UNION COUNTY, NM
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BY Mary Lou Harkins

BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Justin K. Bennett | Commissioner Clayton F. Kiesling | Commissioner Walter C. Hall

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clerk Brenda Green | Manager Brandy Thompson | Assessor Hollie Sandoval
Undersheriff Chris Schear | Road Superintendent Russell Kear
Emergency Manager Robert Wingo

GUESTS:

Tammie Stump – CEO, Union County General Hospital
Melissa Prante – CFO, Union County General Hospital
Jesse Hopkins-Hoel – Chief Development Officer, National Renewable Solutions
Conner Wilkinson, National Renewable Solutions
Robert Williams

At 9:00 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 Hall moved to approve the agenda and the regular meeting minutes of July 7, 2021. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. The minutes were signed.

HOSPITAL REPORT

Tammie Stump, CEO, reported on statistics for June. Before the meeting, the "County Commissioner Monthly Hospital Report, Union County General Hospital, Tammie Stump, CEO, August 10, 2021", 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 and Social Work; Home Health Care Report; Radiology; Plant Services; Therapy Services; Laboratory Services; Union County/Des Moines Health Centers; IT; Pharmacy; HVAC/Vestibule/Cryogenic Tank 3000 gallon/Grade Survey.**

Melissa Prante, CFO, reported on financials for June. Before the meeting, the "Clayton Health Systems, Inc. Union County General Consolidated Executive Financial Summary, 12th month FY 2021", and, the "Clayton Health Systems July 28, 2021 MOR Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period ending June 30, 2021", 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

NATIONAL RENEWABLE SOLUTIONS

Jesse Hopkins-Hoel, and Connor Wilkinson, of National Renewable Solutions, gave a brief overview of their company, and their work on behalf of Folsom Falls Energy, LLC, and submitted a permit application for the purpose of placement of two MET towers within Union County, for the purpose of collecting wind resource data.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the Permit Application submitted by Folsom Falls Energy, LLC., for the purpose of placement of two MET towers within Union County. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

MET TOWER APPLICATIONS

A Permit application submitted by Invenergy Spinneret, for the purpose of placement of a MET tower within Union County, for the purpose of collecting wind resource data.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the Permit Application submitted by Invenergy, for the purpose of placement of a MET tower within Union County. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

Undersheriff Schear introduced new Deputy Sheriffs Mannes, Cruz, and Rahimi, and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the Sheriff's office personnel recruitment program.

At 10:09 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break. At 10:20 a.m., the meeting resumed.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Commissioner Hall spoke on behalf of Cliff Copeland, regarding the possible creation of a protected habitat area for the Prairie Chicken within Union County. He asked that this issue be placed on the agenda of the special meeting to be held on August 27th, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

CLAIM OF EXEMPTION SUBDIVISION JONATHAN GARCIA

A proposed Claim of Exemption Subdivision Ordinance presented by Jonathan Garcia.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve Claim of Exemption Subdivision Ordinance presented by Jonathan Garcia. Commissioner Kiesling seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Ordinance signed.

RESOLUTION 22-05 AMENDMENT TO PERSONNEL POLICY SECTION 9.2

A proposed resolution amending Section 9.2 Breaks, of the Personnel Policy Manual, Resolution #2021-18 Personnel Policy Manual Adopted November 10, 2020.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Resolution 2022-05, Amending Section 9.2 Breaks, of the Personnel Policy Manual, Resolution #2021-18 Personnel Policy Manual Adopted November 10, 2020. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Resolution signed.

DISCUSSION CANNABIS ORDINANCE

Mgr. Thompson presented a draft cannabis regulation ordinance for review. A lengthy discussion followed. It was decided that a special meeting is needed to further discuss details of this ordinance.

Chairman Bennett moved to hold a special meeting/public hearing on August 27th at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of creating a Cannabis Regulation Ordinance for Union County, and directed Mgr. Thompson to advertise for said meeting. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

ROAD CROSSING PERMITS

Permit #412 submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 3, T21N, R36E, and Sec. 33, T22N, R36E. **Permit #413** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for an unstated purpose across a county road located in Sec.22, T22N, R33E, and Sec 15, T22N, R33E. **Permit #414** submitted by Permitee REFD, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of supplying water to County's Fire Department, across a county road located in Sec. 31, T30N, R34E. **Permit #415,** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 9, T28N, R33E. **Permit #416** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 22, T22N, R36E, and Sec. 23, T22N, R36E. **Permit #417** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 22, T22N, R36E, and Sec. 27, T22N, R36E. **Permit #418** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 31, T25N, R33E. **Permit #419** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 22, T22N, R36E, and Sec. 23, T22N, R36E. **Permit #420** submitted by Permitee Plateau, for the purpose of allowing Permitee to lay pipe for the purpose of Fiber Optic Distribution Cable Installation across a county road located in Sec. 22, T22N, R36E, and Sec. 27, T22N, R36E.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve Road Crossing Permits #412 through #420. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

INVENTORY ITEM DISPOSITION – ROAD DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL WATER TRUCK

An "Inventory Items for Disposition" list was presented for review. The following items were listed: Dell Computer Tower Inventory tag #2192, Treasurer's Office; Del Computer Tower and Monitor Precision T1500 Inventory tag #1878, Clerk's Office; Dell CPU GX280 Inventory tag #2286, Assessor's Office; Dell Precision T7500 CPU Inventory tag #2617, Assessor's Office.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve the "Inventory Items for Disposition" list as presented. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills in the amount of $232,882.94 were presented for review and approval.

Commissioner Kiesling moved to approve bills in the amount of $232,882.94 . Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE – APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

No Healthcare Assistance claims were presented.

COUNTY TRAVEL REQUEST

Commissioner Kiesling may attend an in-person NERTPO meeting, date pending. Chairman Bennett, Commissioners Kiesling and Hall will attend the NMC Conference in Hobbs in September.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Mgr. Thompson gave an update on the following (but not limited to the following): Possible relocation of the DA's office to the former Treasurer and Assessor's offices; Information on a security admittance system.

JAIL AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTIES

There were no new jail agreements.

ICIP WORKSHOP

Mgr. Thompson provided the Union County Project Summary for review. A lengthy discussion followed. This item will be placed on the special meeting agenda to be held on August 27th, at 9:00 a.m. No action taken.

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE

A special meeting will be held on September 8th, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of meeting the statutory requirement to certify tax rates within 5 days after receipt from the State.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Road Superintendent Kear reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Fixed several washouts around the county due to recent rains; Installed culverts on access roads to new home sites; Maintenance on cattle guards on various roads; Repairs on crushing equipment; In-kind work on Alvis track surface; Maintenance on school bus routes.

EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

Emergency Mgr. Wingo reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Overview of the Heroes to Highways program; Recent completion of Anti-Terrorism training; PPE shipment to be received August 23rd.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

Mgr. Thompson reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Progress on the Americorp Elder Care project; Update on status of Union County Economic Development; Grand Opening of the County Administration Building will be Saturday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., subject to current COVID-19 restrictions.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Undersheriff Schear reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Status of department vehicles and equipment; With new staff in place, coverage is now 7 days a week until midnight; Utilization of the training room at the County Administration Building for community programs; Partnering with surrounding counties for officer training programs.

Assessor Sandoval reported that Chief Deputy Newton and Mapper Callis recently passed their first of four appraisal classes needed to become New Mexico Certified Appraisers.

Clerk Green reported that staff recently attended Election School in Albuquerque, and Candidate Filing Day is August 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Hall reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Concerns regarding the historical sign at McNees Crossing; Condition of roads around the county; Update on the Dry Cimmaron temporary bridge.

Commissioner Kiesling reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Updates on NEEDO and NERTPO; Census results will be released soon.

Chairman Bennett reported on his recent attendance of a NMC Board meeting.

There was no Executive Session called.

ADJOURN: At 1:09 p.m., Commissioner Kiesling moved to adjourn after lunch. Commissioner Hall seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL YES. Motion carried.

Meeting Announcements: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communication meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

SEAL:

Brenda L. Green – County Clerk

Board of Union County Commissioners
Union County, New Mexico

Justin K. Bennett - Chairman

Clayton F. Kiesling - Vice Chairman

Walter C. Hall - Member