner Kiesling – YES, Commissioner Miller – YES. Motion carried.

At 11:43 a.m., Commissioner Vincent 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 Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: Commissioner Vincent – YES, Commissioner Kiesling – YES, Commissioner Miller – YES. Motion carried.

Mgr. Thompson was directed to instruct the County Attorney to prepare a response to the UCGH malpractice attorney concerning the applicability of the Tort Claims Act to claims at County hospitals.

### **APPROVAL OF UCGH'S REQUEST TO CLOSE HOME HEALTH SERVICES**

Union County General Hospital will continue to provide Home Health Services to current recipients until completed. At that time, Home Health Services will be discontinued.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve UCGH's request to close Home Health Services. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

### **RESTRUCTURING OF NMFA LOANS PPRF-1707, PPRF-3384, PPRF-4931**

The Board directed Mgr. Thompson to work with NMFA (New Mexico Finance Authority) and the county attorney on the restructuring of loans #PPRF-1707, PPRF-3384, and PPRF-4931, and providing any sort of necessary amendments to the county's operating agreement with UCGH as they pertain to the NMFA loans.

### **SUMMER REC PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

HR/Procurement Officer Cheryl Garcia gave an overview of the summer rec program for Clayton area children. The program will be Monday – Friday, 8 – 5, with meals provided. The program is scheduled to begin early June.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING REVIEW**

Mgr. Thompson provided the Board with the completed mission statement that was created from the Strategic Planning retreat held in March. Various items identified in the Mission Statement will be implemented in the coming months.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills in the amount of \$250,835.21 were presented for review.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve bills in the amount of \$250,835.21. Commissioner Miller 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.

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

There were no claims presented for approval.

## **COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Commissioners Kiesling, Vincent, and Miller, Mgr. Thompson, HR Garcia, Clerk Green and staff, and Assessor Sandoval and staff will attend NMC Summer Conference in Farmington, Commissioner Kiesling will attend a NERTPO meeting in Las Vegas. All travel approved.

At 12:13 p.m., Chairman Kiesling instructed Mgr. Thompson to order lunch, enabling the Board to work on the budget.

## **BUDGET HEARING**

Mgr. Thompson presented the draft FY24 budget for review. Final adjustments were made.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the FY24 interim budget as presented, and submit to DFA. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

## **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-24, INCREASE OF UNION COUNTY'S OPERATING MILL LEVY TAX RATE**

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the pros and cons of increasing the operating mill levy tax rate for Union County. Other possible revenue resources were suggested and discussed. Careful consideration was given to the impact an increase would have on the county's citizens. If economic conditions improve, a decrease in the rate can be implemented at a later time.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution 2023-24, Increase of Union County's Operating Mill Levy Tax Rate. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

## **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**

Mgr. Thompson reported on the following (but not limited to the following): County assessment from the State Insurance Pool; Update on funding for courthouse renovations.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

Sheriff Skaggs gave an update on the E-Force project, and continuing efforts to dispose of surplus items at the Sheriff's office.

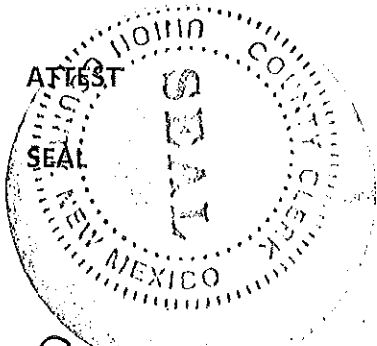
Assessor Sandoval reported that Notice of Values mailed out last month. There were three protests, all were resolved. Treasurer Arnett reported that second half property tax collections went well. State Tax and Revenue have worked up a list of delinquent properties, no date set for auction.

Clerk Green reported that 29 voters in Union County are legible to participate in the Special Hospital District all mail election from Colfax County, election day is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Miller reported he has received several favorable comments about new Road Superintendent Wright.

**ADJOURN:** At 3:05 p.m., Commissioner Miller moved to adjourn. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

**Meeting Announcements:** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communication meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.



Brenda L. Green  
Brenda L. Green – County Clerk

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

Clayton F. Kiesling  
Clayton F. Kiesling - Chairman

W. Carr Vincent  
W. Carr Vincent - Vice Chairman

Lloyd 'Red' Miller  
Lloyd 'Red' Miller - Member

