

Monday, March 25, 2024  
County Commission Room  
Roosevelt County Courthouse  
Portales, New Mexico 88130

The Roosevelt County Commission met in special business meeting on Monday March 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the County Commission Room with those present being: Commissioner Paul Grider, Commissioner Rodney Savage, Commissioner Tina Dixon, Commissioner Roy Lee Criswell, Commissioner Dennis Lopez, County Manager Amber Hamilton, County Attorney Michael Garcia via zoom, Clerk Mandi Park, Treasurer Layle Sanchez, Chief Deputy Bryan Holmes, Deputy Daniel Boan, Portales Fire Chief Timothy Cathey, Patti Heflin, Arch Fire Chief Jay Lang, Dora Fire Chief Paul Luscombe, Milnesand Fire Chief Russell Bilbrey, City Councilman Mike Rackler, Angie Smith.

Call to Order – Commissioner Dixon at 4:00 p.m.  
Invocation – Amber Hamilton  
Pledge – Commissioner Dixon

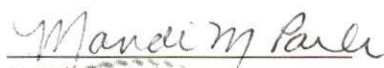
**1. Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Grider with a second from Commissioner Criswell. Commissioner Grider-Yes, Commissioner Criswell-Yes, Commissioner Dixon-Yes, Commissioner Savage-Yes, Commissioner Lopez-Yes.

**2. New Business:**

**A. Discussion and Update on Continued Public Service Negotiations with the City of Portales:** A meeting between the City and the County including Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Criswell, Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Austin, Councilman Rackler, and Councilwoman Cordova took place earlier this month. Commissioner Dixon stated the negotiations had been at a standstill for quite sometime leading to a public perception of animosity and discontent. Both the city and the county agreed public safety and the constituents are top priority. Commissioner Dixon stated they had agreed Fire, EMS, Animal Control, and Detention were the biggest goals and the biggest stumbling blocks. She stated she would like to see a mutual in-kind agreement for those four items. She stated it is a difference of opinion on which entity gets a better deal for providing those services to the other. She stated there should be no fighting, and no outstanding invoices in either direction and that all services should be for the benefit of all residents. Commissioner Criswell stated it is not just city and county, it also involves the hospital. We do not want to create a hardship for any entity. Commissioner Grider asked if there was a timeframe for any such in-kind agreement. Commissioner Dixon responded, 3 years, 5 years, or so. Commissioner Lopez stated it takes more than just one year to really measure success, and that we need to move on. Commissioner Savage agreed it is time to move on, but asked about the unpaid invoices to this point. Ms. Hamilton stated the city has been billed \$364,980.00 through the month of January. February's invoice brings the unpaid balance to \$449,218.00 for detention. Commissioner Savage noted there was no discontent on animosity on his part, however he was not in favor of forgiving those unpaid invoices. Commissioner Lopez stated the people on social media want to continue to spread that perception of infighting and be part of the problem instead of being part of the solution. Commissioner Grider questioned why the detention bills have not been paid. Commissioner Dixon stated that is where the discrepancy comes in, without an agreement in place, the city and their attorney do not feel any bill is owed. Ms. Hamilton stated the county terminated the 20-year-old agreement in September of 2022, and there is no agreement currently in place. Mr. Garcia stated there would need to be a timeframe attached to any agreement. Ms. Hamilton asked if the services to be provided could be included without attaching a dollar value to those services. Mr. Garcia answered, yes, specify trading "x" for "y" without attaching an amount would present less legal troubles. Commissioner Lopez asked that each city councilor view this meeting prior to their meeting tomorrow. Ms. Hamilton noted a big disparity in the cost per day for detainee housing from 2008 when the cost per day was \$55.00 and in 2022 when the cost per day was \$154.00 per day. The annual detention budget is just over \$4.7 million. Some of that budget comes from a correctional GRT, but most comes from the general fund. Detainee medical alone is over \$1,000,000.00. After further discussion, Commissioner Dixon made a motion to offer the City of Portales an agreement for mutual in-kind services to include Animal Control, Fire, EMS, and Detention to take effect immediately, with Dispatch services to be included for FY-2025 and subsequent years. The agreement would cover a term of three years including FY-2024, FY-2025, and FY-2026 ending June 30, 2026. A second was offered by Commissioner Criswell. Commissioner Grider-Yes, Commissioner Criswell-Yes, Commissioner Dixon-Yes, Commissioner Savage-No, Commissioner Lopez-Yes.

**3. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Mandi M. Park  
County Clerk



BOARD OF ROOSEVELT  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Tina Dixon  
Commission Chair

