

**BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 11, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Justin K. Bennett                      Commissioner W. Carr Vincent                      Commissioner Clayton F. Kiesling

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Clerk Mary Lou Harkins                      Manager Brandy Thompson                      Assessor Hollie Cruz  
Undersheriff Chris Schear

**GUESTS:**

Tammie Stump, CEO - Union County General Hospital  
Melissa Prante, CFO - Union County General Hospital

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Courtroom, located in the Union County Courthouse. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the agenda and regular meeting minutes of July 14, 2020. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. The minutes were signed.

**HOSPITAL REPORT**

**Tammie Stump**, the CEO, provided copies of the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, August 11, 2020", attached as an exhibit (six pages). Stump gave a lengthy report on the following (but not limited to the following): **Provider Recruitment Update; Des Moines Clinic; Business Office/Revenue Cycle Update; Financial Assistance/Compliance Update; Home Health Care Report; Radiology Report; Plant Services; Laboratory Services; Union County Health Center; IT; Pharmacy; HVAC** - Replacement of the HVAC should be considered and is necessary because of COVID and the need for Infection Control. The HVAC system controls the humidity, temperature and the air exchange - - the components are all tied to infection control. Recommendations have been to upgrade the system with UV lights in the air handlers so that bad air is not circulated. The safety of the patients, visitors, and staff is of utmost importance. As a separate project, old boilers need to be removed and the new boilers put in their place. Additionally, the drainage needs to be taken to the West side of the hospital and out of the atrium because of potential flooding; **Clinical Area; Therapy Services and Price Transparency.**

**Melissa Prante, CFO**, reported on various financials and statistics for June. The following reports were e-mailed to the County Manager before the meeting, for distribution to the Board: "Union County Consolidated, Consolidated Operations Review, for the period ending June 30, 2020"; "Clayton Health Systems, July 22, 2020 MOR, Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period Ending June 30, 2020 - attached as an exhibit (one page)"; "Union County General Hospital Acute Hospital Operations Review for the period ending June 30, 2020"; "Union County Clinic, Clinic Operations Review through

the period ending June 30, 2020”; Union County General Consolidated, Executive Financials Summary, 12<sup>th</sup> Month FY 2020; and, “Clayton Family Practice, Executive Financial Summary, 12<sup>th</sup> Month FY 2020”. A brief discussion followed.

At 10:03 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break. At 10:16 a.m., the meeting resumed.

### **CITIZEN’S FORUM**

**Sharon Gonzales, DWI Prevention Presentation** – Gonzales was not present during the forum.

### **DISCUSSION /POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

#### **RESOLUTION #2021-10 NMFA PLANNING GRANT**

Proposed Resolution #2021-10 was reviewed and discussed. This resolution would authorize the execution and delivery of a Local Government Planning Grant Agreement between the New Mexico Finance Authority and Union County, in the amount of fifty thousand (\$50,000), evidencing an obligation of the County to utilize the grant amount solely to finance the costs of Comprehensive Plan to implement the Local Economic Development Act, and solely in the manner described in the grant agreement; certifying that the grant amount, together with other funds available to the County, is sufficient to complete the project; approving the form of and other details concerning the grant agreement; ratifying actions taken; repealing all-action inconsistent with the resolution, and authorizing the taking of other actions in connection with the execution and delivery of the grant agreement. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution #2021-10 NMFA Planning Grant. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. The motion carried. The resolution was signed.

#### **RESOLUTION #2021-11 NMFA REIMBURSEMENT**

Proposed Resolution #2021-11 was reviewed and discussed. This resolution declared the County’s official intent to reimburse itself with the proceeds of a future tax-exempt borrowing for capital expenditures paid to finance the administration building remodel; identifying the capital expenditures and the funds to be used for such payment; and providing certain other matters in connection.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Resolution #2021-11, NMFA Reimbursement. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. The motion carried. The resolution was signed.

#### **CLINT HARDEN & ASSOCIATES LOBBY CONTRACT FY 2021**

Renewal of a professional services contract between the County and Clinton D. Harden and Associates was reviewed and discussed. Harden and Associates would represent the County from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, for a total sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00), plus Gross Receipts tax.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the Clinton D. Harden & Associates Lobby Contract FY2021. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. Discussion: Chairman Bennett reported that upcoming legislative committees will likely meet on-line until the Governor changes the public health order. Many technical broadcast issues were present during the last special session and these issues may still exist. Harden’s

background and services will prove to be even more valuable during this type of situation. Vote: All YES. The motion carried. The Professional Services Contract was signed.

### **JOINT COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT – UNION COUNTY, TOWN OF CLAYTON AND CLAYTON SCHOOLS**

A proposed Joint Communications Agreement between the Town of Clayton, Union County, and the Clayton Consolidated School District was reviewed and discussed at length. The agreement's purpose is to establish, operate, and maintain a consolidated communications center for the joint use and benefit of the parties for the peace, health, and safety of the public. The parties have agreed that for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Town shall pay 62% (sixty-two percent), the County shall pay 33% (thirty-three percent) and the School shall pay 5% (five percent).

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the Joint Communications Agreement with the Town of Clayton and Clayton Schools. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. The Joint Communications Agreement was signed.

Mgr. Thompson will add this agenda item to next month's Joint Communications meeting agenda as a discussion item.

### **CARES ACT SMALL BUSINESS GRANT/REIMBURSEMENT**

Mgr. Thompson explained that funding from the CARES Act Relief Fund is available to small businesses and local governments impacted by COVID-19. A joint application has been made with the Town of Clayton. A brief discussion followed.

### **GRT CHANGES AND RECOMMENDED AMENDED ORDINANCES**

Mgr. Thompson explained that with regards to the recent NMFA loan application it was discovered that GRT dedications may need to be removed on the first two 1/8ths of the County Local Option GRT, so that pledge options can be made for the loan. Thompson has been communicating with the NMFA loan attorneys and the Tax and Revenue Department about various options. The options were explained to the Board, which included amending the existing ordinance dedication. Mgr. Thompson was directed to begin the ordinance adoption removing the GRT dedications. This item will be on next month's agenda.

Mgr. Thompson was also directed to add the hospital mill levy ballot question as a discussion item on the agenda of the next Joint Communications meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The Board reviewed and discussed bills in the approximate amount of \$195,407.06.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the payment of bills in the approximate amount of \$195,407.06. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

### **ROAD CROSSING PERMITS**

**Permit No. 382** with an attached map submitted by Permittee, ENMR Telephone Cooperative, allows Permittee to lay pipe or cable for fiber optic telecommunications lines longitudinally along Green Road.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve road crossing Permits No. 382. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

### **INVENTORY ITEMS DISPOSITION - ROAD DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL WATER TRUCK**

An "Inventory Items for Disposition" was requested submitted to the Board by Sheriff James Lobb for consideration. The list included snowmobiles and riding lawnmowers. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the list of items as presented in the written request. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. The request for disposition was signed.

### **HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE - Approval of Claims**

There were three (3) health care assistance claims presented for consideration for \$473.04. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the health care assistance claims for \$473.04. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

### **COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Mgr. Thompson reported that Sheriff Lobb was currently in Ruidoso attending the Sheriff's Association meeting. A copy of Sheriff Lobb's report was supplied to the Board which included this travel.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING UPDATE**

Mgr. Thompson reported that Contractor Lonnie Cruz of Colt Construction is eager to begin the building remodel. Cruz has placed a construction fence around the property. Cruz is expecting project completion within six months. Thompson also reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Magistrate Court will be moving into the courthouse once the bottom floor has vacated; renovations should be considered for both the Magistrate and District Courts, the District Attorney's Office as well as the Sheriff's Department. Thompson will arrange to meet with each of these departments about accommodations and renovation funding sources.

### **JAIL AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTIES**

Sheriff Lobb was not present, but supplied a written report. Lobb reported that Roosevelt County Detention Center is receiving detainees. Santa Fe County will not accept Union County detainees and Colfax County is still under renovations, but will notify Lobb as soon as the repair is complete.

### **ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Kear was not present. Mgr. Thompson reported that the department is working on another project up north as well as taking care of ongoing county-wide routine road maintenance.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Emergency Manager Wingo gave an update on the draft Hazardous Mitigation Plan. A couple of action items are pending per county jurisdictions (Clayton, Des Moines, Grenville, Folsom, Amistad, Sedan, etc. On the chance that a jurisdiction does not submit their action items, the County will submit on their behalf. Once this is complete, the draft plan will be available for public review and input and then to the State and

lastly to the Board for adoption. Mgr. Wingo also reported on the following (but not limited to the following): CARES Act (federal grant administered by the State) and the various projects that may be applicable for funding; attended a Town of Clayton meeting, where he spoke about the benefits of having a larger more efficient central Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The end goal is to accommodate a large group of people if necessary and equipment - - perhaps the old Rabbit Ear Fire Station or the Armory.

### **FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT**

Fire Coordinator O'Bryant was not present.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

**Sheriff Lobb** was not present but hand-delivered a written report which included the following: inventory disposition request; items investigations; warrants served; items seized; recovered stolen vehicle; Deputy Grice is currently on military leave and may be deployed on August 12<sup>th</sup>; has not received a renewal agreement for the building; and, is no longer using the Town of Clayton's temporary holding facility. **Undersheriff Schear** reported that a certified officer has been hired and will start on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Schear also spoke about the following: law enforcement academy's lack of available openings for applicants; and the use of body cameras.

**Assessor Cruz** reported that property values were certified last month; Chief Deputy Assessor Lorenzo Montoya has resigned and will be managing the local drug store. Cassie Newton (mapper) has been appointed in Montoya's place and Cruz will advertise for the mapping position.

**Clerk Harkins** reported that 3<sup>rd</sup> party political organizations are mailing out legitimate absentee applications for the 2020 General Election which has confused voters. Union County will have Early In-Person voting before the election and that all county-wide polling places will be open on Election Day. Absentee voting will be advertised for and promoted heavily because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Commissioner Kiesling** gave an update on the 2020 Census. Enumerators will begin going door to door today. The Census deadline has been moved up from October 31<sup>st</sup> to September 30, 2020. Kiesling recently participated in the NERTPO online meeting. It was suggested that in regards to the ICIP Plan, transportation projects need to be made as specific as possible.

**Chairman Bennett** who also sits on the New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board, reported that elections for NMC Officers, Executive Committee Members, and National Association of Counties (NACo) positions took place.

Mgr. Thompson reported that she received a phone call from Ray Valdez from Las Vegas First regarding a marketing grant for tourism, post-COVID, coming from the CARES Act monies. Valdez would like letters of support from Union, San Miguel, Guadalupe, Quay, and Harding Counties and their municipalities - 80% funded, 20% matching. The Board wanted further information before committing to a letter of support.

At 12:08 p.m., the meeting recessed for lunch. At 1:30 p.m., the meeting resumed.

### **ICIP WORKSHOP**

Mgr. Thompson distributed copies of the last Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY 2021-2025 for reference. ICIP priorities were discussed at length for FY's 2022-2026. The ICIP deadline line is September 18, 2020. Projects were ranked by the Board. The top priorities were as follows: Law Enforcement Complex, Union County Road Improvements, Union County Road Department Truck, Union County General Hospital HVAC, and the County Administration Building. Mgr. Thompson will

reach out to Tammie Stump, Union County General's Chief Executive Officer about hospital priorities. This item was tabled for further discussion.

**RESOLUTION #2021-12 APPROVAL OF ICIP 2022-2026**

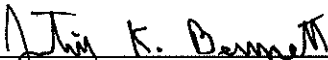
Proposed Resolution No. 2021-12, adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed, discussed, and tabled until next month's regular meeting.

Commissioner Vincent moved to table Resolution #2021-12 Approval of ICIP 2022-2026 until next month's regular meeting. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried.

**Meeting Announcements:** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communications Meeting will be held on September 8, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

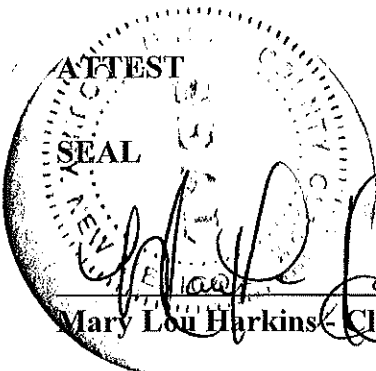
**ADJOURN:** At 2:30 p.m., Commissioner Kiesling moved to adjourn. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: All YES. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

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

  
Justin K. Bennett - Chairman

  
W. Carr Vincent - Vice Chairman

  
Clayton F. Kiesling - Member

  
ATTEST  
SEAL  
  
Mary Lou Harkins - Clerk