

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

New Mexico Special Meeting Board of County Commissioners

Dallas Draper, Chair
Lynn Willard, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Stewart, Member
Elaine Allen, Member
Preston Stone, Member

Minutes Friday April 3, 2020

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Commission held at 9:15 AM on April 3, 2020 in the County Commission Chambers, Lincoln County Courthouse, in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order

Chair Draper called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 9:15 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Draper (via Zoom), Commissioner Allen (via Zoom), Commissioner Willard (via Zoom).

Absent: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Stone.

Others present included Nita Taylor, County Manager; Alan Morel, County Attorney; and Whitney Whittaker, County Clerk.

3. Invocation

The invocation was presented by Chair Draper

4. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Pledge – USA Flag
- b. Salute – NM Flag

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Acceptance of the Agenda and authorized the Chair to move items as necessary,

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Chair Draper, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.

6. Approval of Potential Change Order #41 for Construction of Replacement Hospital -Addition of Emergency Power for Imaging Equipment

Nita Taylor, Manager reminded during the March 13th Commission Meeting, the Commission was made aware of the pending change order to add emergency power to imaging equipment. Ms. Taylor stated the project was being priced out by Jaynes. Ms. Taylor informed the Commission had previously granted the Manager the authority to approve change orders for an amount up to \$100,000; and due to this pending change order, increased that amount by 20% to \$120,000. Ms. Taylor stated the total change order came in at \$170,527.48.

Commissioner Willard questioned if Dekker Perich Sabatini had been put on notice.

Attorney Morel stated on behalf of the County Commission, Dekker Perich Sabatini will be put on noticed disputing the amount owed solely by Lincoln County. Attorney Morel stated this item

should have been properly placed in the paperwork, as additional equipment on an "if needed" basis.

Motion: Approve Change Order #41 in the amount \$161,811.00 to enable the addition of emergency power to imaging equipment, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Chair Draper, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.

7. Consideration of the Purchase of an Alaskan Shelter for Triage for COVID-19 Testing

Ms. Taylor stated the COVID- 19 health crises was an existing condition in Lincoln County that required the emergency purchase of a Triage Tent for the testing of the virus. Ms. Taylor stated the tent shelter would afford Lincoln County Medical Center the ability to maintain a controlled environment. Ms. Taylor stated the Emergency Room (ER) at Lincoln County Medical Center had one triage room within the existing ER. Ms. Taylor stated the ability to triage in a self-contained area would reduce the potential exposure of contagions to other patients. Ms. Taylor informed in addition LCMC only had one negative air pressure room, so any amount of patients greater than one brought into the ER before proper triage could expose patients to contagions.

Ms. Taylor stated section 3.2.2 of the Lincoln County Purchasing Policy permits emergency purchases when there is an existing condition which creates a threat to public health, welfare or safety. Ms. Taylor stated the cost of the tent was quoted at \$61,949.00. Ms. Taylor stated it is recommended this purchase be made with mill levy funding and had confirmed with the Office of the Attorney General the cost would fall under "cost of operations."

Todd Oberheu, Chief Executive for the Lincoln County Medical Center informed the hospital is doing their best to keep potential exposure to a minimum. Mr. Oberheu stated they can maintain potential exposure with the addition of the tent.

There was a lengthy discussion on testing of COVID-19 in Lincoln County.

Motion: Approve the purchase not to exceed \$75,000 for Alaskan Shelter for Triage Tents for COVID-19 testing, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Chair Draper, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.

8. Consideration and Direction for Submitting Comments to the President of the United States Opposing Federal Senate Bill 47 Protecting 1.3 Million Acres of Wilderness Including 270,000 in New Mexico

Ms. Taylor stated U.S. Senate Bill 47 passed last year in the Senate 92-8 and in the House of Representatives, with only 62 of 435 voting members opposing the bill; and was signed by the President; so there was no action item today.

Ms. Taylor stated work on the Lincoln National Forest Revision Plan has been postponed due to COVID-19.

9. Discussion of the Petition Extraordinary Writ Relief for 2020 Primary Election Signed By Some County Clerks

Whitney Whittaker, Clerk stated on March 30, 2020 an emergency petition was filed by twenty-seven County Clerks in New Mexico for an All Mail Ballot Election for the 2020 Primary Election. Ms. Whittaker stated a Motion to Intervene was filed by the Republican Party, some legislators and four County Clerks. Ms. Whittaker stated the Supreme Court granted the Motion to Intervene and further requested a response to the verified emergency petition and response in intervention from a number of parties; included was the Governor, New Mexico Legislature, the Democratic Party of New Mexico, the Libertarian Party and the League of Women Voters. Ms. Whittaker stated the briefs were to be filed by April 8, 2020 and Oral Argument were scheduled for April 14, 2020.

There was a general discussion regarding the process for an all-mail ballot election.

10. **Signing of Official Documents**

11. **Next meeting:**

a. April 21, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

12. **Adjourn 9:47 AM.**

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Draper adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM.

County of Lincoln
Board of County Commissioners

Approved Telephonically
Dallas Draper, Chair

Approved Telephonically
F Lynn Willard, Vice Chair

Approved Telephonically
Preston Stone, Member

Approved Telephonically
Thomas Stewart, Member

Elaine Allen
Elaine Allen, Member

ATTEST:

Whitney Whitaker
Whitney Whitaker, County Clerk

May 28, 2020
Date Approved

