

**EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2022**

Be it remembered that the Eddy County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting in the Eddy County Administration Complex-Room 211 on March 15, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Davis called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the New Mexico State flag. Cage gave the invocation.

**PRESENT:**

STEVE MCCUTCHEON  
FRED BEARD  
ERNEST CARLSON  
SARAH CORDOVA  
ALLEN DAVIS  
WESLEY HOOPER  
CAS TABOR  
DARLENE ROSPRIM  
CARA COOKE  
MARK CAGE  
KIM BALLARD  
ROBERTA SMITH  
ANISIA CERNA  
BILLY MASSINGILL  
TERRA DOUGAN  
ROXANN BRANNON  
CAROL HENNINGTON  
JASON FLOREZ  
ANDREW MEDRANO  
JASON BURNS  
JOSHUA MACK  
BETSY BRADSHAW  
JAROD ZUNIGA  
VERONICA PARRAS  
BRIAN STEPHENS  
STEPHANIE YBABEN  
MIKE SMITH

CHAIR, DISTRICT 4  
VICE-CHAIR, DISTRICT 3  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5  
COUNTY MANAGER  
COMMUNITY/ADMIN SRVCS DIR  
COUNTY ATTORNEY  
EDDY COUNTY CLERK  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK  
SHERIFF  
SO ADMINISTRATIVE ASST  
FINANCE DIRECTOR  
PROCUREMENT MANAGER  
DETENTION WARDEN  
EXEC ADMIN ASSISTANT  
HR DIRECTOR  
INFO SYSTEMS SUPERVISOR  
ASST IT DIRECTOR  
INFO SYSTEMS  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
FIRE SERVICE DIRECTOR/MARSHAL  
FIRE SERVICES ADMIN ASSISTANT  
FIRE SVC CHIEF DEPUTY ADMIN  
HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR  
FACILITIES DIRECTOR  
RED ROCKET MEDIA  
CARLSBAD CURRENT ARGUS

**ABSENT:**

JON HENRY

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2



## TIMED AGENDA

8:30 A.M.:

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. ***(THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON) (WE REQUEST ALL COMMENTS BE RESPECTFUL AND COURTEOUS IN NATURE):*** None.
  
2. RETIREMENT PRESENTATIONS:
  - a. BEATE DENNINGER, DETENTION CENTER – 21 YEARS 11 MONTHS.
  - b. BRADLEY S. RODRIGUEZ, SHERIFF’S OFFICE – 4 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS.
  
3. SERVICE AWARDS.
  - a. MICHAEL CORONA, DETENTION CENTER – 25 YEARS.
  - b. CARA COOKE, CLERK’S OFFICE – 15 YEARS.
  - c. MATTHEW HUTCHINSON, SHERIFF’S OFFICE – 15 YEARS-absent
  - d. JOSE HERNANDEZ, PUBLIC WORKS – 15 YEARS. absent
  - e. ROSALINDA MUNOZ, IT DEPARTMENT – 5 YEARS. absent
  - f. ANGEL ARAGON, PUBLIC WORKS – 5 YEARS. absent

Retiring employees were recognized and service awards were presented to the above listed employees for their years of service.

*Short break for pictures.*

4. UPDATE ON EDDY LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE (ELEA), ENERGY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (ECA), AND NUCLEAR PROGRAM – ALLEN DAVIS. Susan Crockett and Jack Volpato updated the Commission on the ELEA and ECA nuclear programs. No challenges had been seen on the Safety Evaluation Report. A license would be issued from the NRC in July pending good reports. HOLTEC would break ground as soon as the license was issued. They noted that the project would have spin-off projects that would bring good jobs to the area, and would also be good for Eddy County, New Mexico and the US. Eddy County would host the annual ECA meeting for the first time in 11 years on May 3, 4, and 5, with an underground tour of WIPP being offered to the Commissioners.
  
5. UPDATE REGARDING EAGLE DRAW – ALLEN DAVIS. Volpato presented an update on progress made to Eagle Draw and the Dam Inspector’s finds during the 2019 inspection. The woody growth issue had been addressed. He suggested the Commissioners submit to their ICIP list for funds to be directed for channel work on Bolton Road to the Pecos River. He noted Eagle Draw had run twice in 2020. He invited the Commissioners for a tour; Beard and Cordova expressed interest.
  
6. PRESENTATION FROM NOAH’S ARK – ALLEN DAVIS. None.

7. **PRESENTATION FROM GRAMMY'S HOUSE – ALLEN DAVIS.** Celina Bryant and Ray Withers thanked the Commission for past support. They updated the Commission on the 19-bed, 24-hour domestic violence shelter, noting it was presently at capacity. The shelter offered counseling, offender's programs, GEDs and Kids and Family Talk. The duration of clientele stay was currently indefinite but it was made clear to clientele that it would be a temporary stay, a time for growth and getting settled. The Commissioners thanked them for their important work. Cordova expressed a wish to coordinate work with the group.
8. **IFB/RFP/BID AWARDS:**
  - a. **\*IFB 21-01 ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND SERVICES PRICE ADJUSTMENTS – ANISIA CERNA.** Carlson moved, seconded by Beard, to approve IFB 21-01. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. IFB 21-01 was recorded as Timed Agenda Exhibit 8.a.

**TRAILING AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE:**
  - a. **\*COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 1, 2022.** Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve Commission Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2022. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0.
  - b. **\*SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 8, 2022.** Beard moved, seconded by Carlson, to approve the Special Commission Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2022. Voting yes: McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Abstaining: Cordova. Passed 3-0.
  - c. **\*EXPENSE APPROVAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022.** Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Expense Approval Report for February 2022. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. The February 2022 Expense Report was recorded as Exhibit 1.c.
2. **\*APPROVE SAFETY NET CARE POOL CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR FY 2021/2022 – 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER – VERONICA PARRAS.** Beard moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Safety Net Care Pool Certification of Public Funds for FY 2021/2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. The Safety Net Care Pool Certification for Public Funds for FY 2021/2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter was recorded as Exhibit 2.

3. **\*APPROVE/DISAPPROVE – TWO (2) INDIGENT BURIALS – VERONICA PARRAS.** Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve two indigent burials. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0.
4. **POTENTIAL CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (CESF) APPLICATION BJA-2020-18553 – SHERIFF MARK CAGE.** Cage stated the funding, if awarded, would be used for training and recruiting with the department. Carlson moved, seconded by Beard to approve the application for funding. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0.
5. **\*BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR ROAD CHIP SEAL PROJECTS – JASON C. BURNS.** Burns stated the FEMA funding allowed the roads to be brought back to their original condition, which was not chip sealed. To preserve the quality of the road, chip sealing would be done. The vendors had agreed to preserve last year's prices and the work would be done before the next FY. Carlson moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Budget Adjustment for Road Chip Seal Projects in the amount of \$2M. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. The Budget Adjustment for Road Chip Seal Projects was recorded as Exhibit 5.
6. **\*SETTING A DATE FOR THE ANNUAL SITE VISIT TO EDDY COUNTY DETENTION CENTER – ALLEN DAVIS.** Davis explained it was a requirement that the Commission tour the detention center once a year. After discussion, it was decided to visit the detention center on April 19, coordinating with the Commission Meeting.
7. **\*RESOLUTION AND AGREEMENT CONSENT AGENDA:** Since all of the items listed below have been distributed to the Commissioners in advance for review and are of a routine and non-controversial nature, they will be enacted by a single motion. Any Commissioner or the County Manager may remove an item from this Resolution and Agreement Consent Agenda if separate discussion is desired. Any item so removed shall be placed on the Trailing Agenda immediately following the approval of this Resolution and Agreement Consent Agenda or later, at a specific time or place on the Trailing Agenda.
  - a. **RESOLUTIONS:**
    - i. **R-22-21; CERTIFICATION OF THE 2022 ANNUAL COUNTY MAINTAINED MILEAGE REPORT – JASON BURNS.**
    - ii. **R-22-25; FY 2021-2022 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – ROBERTA SMITH.**
    - iii. **R-22-27; DISPOSAL, REMOVAL, OR REVISE ITEMS IN THE EDDY COUNTY INVENTORY/ASSETS – JESSICA STYGAR.**
    - iv. **R-22-28; INDIGENT MEDICAL/HOSPITAL CLAIMS REPORT – VERONICA PARRAS.**

**b. AGREEMENTS:**

- i. A-22-25; DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUB-GRANT AGREEMENT FEMA-4199-44V5 – ROBERTA SMITH.
- ii. A-22-26; 2022 HIDTA GRANT SUB-AWARD RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LEA (PVDTF) – WM. ROBERT SULLIVAN.
- iii. A-22-27; 2022 HIDTA GRANT SUB-AWARD RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LEA (ADMINISTRATION) – WM. ROBERT SULLIVAN.
- iv. A-22-28; MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH STANTEC FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES – WESLEY HOOPER.

Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Resolution/Agreement Consent Agenda, pulling for discussion R-22-21. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. R-22-25, R-22-27 & R-22-28 were recorded as Exhibits 7.a.ii through 7.a.iv., respectively. A-22-25 through A-22-28 were recorded as Exhibits 7.b.i through 7.b.iv., respectively.

Following discussion, Carlson moved, seconded by Beard, to approve R-22-21. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0. R-22-21 was recorded as Exhibit 7.a.i.

8. **ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT UPDATES.** Hooper updated the Commission on progress made on intersection projects and negotiations relating to the SE Loop. Burns updated and previewed the Commission on road construction projects for both the North and South departments. Carlson inquired of the possibility of putting rumble strips on the approach to the Derrick/Grandi intersection. Mack stated the State Fire Marshall had visited the training ground and was interested in partnering with the Regional Training Center. The Loving station had been approved for State funding. The Loving EMT had been kept busy responding to accidents in the area. Cage stated the SO simulator training for the Commissioners could be scheduled from March 21 through April 1. He noted several incidents involving explosive devices had arisen recently and the SO had coordinated with the ATF and Task Force. SENM College trustees were making progress and were searching for a President. The College would also have vocational studies and industry-based curriculum.
9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES.** Davis stated the Governor had signed the Capital Outlay, adding that Junior Funds had been vetoed. Eddy County would receive \$7.6M.
10. **\*TRAVEL REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA:** Since all of the items listed below have been distributed to the Commissioners in advance for review and

are of a routine and non-controversial nature, they will be enacted by a single motion. Any Commissioner or the County Manager may remove an item from this Travel Request Consent Agenda if separate discussion is desired. Any item so removed shall be placed on the Trailing Agenda immediately following this Travel Request Consent Agenda or later, at a specific time or place on the Trailing Agenda.

**PRIOR:**

- a. **SHERIFF MARK CAGE ATTENDED THE NATIONAL SHERIFF'S CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C. FROM FEBRUARY 2 THRU FEBRUARY 10, 2022.**

**FUTURE: NONE.**

Beard moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Travel Request Consent Agenda. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0.

**11. EMERGENCY BUSINESS:** None.

**12. LEGISLATORS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES.** A Regional Legislative Session would be held in Roswell on March 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chaves County Sheriff's Training Room.

**13. COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES.** Davis stated a meeting was held with Massingill, Hooper, Burns and representatives from a partnership group to talk about a Judicial Complex. Finance would be consulted for finances for the study. The Mayor of Artesia was a member of REDA, with Mayor-Elect Henry stepping into that position, vacating his Commissioner position on REDA; Davis requested a Commissioner fill the vacated position on the Executive Board. Fire and Rescue would like an information session related to a paid role in Loving, and would be bringing a recommendation to the BOCC in April.

**14. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES.** Cordova thanked all for their hard work. She would like every opportunity to showcase Eddy County in a positive way. She had had encounters with patients in rehab and had noticed in them an overwhelming sense of remorse for trafficking fentanyl and all the bad things done. She felt it was due to a group effort that was working. She had had a sense of positivity when meeting with these patients. She hoped all would stay safe. Carlson felt the County was going in a good direction. He noted McCutcheon was not running for re-election and would be sorely missed. Beard agreed and felt Eddy County was a good example for the entire state. McCutcheon was grateful for learning all he did and getting to know all the

people, the lessons he'd learned. He was grateful to Eddy County. Davis thanked him for his leadership.

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**16. \*ADJOURN.** At 10:22 a.m., Carlson moved, seconded by Beard, to adjourn. Voting yes: Cordova, McCutcheon, Beard and Carlson. Passed 4-0.

*~Asterisk denotes vote is required~*

**EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_