

March 18, 2008
Roosevelt County Courthouse
Portales, New Mexico 88130

The Roosevelt County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:00 am in the Commissioner's Room in the Courthouse, with those present being: Commissioners Gene Creighton, Bill Cathey, Paul Grider, Dennis Lopez, and David Sanders, County Manager Charlene Hardin, County Clerk Janet Collins, Clerk's Chief Deputy Linda Connelly, Sheriff Darren Hooker, Deputy Rick Short, Deputy Malin Parker, Detention Center Administrator Jesse Luera, Road Superintendent John Bohm, County Treasurer Nancy Belcher, County Assessor Tex Belcher, Rev. Gary Piepkorn, Fire Chief John Bridges, Bruce Swingle with NMAC, and Portales News-Tribune Managing Editor Karl Terry. County Attorney Randy Knudson was absent.

Chairman David Sanders called the Meeting to order.

Rev. Gary Simpson led an invocation and County Sheriff Darren Hooker led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

Motion to **Approve Minutes** of the March 4, 2008 Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Grider with a second by Commissioner Lopez. 5 yes votes.

Motion to **Ratify Bills and Payroll** through March 18, 2008 was made by Commissioner Creighton with a second by Commissioner Cathey. 5 yes votes.

Risk Awareness Program – Bruce Swingle, NM County Insurance Authority

Mr. Swingle gave a presentation to introduce the Commission to a 50 week Risk Awareness Program designed to create and maintain risk control awareness. The plan is a series of weekly meetings to educate employees and management in safety awareness. Workmen's Comp claims have been rising in recent months and the program has been successful in other counties in lowering claims and insurance rates. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to implement the plan in Roosevelt County. Commissioner Cathey made a second to the motion. 5 yes votes.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Commissioner Grider made a motion to go into Indigent Meeting at 9:25 am with a second by Commissioner Lopez. 5 yes votes. Ms. Vicki Aguilar, Indigent Administrator, reported on the indigent claims for the quarter. There were 62 total claims with 34 approved for a total of \$53,348.59. Roosevelt General Hospital had 24 approved claims for \$31,743.23. Plains Regional Medical Center had 1 approved claim for \$1,309.40. Covenant Medical Center had 4 approved claims for \$18,388.44. Portales Ambulance Service had 5 claims for \$1,907.52. At 9:27 am, Commissioner Creighton made a motion to come out of Indigent Meeting with a second by Commissioner Cathey. 5 yes votes. Commissioner Grider made a motion to pay the 34 approved claims in the amount of \$53,348.59. Commissioner Lopez made a second. 5 yes votes.

Sheriff Darren Hooker reaffirmed his support of the Risk Awareness Program and reported that the problem of dead animals being dumped in the county had resurfaced. The Commission expressed an interest in working with Crime Stoppers for a reward for a tip that resulted in a conviction. Deputy Parker stated that he wanted the public to know that officers would not be recipients of any money. Deputies are paid to do their jobs and do not accept rewards. Manager Hardin is to look into advertising and rewards for the problem.

Detention Center Administrator Jesse Luera reported that he is housing 66 detainees, 6 of which are female. He is preparing a work release program as requested by the Commission and delivered a request from the local judges and parole officers to meet with the Commission before it is finalized.

County Clerk Janet Collins requested a change in the meeting date for the April 15 meeting. She and two members of her staff will be attending a training session for the M100 voting machines in Albuquerque on that day. Motion to cancel the April 15 meeting and call a special meeting for budget workshops was made by Commissioner Grider with a second by Commissioner Cathey. 5 yes votes.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the rates at the Jake Lopez Building on the fairgrounds. Ms. Hardin reported that after the rates were increased the building repairs have been reduced and that the rules are being closely followed.

Commissioner Cathey affirmed his support of the National Day of Prayer in May and encouraged those in attendance to participate.

Commissioner Cathey asked Fire Chief Bridges how the fire ban was working. He reported that the fire department had received several calls and that they were encouraging the public to use extreme caution and good judgment. Smokey Bear signs were being used to remind the public of the extreme fire hazard during such dry conditions.

Public Input

None

Executive Session

None

Action required from Executive Session

None

Media Communication

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 am.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

E. Janet Collins
County Clerk

David C. Sanders
Commission Chairman