

**BOARD OF UNION COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 14, 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      HR Cheryl Garcia  
Road Superintendent Gary Wright      Road Admin Asst Rachel Farnum

**GUESTS:**

Tammie Stump – CEO, Union County General Hospital      Bob Williams  
Melissa Prante – CFO, Union County General Hospital  
Amanda Boggs – CNO, Union County General Hospital      Paul Arrington  
Cliff and Jodie Skiles      Kevin Kenny  
Gary Alsop

At 9:00 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 October 10, 2023. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. The minutes were signed.

**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 14, 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/Financial Update; Compliance; Radiology; Plant Services; Therapy Services; Pharmacy; Laboratory; Union County/Des Moines Health Centers; IT; HVAC/Vestibule/Cryogenic Tank 3000 gallon/Grade Survey.**

Melissa Prante, CFO, reported on financials for September. Before the meeting, the "Clayton Health Systems, Inc. Union County General Consolidated Executive Financial Summary, 3rd month FYE 2024", and, the "Clayton Health Systems October 23, 2023 MOR Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Period ending September 30, 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.**

Amanda Boggs, CNO, reported on the following (but not limited to the following): **Nursing; Swing Bed; Social Work Consults; Trauma**

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS  
CANVASS OF LOCAL ELECTION**

Clerk Green presented various reports reflecting the results of the Regular Local Election held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a total of 922 ballots cast, 40% turnout for Union County. Due to a small margin of votes cast on several races, there may be automatic recounts. Directive will come from the Secretary of State's office after the state canvass on November 28<sup>th</sup>. There were no questions from the board.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the Canvass of the 2023 Regular Local Election as presented. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Certificates of Canvass were signed.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATION -  
SKILES**

Attorney Gary Alsup gave a presentation on behalf of Cliff and Jodie Skiles, regarding the Skiles' request to vacate several county roads on or near their property in the north part of Union County. Paul Arrington also spoke regarding the amount of work he has done to various buildings that have been vandalized on the Skiles' property. After some discussion, the Board directed Mgr. Thompson to compile a list of potential viewers for the Board to review at next month's meeting.

At 10:40 a.m., the meeting recessed for a short break.

At 10:49 a.m., the meeting resumed.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO GATES ON COUNTY ROADS**

Kevin Kenny, owner of Cedar Creek Ranch, spoke about issues of trespassing and vandalism on his property, as well as the need to place a chain across cattle guards to contain livestock. Mr. Kenny appealed to the commission to allow locking of gates on certain county roads on or accessing his property. The Board wants to move forward with developing a countywide policy, and instructed Mgr. Thompson to gather examples from other counties for review.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM**

No one was present for Citizen's Forum

**MET TOWER APPLICATIONS -- NEXTERA**

Applications for placement of MET towers in Union County was presented by NextEra.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the Met Tower applications presented by NextEra. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills in the amount of \$317,495.26 were presented for review.

Commissioner Vincent moved to approve bills in the amount of \$317,495.26, plus the distribution to the Des Moines Senior Center. Commissioner Miller seconded. There was no further discussion. VOTE: ALL AYE.  
Motion carried.

**INVENTORY ITEMS FOR DISPOSITION – ROAD DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL WATER TRUCK**  
Items presented for disposition included the following (but not limited to the following): Lincoln electric ARC welder; 2019 Dodge Durango; South Bend Precision Lathe.

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

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

There were no healthcare claims presented for review.

#### **COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Sheriff Skaggs will travel to Albuquerque for training, Emergency Manager Kris Lawrence is attending training in Ruidoso. All travel approved.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION**

Commissioner Kiesling shared that he recently attended a presentation from New Mexico Finance Authority, regarding affordable housing, and guidance on how to develop a countywide plan. Affordable housing was one of the items addressed in the Union County Strategic Plan. Mgr. Thompson will visit with TOC Mgr. Lucero on working together to develop a plan. Also discussed was the need to possibly hire a local public services director, in response to the lack of reliable representation from state agencies.

#### **ARPA FUNDING**

Mgr. Thompson provided a quote for a generator for the County Admin Building, which was an item suggested to utilize ARPA funding for. Mgr. Thompson was directed to get additional quotes. Chairman Kiesling asked that everyone continue to make suggestions for use of funding.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**

Mgr. Thompson reported on the following (but not limited to the following): Overview of a proposed contract with MRS from Raton, which is an ankle monitor service; Confirmed which commissioners will be attending the Legislative Conference in Santa Fe; Increase in employee healthcare premiums effective January 1, 2024; Renewal of contract with Apollo.

#### **ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Road Superintendent Gary Wright reported there are ongoing issues with the new crusher, getting parts and service support is a challenge due to the manufacturer being located overseas. Rachel Farnum was introduced as the new Road Department Administrative Assistant.

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

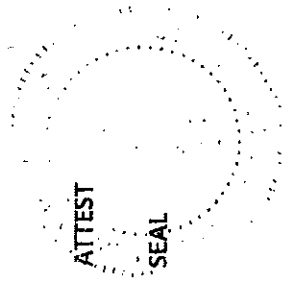
Emergency Manager Kris Lawrence was attending training, Mgr. Thompson reported on his behalf. Items covered included the following (but not limited to the following): Three fire departments are due for IOS inspections.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

Treasurer Arnett reported that tax bills have gone out, and the next delinquent tax sale will be December 12<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Green stated the minutes will be late due to out of town travel for the Thanksgiving holiday. Chairman Kiesling reported that the Legislative Luncheon will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Inn and Spa at Loredo in Santa Fe.

**ADJOURN:** At 12:51 p.m., Commissioner Miller moved to adjourn after lunch. Commissioner Vincent seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote: ALL AYE. Motion carried.

**Meeting Announcements:** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The next Joint Communication meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.



*Brenda L. Green*  
Brenda L. Green – County Clerk

Board of Union County Commissioners  
Union County, New Mexico

*Clayton Kiesling*  
Clayton Kiesling - Chairman

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W. Carr Vincent - Vice Chairman

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