

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 8, 2017 at 9:00am.

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Hidalgo County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 8, 2017, at the hour of 9:00 A.M. at the Hidalgo County Chambers at 305 Pyramid Street, Lordsburg, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting any and all business to come properly before the Board.

The following elected officials, staff, and public were present:

Bob Hill, County Manager	Jennifer Medina, Animas Foundation/Diamond A
Melissa De La Garza, County Clerk	Rita Torres, HCP
Priscilla Maxwell, Dispatch	Dr. Rick Cardenas, HCP
Roland Lassiter, HCDC	Tyler Massey, Treasurer
Tracy Chavez, HCSO	Leslie Rudiger, Chief Deputy Treasurer
Clarence Rudiger, Road Department	Alice Webb, Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library
Robert Bernal, USBP	Jody Hatch, Assessor
Carmen Acosta, Probate Judge	John & Lori Graham, Road Forks
Dave Carbine, Rural Addressor	Tom Dean, CES
Maria Sanchez, HCSO	Mark Murray, CobbFendley
Dan Otero, HMS CEO	Hector Maese, US Border Patrol
Jose Gardea, US Border Patrol	A. Lucimarana, HCP
Dena Strick, HCP	

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance.**

Roll Call: Chairperson Marianne Stewart, Present
Commissioner Anothony J. Mora, Present
Commissioner Darr R. Shannon, Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA-Commissioner Mora moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mora moved to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting on February 8, 2017. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

GUESTS

Public Hearing to consider adoption of low-income property tax rebate

This is a requirement since no ordinance is in place that on the odd numbered years, counties may institute a property tax rebate for their low-income residents who file a return and incur a property tax liability on their principal place of residence during the tax year and who are not dependents of other persons. Commissioner Shannon moved that the Board does not act upon this low-income property tax rebate. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion, motion passed.

Action on Public Hearing
No Comments-No Action

Border Patrol-Update and introduction of new agents

New agents that were introduced were-Ms. Terrazas, Mr. Vasquez, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Firkenboro, Ms. Cortez, and Mr. Garcia. The Board welcomed them to Hidalgo County.

Dan Otero-HMS update

Dan Otero, CEO of HMS, on behalf of HMS, the board of directors, Executive Leadership and employees, Dan shared this correspondence to the Board of County Commissioners. HMS is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health and family support services within Hidalgo and Grant Counties. HMS has fourteen locations; four are located in Hidalgo County. HMS employs 220 individuals, of which 63 individuals work in Hidalgo County and 56 individuals reside in Hidalgo County. HMS oversees an operating budget of \$19.5 million of which \$12.8 million goes to salary and benefits of which approximately \$2.2 million are salaries and benefits that go to Hidalgo County employees. HMS serves over 16,000 unique patients and competes over 72,000 visits annually of which 3,959 unique patients are from Hidalgo County and 22,237 annual visits occur in Hidalgo County, which include 14,719 medical, 4,278 dental and 3,240 mental health visits.

HMS has been working to establish a retail pharmacy service within Hidalgo County and has developed a contractual relationship with Genoa, a Qol Healthcare Company, to support the needed service. The pharmacy is on-site clinic and is scheduled to open by mid-to-late May. Due to not enough volume here in Hidalgo HMS had to combine with Grant County to complete this kind of model pharmacy. HMS has been assessing the ability to provide Urgent Care services to Hidalgo County. However, due to excessive costs of operations and shortages of medical providers and professional staff, this is currently not available. In the future, HMS does plan to expand clinic access, to include walk-in services, on Saturdays beginning next fiscal year. Occupational Health Services are no longer available within Hidalgo County, but the attempt is there to develop a partnership to extend services into Hidalgo County, most likely at the Lordsburg Clinic. HMS is proud to be of service to the needs of Hidalgo County citizens.

U.S. Border Patrol Agent Jose Gardea stated he had been away on a detail in El Paso regarding the border Wall. The border patrol is requesting for the agents to be involved in the community. Mr. Gardea stated that additional technology has been purchased such as mobile surveillance cameras and would like to demonstrate how it operates perhaps at the next meeting. Mr. Gardea stated that taxpayers have the right to see where their money is being spent.

MISCELLANEOUS

Grant opportunity for Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program-discussion/action

Rita Torres, CEO of Health Care Partners stated that New Mexico has the second highest drug overdose death rate in the nation in 2011. In 2013, New Mexico's age-adjusted drug overdose death rate was 21.5 per 100,000 persons. Between 1990-2011, New Mexico's drug overdose death rate increased 300%, but since 2011, has decreased 17%. On average, at least one New Mexican dies of a drug overdose every day. Prescription drug overdose deaths have taken over illicit overdose deaths. Ms. Torres discussed the Grant initiative categories:

- Overdose Outreach Projects
- Technology-assisted Treatment Projects
- System-level Diversion and Alternatives to incarceration projects
- Statewide planning, coordination and implementation Projects
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Implementation & Enhancement Projects
- Data-Driven Responses to Prescription Drug Misuse.

Ms. Torres presented the Board with the proposed grant structure for Hidalgo County to be the fiscal agent for the program. Health Care Partners would prepare the grant application, delivery

systems, data tracking systems, and would provide fiscal management and budget assistance. The ISP Program contact would be Mary Stoecker. Ms. Torres stated this is a County and Community based project. The next steps would be: A preliminary approval for grant application process and feasibility by Hidalgo County Commissioners, grant application feasibility, structure proposal and completion from Hidalgo County Manager and HCP Management Team and ISP program team, then to review and final approval for grant application proposal by the Hidalgo County Commissioners with a meeting prior to April 25, 2017. Commissioner Mora stated he would like to see all these programs together, reporting process, and results of success. Commissioner Mora moved to approve moving forward to proceed with the preliminary grant approval assessment. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

Policy & Procedure review and approval

Hidalgo County Personnel Policy Section 2. Definitions-discussion/action

County Manager Bob Hill suggested that on Section 2.7 of the definitions **Appointed Employee** should also include the Detention Center Administrator.

Commissioner Shannon stated that she would prefer that on 2.38 the language be changed to:

2.38 Transporter A transporter is not an employee of the County. A transporter is not entitled to any benefits defined in this ordinance. A transporter is a contract person hired on a single transport run basis. A transporter cannot be utilized for more than four runs in a 24-hour period unless specifically approved by the County manager.

2.39 Volunteer A volunteer is not an employee of the County. A volunteer is not entitled to any benefits defined in this ordinance.

Contractual Employee needs to be added as a definition. It needs to include the County Manager and the Detention Center Administrator the terms of which are specified in the contract.

Take out County Manager and Detention Center Administrator out of the **Appointed Employee** definition

Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the Policy & Procedure Review Personnel Policy Section 2 for definitions with the changes presented. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion, motion passed.

Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office request for deputies to go to a 40-hour workweek-discussion/action

Tracy Chavez stated that Stonegarden is strictly an overtime grant. Previously if an employee took a sick day, the County was still able to bill Stonegarden and receive reimbursement. Stonegarden will no longer reimburse the County for straight time. According to County Personnel Policy, officers must physically work 80 hours before stonegarden hours are considered time and a half. The Stonegarden policy reads 40 hours. If an officer takes time off they are being advised not to work stone garden. Commissioner Stewart stated before any changes of a 40-hour workweek are made, the union needs to be advised. Commissioner Stewart recommended to leave the 80-hour workweek as is. Commissioner Mora moved to approve leaving the recommended workweek to an 80-hour pay period. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

Hidalgo County Subdivision Ordinance Claim of Exemption request-John G. Graham-discussion/action

Mr. John Graham presented to the Board a Claim of Exemption to sell four acres of land including Phantom Fireworks. Access would be through the firework shop. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the Hidalgo County Subdivision Ordinance Claim of Exemption request by John G. Graham as presented. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion, motion passed.

Law enforcement Appreciation Proclamation-discussion/action

County Manager Bob Hill stated that ta request in the effort of the Law Enforcement Appreciation day event on the March 31, 2017, the organizers asked if the County and City could put forth a proclamation for the officers. Commissioner Mora moved to approve the Law Enforcement Appreciation Proclamation. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed. Commissioner Stewart volunteered to present on behalf of the County at this event.

Request for Indigent Burial-discussion/action

County Manager Bob Hill stated this individual was last in Hidalgo County. Family has given up rights and the body is still with the examiner. The County is only budget for two indigent burials and this will be the second one. Commissioner Mora moved to approve the Indigent Burial. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

Hidalgo County Fairgrounds renovation update-discussion/action

County Manager Bob Hill stated the architectural design was finished. The company will be moving some of the materials this week and constructed two electrical boxes, which should take the place of at least two older boxes. Rewiring the concession area will be next on the list and then on to the lighting system. A trench will need to be dug out across the arena to put the electrical in. Commissioner Shannon stated to make sure the trench is deep enough and no one in the future forgets that this trench exists. If funding permits, the doors on the show area could be replaced. Commissioner Stewart stated that if any money is perhaps the County could buy paint and the different organizations could paint their own areas.

Set date for budget workshops-discussion/action

The Board of Hidalgo County Commissioners set the following dates for the first two budget meetings.

First Budget meeting for March 15, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

Second Budget meeting for March 22, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Shannon stated the citizens that go and wait in the courtyard for court and the drug court clients are keeping the cigarette industry in the very high tax bracket. There are thousands of cigarette buds in front of the courthouse. These citizens are not going across the street or down the road. Perhaps a sign needs to be posted, and someone needs to pay attention and direct them to smoking areas. Maria Sanchez recommended designating the area across from the post office-the little bench area as the smoking area. Maria also recommended mentioning it to Margaret Begay to let the cliental know.

Commissioner Shannon is concerned about the County continuing to pay the agricultural extension agent even though the County has not had an agent since August of 2016. Commissioner Shannon states that budget season comes up soon the County has kept the contract and paid on a quarterly basis. Tom Dean the Southwest district head for the Cooperative Extension office stated that the County funding does not go anywhere even though it has been received. The funds may be used when an agent is hired and the County will not be required full funding this budget season. Mr. Dean states that even though the agent requirement is to have a master's degree, in June he has some interested young individuals that only have bachelors but can be a temporary hire. Commissioner Shannon stated that this new hire needs to be someone from this area or at least interested in this area. Mr. Dean also stated that the community garden needs someone to maintain it because that is a requirement with the PNM grant. Mr. Dean stated he would do everything to get an agent for Hidalgo County.

Roland Lassiter gave the detention center update. Currently the detention center has 59 U.S. Marshall Detainees. Friday that number should increase to 73. Training with the Border Patrol on defensive tactics will be completed soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-TO DISCUSS LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS AS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO NMSA 1978 SECTION 10-15-1(H) (2) Manager's Office, Sheriff's Office and Detention Center

Commissioner Shannon moved to go into executive session. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion passed.

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:34 A.M.

Roll Call Vote: Chairperson Stewart: Aye
Commissioner Mora: Aye
Commissioner Shannon: Aye

RECONVENE

Commissioner Mora moved to return to open session at 11:28 P.M. and affirmatively stated that only those matters of which the meeting was closed were discussed in executive session. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Chairperson Stewart: Aye
Commissioner Mora: Aye
Commissioner Shannon: Aye

No action taken.

CERTIFICATION OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Shannon moved to approve Certification of Payroll. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion, motion passed.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Mora moved to approve the Certification of Accounts Payable. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

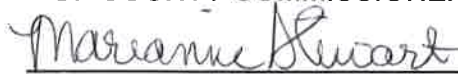
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Shannon moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mora seconded the motion, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 P.M.


ATTEST:

HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Melissa K De La Garza, County Clerk


Marianne Stewart, Chairperson

APPROVED:
4.12.17


Anthony J. Mora, Member

Darr R. Shannon, Member