

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

July 14, 2009

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met for the purpose of holding a work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, in the County Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico. The following members of the Board were present:

Commissioner Fred D. Williams, District 1
Chairman R. Javier Diaz, District 3

Commissioner Becky Gilmore, District 2, was absent.

Also present were the following staff and elected officials: County Manager John Sutherland, Jr., Administrative Assistant Glory Johnson, Clerk Karen Smyer, Chief Deputy Clerk Natalie Pacheco, Human Resources Coordinator Danny Gonzales, Budget/Procurement Officer and CPPO Joanne Hethcox, Special Projects Coordinator Rheganne Vaughn, Probate Judge Fletcher C. Bowman, Healthy Start Program Coordinator, Claudia Pena, Planning Director Frank Almanza and Luna Health Council Coordinator Joe McClintock.

Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico were conducted. Chairman Diaz stated a roll call would show the presence of Commissioners Williams and himself and the absence of Commissioner Gilmore. Commissioner Williams requested that the workshop be brought to a close by 8:00 p.m. and any agenda items left unheard could be placed on an upcoming agenda and addressed at a later date.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. LUNA COUNTY BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY: Rheganne Vaughn presented a list of properties owned by Luna County and stated she would provide a more definitive document at her earliest opportunity. Ms. Vaughn's list, which was made available to the audience, included the following properties:

1. Luna County Courthouse and Park
2. Luna County Joint Dispatch Center/Emergency Management Department
3. Luna County Annex at Park Plaza--Sheriff's Office, Juvenile Probation Office and District Attorney
4. Luna County Planning Department building
5. Luna County Extension Office/Luna County Sheriff's Office detective offices
6. Luna County Judicial Complex
7. Luna County Spruce Street Annex

8. Healing House
9. Public Health Office on Silver Street
10. Bel Canto Theatre building on Diamond Street* (Will be renovated to house the PMS Health Clinic.)
11. Luna County Skate Park
12. Luna County Bicycle Park
13. Little Angels Daycare building on Lime Street (The county receives lease income on this building as well as the mobile home listed as #14.)
14. Mobile home on Lime Street (Under lease to Debbie Juarez who subleases it to an employee of Little Angels Daycare who serves as caretaker.)
15. Luna County Public Works property
16. Mimbres Valley Learning Center (MVL) (Special Events Center must be leased from the City of Deming. WNMU pays a fee to the county for use of the building and the county pays for maintenance and pays utilities.)
17. Luna County MVL daycare building
18. Deming Depot (There is a usage fee and a cleaning deposit required.)
19. StarMax Entertainment Complex (pending)
20. Luna County Detention Center
21. Mobile home(s) on detention center property (It was unclear whether both mobile homes on the detention center property belong to the county. Apparently one has been removed by Global Housing.)
22. Centro Jardin de los Ninos
23. Western Furniture building and lots behind*
24. Former Pepsi bottling plant on Pine Street* (This building has been proposed for renovation as a youth center and/or office space.)
25. Armijo building on Gold Street* (A private buyer has expressed interest in purchasing this building.)
26. Sunshine School
27. Luna County international cattle crossing stockyards in Columbus (County received a \$350,000 grant for renovations to the facility.)
28. Mimbres Valley Learning Center satellite facility in Columbus
29. Luna County Sheriff's Office substation* (Because of security issues, this building is not currently in use.)
30. Irwin farm near Columbus* (There is a lease agreement with the former owner.)
31. YWCA building (Leased to the hospital as a rehabilitation center.)

(* denotes buildings or properties not currently in use.)

Members of the audience voiced concern regarding the importance of adhering to building codes when renovating buildings and the need for more oversight by the commissioners prior to purchasing properties. Chairman Diaz proposed looking into using the Western Furniture building to house the District Attorney's offices.

B. UPDATE ON PROJECTS: Rheganne Vaughn briefed the Commissioners on two current projects including the Colonias Initiative Grant and the Youth Programs Complex. She provided the board and the public with an outline of the projects. Ms. Vaughn informed

the board that the purpose of the Colonias Initiative Grant is to chip seal up to two miles of road in the Keeler Farm Colonia. The purpose of the Youth Programs Complex project is to renovate county owned buildings to house various youth and community programs such as dance, boxing, mariachi, ballet folklorico. Updates on the remainder of the projects were postponed to a future date in order to allow time to discuss the proposed ethics code.

C. ETHICS CODE: Commissioner Williams stated in light of the constant ethical problems facing state and county government, it was his desire to tell people running for the office of County Commissioner what they are expected to do and how they are expected to behave. He provided a copy of a statement to board members as well as the audience. He acknowledged he had drawn up a code of ethics/mission statement with the assistance of the county manager and asked for input from the public to refine the document. It appeared that the majority of the audience supported the concept of an ethics code. Commissioner Williams believed that the board has the right to censure its members for unethical behavior and because of the possibility of censure, such code would serve as an enforcement tool. Members in the audience believed that the board should not "go along to get along" and that each should stand up for their own principles and maintain their integrity. It was also suggested that New Mexico State statutes should be considered and statutes governing commissioners should be incorporated into the document.

D. STARMAX UPDATE AND OPERATING AGREEMENT: This topic was deferred to a future date.

E. YOUTH FOOTBALL FIELD RESTROOMS: Planning Director Frank Almanza reported that a metal building formerly used at the skate park will be used as ADA compliant restrooms at the youth football fields. Mr. Almanza further reported that the school superintendent has donated toilets and urinals. He said labor for the project will be donated and the major cost to the county will be for concrete work. The road crew will level off the parking lot. According to Mr. Almanza, the City of Deming maintains the park which lies east of the soccer field.

F. COMMISSION DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS: Manager Sutherland proposed establishing community "town hall" meetings. He suggested that he, one commissioner, and key staff conduct forums designed to elicit feedback from citizens regarding how they feel about the services they receive from county government. He stated minutes would not be necessary since a quorum of the board of county commissioners would not be in attendance. Mr. Sutherland said he has worked on scheduling meetings for feedback on the Infrastructure County Improvement Plan and has worked with Frank Almanza for feedback on Ordinance #37. Healthy Start Program Coordinator volunteered the services of her staff and herself to provide child care for clients interested in attending the meetings. Mr. Sutherland stated the meetings will be advertised as widely as possible.

Commissioner Williams announced the resignation, effective Friday, July 17, of Commissioner Gilmore whose term expires December 31, 2010. Glory Johnson advised that the assistant to Governor Richardson will be letting her know how the Governor wishes to proceed with regard to accepting letters of interest from prospective "candidates" and the

information will be made public. Commissioner Williams stated it took the governor three months to appoint him to the position vacated upon the death of Commissioner Eric Jordan.

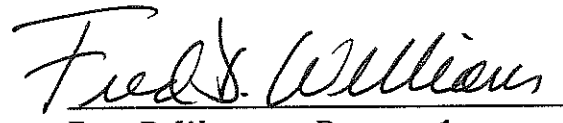
G. OTHER ITEMS AS NECESSARY: Mr. Sutherland requested that this item be removed from the agenda in order to insure compliance with the "reasonable specificity" clause in the Open Meetings Act.

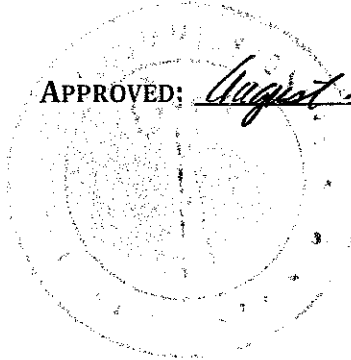
ADJOURN: A workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in the county commission chambers of the courthouse. The work session concluded at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

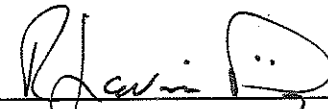
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


KAREN SMYER, LUNA COUNTY CLERK


FRED D. WILLIAMS, DISTRICT 1

APPROVED:  August 12, 2009

N/A
Vacant, DISTRICT 2


R. JAVIER DIAZ, DISTRICT 3, CHAIRMAN