

March 4, 2008
Roosevelt County Courthouse
Portales, New Mexico 88130

The Roosevelt County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, March 4, 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 Attorney Randy Knudson, County Clerk Janet Collins, Clerk's Chief Deputy Linda Connelly, Sheriff Darren Hooker, , Deputy Rick Short, Detention Center Administrator Jesse Luera, Road Superintendent John Bohm, County Treasurer Nancy Belcher, Rev. Gary Simpson, Fire Chief John Bridges, Mike Miller, Don Heflin, and Portales News-Tribune Managing Editor Karl Terry.

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 February 19, 2008 Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Grider with a second by Commissioner Lopez. 5 yes votes.

Motion to **Approve Minutes** of the February 19, 2008 Indigent Meeting was made by Commissioner Creighton with a second by Commissioner Cathey. 5 yes votes.

Motion to **Ratify Bills and Payroll** through March 4, 2008 was made by Commissioner Grider with a second by Commissioner Lopez. 5 yes votes.

Lea County Juvenile Agreement

Lea County has requested a change in the agreement to house juvenile offenders for the fiscal year 2008-2009 at its Juvenile Detention Center in Lovington. The rate per day will be raised from \$95 per day to \$120 per day and a requirement of reserving 5 beds at 90% of the monthly rate. County Manager Hardin reported that Curry County will no longer accept our juvenile offenders and that offenders might be housed at Chaves County if beds were available, but the placement was at the discretion of the JPO officers. Commissioner Creighton requested that the County Manager try to negotiate with Lea County for a lower rate. Manager Hardin replied that she anticipated Lea County would not modify the agreement but she would attempt to negotiate on the amounts. A motion to approve the agreement as is was made by Commissioner Grider with a second by Commissioner Creighton. 4 yes votes. Commissioner Lopez stated that he was voting No because he did not agree with the \$120 rate or the monthly 90% reservation figure.

Inmate Work Release

County Attorney Randy Knudson reported that former Sheriff Newberry had done away with the work release program during his term in office and no guidelines were in place at the present. Detention Center Administrator Jesse Luera informed the commission that the negative aspects of the program are that it requires more staff, the liability from the actions of the inmates when they were on work release, and that work release inmates would have to be kept separate from the rest of the population. Deputy Short noted that under Sheriff Dodgin work release inmates were required to pay a fee for each day they were outside the detention center. Commissioner Sanders stated that the commission would like to see as many inmates out working as possible. County Manager Hardin and Administrator Luera agreed to begin work on a plan to implement a work release policy.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Sheriff Darren Hooker reported that his office was working on a saturation patrol on NM 206 and that two more persons had been arrested for scrap metal and wire theft. They have given out several citations and made 35 arrests including four DWI arrests, one a felony DWI.

Detention Center Administrator Jesse Luera reported that he is housing 65 detainees, 7 of which are female.

Road Superintendent John Bohm reported that the new blades are in use and the road department has been trimming trees and doing other work while waiting for rain or snow for moisture to do more roadwork. He has done some work on road H ½ and it is in better shape.

Commissioner Lopez requested that an elected official be his proxy at the April 4 NMAC meeting in T or C. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Dinner and Dance sponsored by the ENMU Athletics Department for the benefit of the Yam Theatre Renovations on Tuesday, March 11.

Chairman Sanders asked Mike Miller if he had anything to report regarding Legislative Action. Mr. Miller said that at this time he was just waiting to see what the Governor would do immediately before the deadline to sign bills.

RCCDC Report-Randy Knudson reported that there had been an influx of around one million dollars in Real Estate to the community and that there is a need of more housing in the \$90,000 to \$150,000 range. He also mentioned that there are a couple of economic ventures being finalized. He will report on them after all details are accomplished.

Public Input

Mr. Don Heflin, local businessman, urged the Commission to work out a work release program for the inmates. He cited a need in the work force and his belief that it kept down trouble at the detention center.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Cathey to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Limited Personnel Matters pursuant to 10-15-1 at 9:42 am. A second was made by Commissioner Grider. At 10:10 am, Commissioner Lopez made a motion to come out of Executive Session with a second by Commissioner Grider. 5 yes votes.

Action required from Executive Session

None

Media Communication

None

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

E. Janet Collins
County Clerk

David C. Sanders
Commission Chairman