

**EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Be it remembered that the Eddy County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting in the Eddy County Administration Complex-Room 211 on November 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Carlson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the New Mexico State flag. Massengill gave the invocation.

PRESENT:

ERNEST CARLSON	CHAIRMAN
FRED BEARD	VICE-CHAIR
JON HENRY	COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2
JAMES (BO) BOWEN	COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4
SARAH CORDOVA	COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5
ROBERTA GONZALES	COUNTY MANAGER
CAS TABOR	COUNTY ATTORNEY
CARA COOKE	COUNTY CLERK
TAMI WHITE	CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
LAURIE PRUITT	COUNTY TREASURER
RHONDA HATCH	COUNTY ASSESSOR
MELISSA WASHBURN	CHIEF COUNTY ASSESSOR
MARK CAGE	COUNTY SHERIFF
MATTHEW HUTCHINSON	CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF
ADRIENNE JONES	EXECUTIVE ADMIN ASSISTANT
BREANNA SHIELDS	FINANCE DIRECTOR
JESSICA STYGAR	ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR
STEVE MCCROSKEY	COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
JASON BURNS	PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
DORIE FANNIN	PROCUREMENT MANAGER
JENNIFER ARMENDARIZ	EMERGENCY MANAGER
ROXANNE BRANNON	HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
BILLY MASSENGILL	DETENTION WARDEN
JOSHUA MACK	FIRE CHIEF
JAROD ZUNIGA	DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
CAROL HENNINGTON	IT DIRECTOR
ANDREW MEDRANO	IT SPECIALIST 1
TRENT MOORE	M&O SUPERVISOR
DEBRA HAMPTON	DWI PROGRAM DIRECTOR
STEPHANIE YBABEN	RED ROCKET MEDIA

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).** Eric Rios, Duarte Road resident, expressed his concern and frustration on the issue of dangerous driving and speeding on Duarte Road; vehicles had been racing and stop signs run over in the residential area. Steve Angel spoke to the same issues on Coleman Road. A daily occurrence had been semi's speeding in a 30 mph zone, putting residents, children and animals in danger. He requested help to resolve the situation. Jackie Miller, Duarte Road resident, concurred with the previously-spoken concerns. She added that animals were often dumped in that area. Wild animals had been hit in the area, bringing additional concern. She requested help to keep the traffic from going so fast.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING: O-23-126; ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF EDDY COUNTY INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BOND (PRONTO MIDSTREAM PROJECT) SERIES 2023 IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000,000, AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS.**
 - a) ***OPEN.** At 8:38 a.m., Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to open the Public Hearing to approve O-23-16, Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Eddy County Industrial Revenue (Pronto Midstream Project) Series 2023 in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000,000 and Associated Documents. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.
 - b) **STAFF COMMENTS.** Gonzales noted this was the next step in the process that followed the resolution the Commission had previously approved, R-23-102.
 - c) **PUBLIC COMMENT. THREE MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON – WE REQUEST THAT ALL COMMENTS BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL IN NATURE.** None.
 - d) **COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.** Tabor stated the attorneys representing the bond would be available via telephone to answer any questions or concerns the Commissioners might have had on the issue.
 - e) **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.** None.
 - f) **ENTERTAIN A MOTION AND SECOND FROM BOARD.** Henry moved, seconded by Bowen, to approve O-23-126, Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Eddy County Industrial Revenue (Pronto Midstream Project) Series 2023 in an

Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000,000 and Associated Documents.

- g) ***BOARD ACTION.**
i. **APPROVE/DISAPPROVE ORDINANCE O-23-126 AND RELATED DOCUMENTS – 1) A-23-177, INDENTURE FOR IRB ORDINANCE O-23-126, 2) A-23-178, BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR IRB ORDINANCE O-23-126, 3) A-23-179, LEASE AGREEMENT FOR IRB ORDINANCE O-23-126.**

Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. A-23-177 – A-23-179 and O-23-126 were recorded as Timed Agenda Exhibits 2.g.i.

- h) ***ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING.** At 8:41 a.m., Henry moved, seconded by Bowen, to adjourn the public hearing. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

TRAILING AGENDA:

1. APPROVE:

- a. ***COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 3, 2023.** Bowen moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2023. Voting yes: Carlson, Bowen and Cordova. Abstaining: Henry and Beard. Passed 3-0.
- b. ***COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2023.** Henry moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2023. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard and Bowen. Abstaining: Cordova. Passed 4-0.
- c. ***EXPENSE APPROVAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023.** Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Expense Approval Report for October 2023. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The Expense Approval Report for October 2023 was recorded as Exhibit 1.c.
- d. ***PURCHASE CARD APPROVAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023.** Beard moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Purchase Card Approval Report for September 2023. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The Purchase Card Approval Report for September 2023 was recorded as Exhibit 1.d.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 – LAURIE PRUITT – FYI ONLY.

- 3. *REVENUE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 – JESSICA STYGAR.** Gonzales introduced Breanna Shields, the new County Finance Director. Shields stated the September GRT revenue was \$5.1M with \$16M YTD. Oil and Gas revenue for September was \$5.8M and \$18.8M YTD. Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Revenue Report for September

2023. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The Revenue Report for September 2023 was recorded as Exhibit 3.

4. ***BUDGET VS. ACTUALS – SEPTEMBER REVENUE AND EXPENSES – JESSICA STYGAR.** Shields reported revenue of \$258M had been budgeted with actuals of \$148M, being 58% collected or 34% considering transfers. Expenses budgeted were \$284M with actuals of \$122M, being 43% or 15% considering transfers. Bowen moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Budget v. Actuals – September Revenue and Expenses. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The Revenue Report for September 2023 was recorded as Exhibit 4.
5. ***FY 2023-2024 1ST QUARTER LODGER'S TAX REPORT – JESSICA STYGAR.** Shields reported the Lodger's Tax had a beginning balance of \$139K with 1st Quarter collections adding \$18K and \$32K having been spent, ending with a balance of \$126K. She added that \$55K had been committed and unspent for the 1st Quarter. Carlson inquired of the timeframe for funds to be spent. He felt the funds were to be used to promote the community and did not want an event to have committed funds and then the event not happen. McCroskey stated that topic had been considered at the last Board meeting. It was felt 60 days after the event was a sufficient timeframe to submit invoices for reimbursement from November forward. Shields added that a portion of the 1st Quarter encumbered \$55K had been distributed in October. Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the FY 2023-2024 1st Quarter Lodger's Tax Report. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The FY 2023-2024 1st Quarter Lodger's Report for was recorded as Exhibit 5.
6. **CAPSTONE PROJECT OVERVIEW FOR CPM – MELISSA WASHBURN – FYI ONLY.** Washburn updated the Commission on her project with more information forthcoming in the future.
7. ***PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW MEXICO NURSE PRACTITIONER COUNCIL CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER WEEK NOVEMBER 12-18, 2023 AND THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS NURSE PRACTITIONERS MAKE EVERY DAY SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NEW MEXICO – ROBERTA GONZALES.** Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Proclamation in Support of the New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council Celebrating National Nurse Practitioner Week November 12-18, 2023 & the Valuable Contributions Nurse Practitioners Make Every Day Serving the Citizens of New Mexico. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. The Proclamation was recorded as Exhibit 7.
8. ***SET A SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING TO OPEN AND CLOSE CANVASS FOR THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION HELD ON**

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 – CARA COOKE. Cooke explained the Commission was required to certify the Election Canvass no sooner than six days after and no later than 13 days following the election. Bowen moved, seconded by Beard, to set a Special Commission Meeting on Monday, November 13 at 8:30 a.m., to Open and Close the Canvass for the Regular Local Election Held on November 7, 2023. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

9. ***LAW ENFORCEMENT RETENTION DISBURSEMENT – MARK CAGE.** Gonzales had requested this item be pulled from the Agenda.

10. ***FUND UTILIZATION FOR APPROPRIATION #23-ZH5048-25 \$1,050,000.00 – LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT DISTRIBUTION - MARK CAGE.** Cage stated the State funds could be used for salary and benefits and would cover four new positions, adding one position to every shift. The positions would be fully funded the first year, funded at 50% the second year and 25% the third year. He added, if approved, the employees would be hired within a month. Beard moved, seconded by Henry, to approve the Fund Utilization for Appropriation #23-ZH5048-25 \$1,050,000. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

11. ***CITY OF ARTESIA – INDUSTRIAL PARK/FREEMAN ROAD PROJECT BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST – JASON C. BURNS.** Burns stated this was for a quarter mile section on Freeman Road reimbursing Artesia for their work. It has been approved in the budget previously and the project had been delayed into the new budget year. Bowen moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the City of Artesia Industrial Park/Freeman Road Project Budget Adjustment. Voting yes: Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Abstaining: Henry. Passed 4-0.

12. ***BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR EDDY COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS AND PLANNING – JASON C. BURNS.** Burns stated this plan had been a long time coming. The planning and programming had been previously done and this would be the next step for the facilities the County had wanted to build. That next step would be to have a drawing and a plan produced of how much and how long to accomplish this plan for a detention center, courthouse and new admin building. Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Budget Adjustment for Eddy County Capital Projects Conceptual Designs and Planning. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

13. ***SAM BOOST INSTALLATION – JAROD ZUNIGA.** The part would be installed on four fire trucks to assist in pumping engines with reduced manpower. Bowen moved, seconded by Henry, to approve the Sam Boost Installation. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

14. ***REQUEST TO OVER HIRE DIVISION CHIEF OF TRAINING/HEALTH AND SAFETY – JOSHUA MACK.** Mack stated Chief Burks would retire in February. This over-hire would allow for training of the Chief. Cordova moved, seconded by Beard, to approve the Request to Over-Hire Division Chief of Training/Health and Safety. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

15. ***APPROVE EXTENSION OF THE ARBOR ESTATES PRELIMINARY PLAT – STEVEN MCCROSKEY.** McCroskey stated plat had been approved in October, 2021 with the ordinance stating the plat would expire two years after approval. The owner requested an extension of an additional 12 months citing family dynamics as the reason. McCroskey felt the owner was fully capable of getting the subdivision done in that time frame. Henry moved, seconded by Bowen, to approve the Extension of the Arbor Estates Preliminary Plat. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

16. ***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-23-103; DONATION OF 2011 CHEVROLET 3500HD TO CITY OF BELEN – JOSHUA MACK.**
- ii. **R-23-104; DONATION OF A FIRE APPARATUS TO THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN – JOSHUA MACK.**
- iii. **R-23-105; REVISION OF THE EDDY COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY – JESSICA STYGAR.**
- iv. **R-23-106; NEW FUND CREATION – LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT FUND – ROBERTA GONZALES.**
- v. **R-23-107; FY 2023-2024 DFA 1ST QUARTERLY REPORT – ROBERTA GONZALES.**
- vi. **R-23-108; SPECIAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT APPROPRIATION – ROBERTA GONZALES.**
- vii. **R-23-109; DISPOSAL, REMOVAL, OR REVISE ITEMS IN THE EDDY COUNTY INVENTORY/ASSETS – JESSICA STYGAR.**
- viii. **R-23-110; EDDY COUNTY SUBSCRIPTION-BASED IT ARRANGEMENTS POLICY AND PROCEDURES – JESSICA STYGAR.**

- ix. R-23-111; SUPPORTING THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – ROBERTA GONZALES.
- x. R-23-113; INDIGENT MEDICAL/HOSPITAL CLAIMS REPORT – VERONICA PAYANES.
- xi. R-23-114; EDDY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – STEVEN MCCROSKEY.

b. AGREEMENTS:

- i. A-23-167; EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION AND EDDY COUNTY – SHERIFF MARK CAGE.
- ii. A-23-168; AGREEMENT FOR JUNIOR BILL APPROPRIATION #23-ZH9215 TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN EDDY COUNTY – GRAMMY’S HOUSE ARTESIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER – DORIE FANNIN.
- iii. A-23-169; AGREEMENT FOR JUNIOR BILL APPROPRIATION #23-ZH9215 TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN EDDY COUNTY – AFFIRMING HEART VICTIM SERVICES – DORIE FANNIN.
- iv. A-23-171; APPROPRIATION #23-ZH5048-25 \$1,050,000.00 – LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT DISTRIBUTION – SHERIFF MARK CAGE.
- v. A-23-172; NM DFA LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION DWI GRANT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 1, AMENDING A-23-130; FY24 SPECIAL APPLICATION – DEBRA HAMPTON.
- vi. A-23-173; AGREEMENT WITH FOX SECURITY FOR FIRE ALARM MONITORING AND NOTIFICATION AT EDDY COUNTY FACILITIES – FRANK MOORE.
- vii. A-23-174; KATS PREMIUM SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST – MARK CAGE.
- viii. A-23-176; G22SN0017A – REGION VI MODIFICATION #4 – LENIN LEOS.

Henry moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Resolution and Agreement Consent Agenda. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0. R-23-103 through R-23-111, R-23-113 and R-23-114 were recorded as Exhibits 16.a.i. through 16.a.xi., respectively. A-23-167 through A-23-169, A-23-171 through A-23-174 and A-23-176 were recorded as Exhibits 16.b.i through 16.b.viii., respectively.

17.*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. CHRISTOPHER CARON AND GARRETT HENDREN ATTENDED AMERICAN TACTICAL K9 TRAINING IN BUTLERVILLE, IN FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.
- b. WESLEY YERBY TRANSPORTED FUGITIVE FROM PARKER COUNTY JAIL TO ECDC IN WEATHERFORD, TX FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9, 2023.
- c. JAMES LARA ATTENDED AMERICAN TACTICAL K9 TRAINING IN BUTLERVILLE, IN FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2023.
- d. WYATT KLEIN, JARED STOCK AND LEVI CORDOVA ATTENDED THE REVIEW OF NEW BURN BUILDING TO ASSURE ADEQUATE PLANNING IN THE COLONY, TX FROM OCTOBER 2, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 4, 2023.
- e. WESLEY YERBY TRANSPORTED FUGITIVE PICKUP FROM FLORENCE, COLORADO FROM OCTOBER 15, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 16, 2023.
- f. JUSTIN HERNANDEZ ATTENDED TACTICAL DEVIATION IN FIREGROUND OPERATIONS CONFERENCE IN PENSACOLA, FL FROM OCTOBER 15, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 19, 2023.
- g. TONIA TILLER ATTENDED CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION IN GEORGETOWN, TX FROM OCTOBER 15, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 19, 2023.
- h. JOSEPH OTTO ATTENDED LEADERSHIP SUPERVISION (R0645) IN EMMITSBURG, MD FROM OCTOBER 14, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 21, 2023.

FUTURE

None.

Henry moved, seconded by Cordova, to approve the Travel Consent Agenda. Voting yes: Henry, Carlson, Beard, Bowen and Cordova. Passed 5-0.

18. EMERGENCY BUSINESS. None.

19. LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES. Gonzales presented an update from Matt Thompson. The Interim Committees were wrapping up and would be monitored. She noted five legislators were not seeking reelection, those being Ortiz, Talman, Pirtle, Kernan and Ingalls.

20. ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/

UPDATES. Brannon reminded the County was offering flu shots for the employees and dependents this week. The County participated in the recent Fall Festival. The HR Department would now use a new applicant tracking system. The DOL presented a new apprentice program for 16 to 24 year olds NM Pre-Apprenticeship Program, paying for 400 hours. The program would allow the applicants to be introduced to and exposed to jobs in a work environment. She noted previously-frozen temp positions may be used for this program with the DOL paying for them.

Shields presented the Quarterly highlights and passed out two spreadsheets with updated information on Q1. She highlighted the SE Loop Project, with \$25M having been spent. The County was participating in 32 active grants totaling over \$41.M. See Attached sheets.

Cooke reminded of Election Day. She noted Early and Absentee Voting numbers were Artesia, 360 and Carlsbad, 417 out of 34K registered voters in the County. She noted the public had requested candidate information and the Clerk's Office did not have that. Carlson noted it was up to the candidate to present their information.

Armendariz spoke to the email sent out October 18 with the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The time for public comments had been extended along with time for changes, she felt FEMA should now approve it and Keen Industries would be returning it by the end of the week.

Cage had attended a joint Executive Board meeting of NMC and Municipal League. All NMC priorities had been supported by the Municipal League. The SO canines had hit the ground running, having taken meth and fentanyl off the streets their first night of work. The SO presented law enforcement information and the canines to the junior high students in Artesia. The SO had presented an active shooter training at Artesia General Hospital. Breakfast with the Sheriff had taken place at El Jimador for the public to meet with law enforcement. Cage was proud of his team.

Burns discussed the traffic issues presented in the Malaga area. He noted the County was the victim of its own success. He and Carlson had been out in Malaga and noted the mess with the NMDOT project. Streets had been rerouted. He commended the SO on the job they were doing on speed. Road maintenance had been accomplished on those roads so that speed was now an issue. He noted potholes would slow the speeding down. Speeding was an issue all throughout the County. Accidents had increased. He noted Eddy County was no longer the single-lane farming community it was 20 years ago. He did not feel speed humps were the solution and had created more of a hazard than a solution. They were a maintenance nightmare. Rumble strips

were being considered. Solutions were being considered especially in the residential areas, but noted it was a difficult situation. He felt there was no right answer to the issue but they would keep trying. The SE Loop would be finished by the end of the year. Cage noted an increase in traffic from the West Loop and felt a traffic light was needed at the intersection of Corrales and National Parks Highway. Burns stated an engineer had been contracted to design an intersection at Corrales and NP Highway. NMDOT was supporting this. Burns noted McDonald and Twin Wells had recently been chip-sealed and the job had finished. This may alleviate some of the increased traffic elsewhere. A PSA had been sent to NMDOT with the alternate route information. Henry agreed that speed bumps were not the solution to the issue; they created more issue with people driving around them, flipping vehicles. Bowen added that the speeding was a people problem with a constant time crunch, time push. Beard felt speed bumps did not work, but speed humps would work to slow people down. Cordova suggested flashing signs to slow down in residential areas.

Moore stated the PVDTF offices were being fast tracked and a meeting would be held with the architect, adding a vendor was ready to mobilize and start the project.

21. COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES.

Gonzales wished a Happy Veterans' Day thanking the veterans for their service. She noted County offices would be closed. The Legislative Session was scheduled for January 16 through January 18. The January 16 Commission meeting could be moved to alternate dates the week after. She had attended the Mayor's Energy Summit in October. She also attended the Managers' Retreat with 20 of the 32 counties representing. Topics discussed were Detention Center costs and housing of DA's and judges in the courts. The NMC insurance pool counties had been in litigation with the State. The insurance costs would be going up by 10% to employees on January 1. The County had previously increased the insurance budget by 5% each year. The Arrowhead Study would be presented November 21 in Santa Fe with Dr. Cramer presenting. There will be discussion at the Legislation on the National Center for Public Lands, and origination being established by NACO and WIR to provide research on federal assistance and resources to counties. Each county will be asked to provide a one-time contribution of 1% of their local assistance monies received. Eddy County's one-time contribution would be \$75K out of the General Fund. A goal of \$14M to \$15M was needed for the organization. The Opioid settlement monies pool included the City of Artesia. Requests for Information, RFIs, had been sent out and four responses from the East Coast had been received. RFPs would be sent out to solicit ideas allowing the funds to be rewarded. She reminded December 23 was the last day for employee vacation use, as only 240 hours were able to be carried over into the new year.

22. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/

UPDATES. Cordova appreciated the resolution thanking the Nurse Practitioners. She noted there were 299 in the state and more were needed. She thanked Mr. Rios and neighbors for coming and appreciated the Sheriff's comments. It was Election Day and she thanked the election and poll workers for their dedication and was disappointed in so few voters. She welcomed Shields to the County. She thanked all who helped the County to work. Henry updated on the playoffs and sporting successes. He noted the FFA groups had been in the top six in the nation at the Nationals. Bowen had attended a "Stop 30X30 Initiative" and felt it was a gross government overreach and a land grab; he encouraged all to speak out against it. He thanked Mr. Rios for bringing the issue to the meeting. He felt the voting turnout had been poor and encouraged all to get out and vote. Beard thanked Mr. Rios and felt we needed a solution and he was in favor of anything that would work. Carlson thanked those citizens for bringing the issue to the meeting so they could be addressed. He noted NMSU's Arrowhead Department was nearing completion of the revised study that would contain more information and address alternative energy. He and Burns would review it and then introduce the study in Santa Fe. They would present copies to the legislators. He thanked all for their hard work.

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

~Asterisks denote vote is required~

Meeting closed at 10:12 a.m.

**EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**



CHAIRMAN, ERNEST CARLSON

ATTEST: 

COUNTY CLERK, CARA COOKE

DATE: November 21, 2023

