

**EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
April 17, 2019**

Be it remembered that the Eddy County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting in room 211 of the Eddy County Administration Complex on April 17, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Henry called the meeting to order, Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the New Mexico State Flag.

PRESENT:

JON HENRY	CHAIR, DISTRICT 2
ERNEST CARLSON	VICE-CHAIR, DISTRICT 1
STEVE MCCUTCHEON	COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4
SUSAN CROCKETT	COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5
RICK RUDOMETKIN	COUNTY MANAGER
ROBIN VAN NATTA	COUNTY CLERK
DARLENE ROSPRIM	CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK
MARK CAGE	SHERIFF
GEMMA FERGUSON	ASSESSOR
MELISSA WASHBURN	CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR
LAURIE PRUITT	TREASURER
BILLY MASSINGILL	DETENTION WARDEN
MARIA MALDONADO-MERJIL	CHIEF DEPUTY ADMIN
GAY WEST	EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TERRA DOUGAN	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ROBERTA SMITH	CO-COUNTY MANAGER/FINANCE DIR
JESSICA STYGAR	ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR
ROXANN BRANNON	HR DIRECTOR
CAROL HENNINGTON	IT DIRECTOR
SHARON DODSON	ASSISTANT IT DIRECTOR
ROSIE MUNOZ	IT DEPARTMENT
WESLEY HOOPER	CO-COUNTY MANAGER/COMM SRVCS DIR
STEVE MCCROSKEY	COUNTY PLANNER
BRIAN STEPHENS	FACILITIES DIRECTOR
ALTON WALKER	PUBLIC WORKS
CHRISTINE MCCROSKEY	PUBLIC WORKS FINANCE DIRECTOR
JOSHUA MACK	FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE SERVICES DIRECTOR
MICHELLE ARDOIN	FISCAL OFFICER FIRE SERVICES
BETSY BRADSHAW	ADMIN ASSISTANT FIRE SERVICES
BAMBI KERN	REDA DIRECTOR
KIRSTENE CAMPBELL	HR SPECIALIST REDA
MIKE SMITH	CARLSBAD CURRENT ARGUS
DYLAN BARRERA	RED ROCKET MEDIA

TIMED AGENDA:

8:30 A.M.:

1. **OPEN MEETING – COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JON HENRY**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. *(THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON) (WE REQUEST ALL COMMENTS BE RESPECTFUL AND COURTEOUS IN NATURE):*** None.
3. **FY 2019-2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION WORKSHOP #1 – ROBERTA SMITH:** Smith reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019/2020, explaining the projected revenues and expenses. She stated the budget reflected the priorities of the BOCC, being public safety, roads and facilities. She stated they increased GRT revenue by \$4.2M, left the property tax projections the same and increased oil & gas revenues by \$4.8M. Smith reported those numbers were probably on the lower side but felt comfortable with the projections. She stated requests from all departments totaled \$14.2M. The Artesia Horse Council requested \$10K but that number was not reflected in the presented budget as their request was received after completion. Smith stated that FEMA funding was not included in the budget. The FEMA projects would require the County to put the money up and wait on reimbursement from FEMA. The County had received all of the State's money to this point. Smith stated the proposed amount to be kept in reserves was approximately \$18M. All personnel requests were taken out of the budget based on the BOCC priorities and pointed out there was \$250K in the Board's contingency fund. She stated this budget was at the discretion of the Commissioners.
4. **LEGISLATORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Stephens stated the budget as presented would stop progress on building maintenance. He requested consideration of the Assistant Director Position. He also stated the county parks needed maintenance mainly sprinkler design. Crockett asked how much was needed for the parks. Stephens stated he thought \$250K would cover a lot of the repairs needed. Henry asked what else the \$250K would be used for. Stephens wouldn't guarantee all of it would be used for parks; however, they would take a very large chunk of the money.

Cage stated he had a problem with the budget process. He did not like his budget being cut without consulting him. He thanked them for continuing to pay the HIDTA benefits and for the funding for the Carlsbad Advocacy Center. Cage stated he was backing off his request for the 10% raise but stated the vehicles requested were in fact the number of cars needed. He only requested 13 but stated he needed 34 to replace high mileage vehicles. Cage stated the County was still behind in certain aspects of pay/incentives/benefits. Wood stated maybe starting pay should be higher. Carlson stated he was more in favor of increasing incentive pay. Henry stated he would like

to visit the sign-on bonus versus a retention bonus. Cage stated he would prefer a retention bonus and would bring back a proposal for his department.

Van Natta was in agreement with the Sheriff about the budget being cut arbitrarily without any discussion. The Elected Official/Department Head should always be consulted. Most of the people who made those decisions never come to our offices, and had no idea what was needed. Van Natta pointed out the reason for the request to upgrade the two current positions was to help get staff ready for when the Clerk and Chief retired. It was necessary to pay people for the work they were doing. The request was very minimal and asked them to consider her request to reclassify the two positions.

Massingill justified all of his requests and appreciated their consideration.

Ferguson justified her personnel request of one new appraiser and moving the 2 appraisers from the property valuation fund to the general fund.

Mack stated he had spoken with Stephens from facilities and was hoping to have help with maintenance on the fire stations. He requested reconsideration of the positions and explained the importance in his operations. Mack also requested they keep the entire \$30K in for Search and Rescue. Wood asked how many staff he currently had. Mack stated a total of 9 of which 4 were in Fire Services.

McCroskey stated Public Works asked for 6 vehicles of which 3 were presented in the budget. Walker and McCroskey stated they were all over 100K miles. They asked for them to at least consider 1 more vehicle, making the total granted 4; 2 for North and 2 for South Public Works.

5. INTERIM CO-COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES: Smith asked for direction.

6. COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES: Carlson asked for an estimate on incentives for hazard duty, certificates and degrees of education and the effect on the budget. The Commission instructed an adjustment be made to the Artesia Horse Council granting \$10K. Wood asked if there had been a submission from Grammy's House. West stated she hadn't received anything. The amounts given to Paws and Claws and Noah's Ark would remain the same. McCutcheon stated he would like to revisit the amounts given to the cities. Crockett explained the reason for the decrease but stated she would be happy to revisit their amounts budgeted. Henry stated he would like to leave the Carlsbad DOD at \$85K and give the Horse Council \$10K. Crockett stated she agreed with the increases to the Carlsbad Honor Guard and the Carlsbad Advocacy Center.

Smith asked the BOCC to look through the budget, consider requests and bring suggestions back at the next meeting to be held on April 24 @ 9:00 a.m. She stated she would like the preliminary budget to be approved by the second meeting in May.

7. **ADJOURN:** At 11:22 a.m. Crockett moved, seconded by McCutcheon to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes: Carlson, Wood, Crockett, McCutcheon and Henry. Passed 5-0.

CHAIR: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____