

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

March 13, 2019 at 5:30 P. M.

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Hidalgo County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 13, 2019, at the hour of 5:30 P.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:

Tisha Green, County Manager	Martin Neave, County Assessor
Melissa K. De La Garza, County Clerk	Jennifer Medina, Animas Foundation, Diamond A
Andrew Arredondo, HCSO	Eric McSpadden, Self
Tracy Chavez, HCSO	Mark D. Thomas, Self
Priscilla Maxwell, Dispatch	Mike Thomas, Self
Carmen Acosta, Probate Judge	Tommy E. Chavez, HCFD, D1
Scott Richins, Rural Addressor	Vicki Massey, Massey Farms
Dave Carbine, Self	Randy Massey, Massey Ent.
Joseph Guillian, Road Dept.	Beth Cox, L Bar Ranch
David Whipple, Fire/EMS	Tricia Elbrock, Elbrock Water Systems
Carol Bryan, Self	Linda Walker, Self
Tom Lovett, Lovett Farms	Tom Lister, Self
Guy & Trina Kellogg, Self	Colton & Kasey Rudiger, Self
George Jackson, Self	Mayra Jackson, Self
Brenda Hood, Herald	Brian Culberson, Self
Wayne Johnson, Self	Kyle Josefy, Victor Produce
William Fraley, Self	Nelson Harris, Vector Financial
Fred La Marca, Self	Jimmy R. Stewart, Self

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Mora called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Chairman Anthony J. Mora Present  
Commissioner Joel Edwards, Present  
Commissioner John Hatch, Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Commissioner Hatch moved to approve the agenda with item II A removed. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- i. **Regular Meeting, February 13, 2019**
- ii. **Special Meeting, February 20, 2019**

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting, February 13, 2019. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed. Commissioner Hatch moved to approve Special Meeting, February 20, 2019. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

**GUESTS**

**US Census Bureau-Paul Dulin**-advised the Board of the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census. Mr. Dulin stated that New Mexico receives over \$6 billion dollars per year based on Decennial Census data. The per capita annum allocation is \$2,972. Mr. Dulin also advised to have a complete count committee combined with the City of Lordsburg. New Mexico is considered a hard to track count area.

**Resolution 2019-17-Creating a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and participation in Census 2020.** Commissioner Edwards moved to approve Resolution 2019-17. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Vector Financial-Nelson Harris** approached the Board with an employer benefit solution company. Currently the County has about six vendors that provide supplemental products to life insurance, accident insurance etc. This proposal is to improve the benefits, simplify the process by reducing paperwork for the number of vendors and the time that required employees to take care of. This is done by integrating all benefits into one process. This will improve enrollment and benefits the employee to aid in offers or changes. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve Vector Financial as the supplemental insurance for the County. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

### **Claim of Exemption-SunZia-discussion/action**

John Strand with SunZia presented a Claim of Exemption for future substation site that will be right next to the existing substation that is located northeast of the town. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve this claim of exemption. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Claim of Exemption-Sandra McCants-discussion/action**

County Manager Tisha Green stated Sandra is not present but is requesting the division of land for grazing or farming activities provided that the land continues to be used for grazing or farming activities. The proper documentation has been submitted. Commissioner Hatch moved to approve this claim of exemption. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Claim of Exemption-Jim Victor-discussion/action**

Kyle Josefy stated they purchased approximately 37.8 acres of land and water right from Rene Dominguez. The NE4 of said tract was to be excluded as part of the sale. Through the process of title, it did not get put on there at all. Now they have title to the NE4, which should have been for Mr. Dominguez. So that a clear title may be obtained and Mr. Dominguez get back his property in the agreement. Commissioner Hatch moved to accept this claim. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Claim of Exemption-Ed Kilby-discussion/action**

County Manager Tisha Green stated Mr. Kilby is not present but the exemption that is being requested is for the division of land for grazing or farming activities provided that the land continues to be used for grazing or farming activities. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve this exemption for Mr. Kilby. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Amended Resolution 2019-01-Notice of Public Meetings-discussion/action**

Commissioner Edwards requested the meetings be changed to 6:30 PM to compensate for daylight savings time. This would allow working people a little more daylight before the meeting. After daylight savings time ends, it would go back to being at 5:30 PM. Commissioner Hatch stated he had a problem with this change, since he lives down south and would be getting home

really late. Chairman Mora stated he agreed with Commissioner Hatch that it was late. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve this Resolution. Motion died due to lack of second.

#### **Amended Resolution 2019-02-Open Meetings Act-discussion**

County Manager Tish Green stated if the prior Resolution had been changed, then this Resolution would have to be changed as well.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Ena Mitchell Senior Center Capital Outlay application-discussion/action**

County Manager Tisha Green stated that this is the Capital Outlay application and they are requesting \$50,000 for a walk-in refrigerator. Since the County is the fiscal agent, this requires the Board's approval. Commissioner Hatch moved to approve this request. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### **New Mexico Border Support-discussion**

Commissioner Edwards read the Hidalgo County Border Security Position Statement. Chairman Mora stated that the County's letter in December stated the same thing but he would like to accompany this letter with an updated statement. Potentially the County is looking at over \$5 million coming from the state for communications for down south, if this money is approved. This would also provide money for agents moving to this region. Chairman Mora stated he wants to be very specific and ask for more boots on the ground, money for roads, and to reinstate the safe border grant or something similar that will help pay deputy salaries.

##### **Position Statement-discussion/action**

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve this position statement with the update requested by Chairman Mora. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### **Support of the unborn-discussion**

Commissioner Edwards read the position statement and had Erica Valdez, Joni Kerr, Candace Bernard, Jim Culberson and Michael Cannon share their personal viewpoints on abortion.

##### **Position Statement-discussion/action**

Commissioner Hatch moved to support this position statement. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### **Request to drop maintenance of Caliche Road-discussion**

Colton and Kasey Rudiger discussed how they would like the maintenance dropped on Caliche Road, which is 2.4 miles for the abandonment, if this is denied they would like the .63 miles abandonment to the Rudiger property. The Rudigers' would maintain the road. They have talked about putting in a gate at their property for more protection/privacy. County Manager Tisha Green stated there is a process to follow. The Commission needs to appoint viewers then in 30 days the viewers would have to report their findings. Dave Carbine stated he would hate to have anything happen to this road, if it cannot be reversed. Mr. Carbine is not in favor of this. The next process would be public input. It was confirmed just the .63 mile of the road would be looked at by the viewers.

##### **Appoint viewers-discussion/action**

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint viewers to check out from the mailbox to their private property. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### **Set date for Budget Meetings-discussion/action**

County Manager Tisha Green stated she met with all department and the budgets need to be in by March 15, 2019. The Board set to have a budget meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

### **Road Policy Committee Update-discussion**

County Manager Tisha Green stated three meetings have been held for the Road Policy Committee. A policy was selected from Santa Fe County to mirror. The committee will meet next Tuesday. A lot of input from the committee is being received. Once exhibits are attached to the policy, at that point advertise that it is available for inspection. Finally, if possible but it on the agenda in April for adoption. No action taken.

### **Official School Special Election Results-discussion/action**

County Clerk Melissa De La Garza stated that under the new Local Election Act the Board of County Commission is required to be the canvassing board in all elections. Commissioner Mora read the results for the Lordsburg Municipal School Special Election for the 2 Mill tax question which were 319 for and 216 against. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the results for the school election. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Round Table Discussion**

**Judy Keeler**-stated she would like when the County address the state and federal government, the need for a barrier rather than a wall along the border. She believes a road along the border is need so that border patrol can use and some kind of a barrier as well, so the border can be somewhat secure.

**Commissioner Hatch**-informed that the Governor stated she was on the border, which she was at Santa Teresa and there was no eminent crisis, which there is a wall there. Another thing she said is that she put six state police officers here because she removed the National Guard-this is not true six bodies were not here. The officers here were just offered overtime.

**Commissioner Mora**-stated he thinks a collaborative meeting among all the law enforcement agencies may be necessary-perhaps this is why there is a disconnect and these reports of numbers are not being accounted for. There is a humanitarian crisis that is expressed but not noted. He has expressed that the agents need to be on the border.

**Tricia Elbrock**-thanked the Board and stated the County cannot get lax in this. They have worked on this for twenty years. It has moved east and west but is going to come back. We cannot stop.

**Kim Kvamme**-stated he picked up an illegal who was in distress. He took him home since no Border Patrol were near. Called the Lordsburg border patrol but could not get through. It took about two hours before he could get border patrol to take him. The question is should he be calling law enforcement instead? So the statistics can get into the right hands.

**Commissioner Edwards**-stated he sympathizes with the audience and he is trying to do everything to get funds from Washington, but it does not help when the whole border security has turned into a political football. The President has declared a national emergency and the governor has filed suit against him. We need to be proactive instead of reactive. Make contact if you can.

**CERTIFICATION OF PAYROLL**-Commissioner Hatch moved to approve the certification of payroll. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

**CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**-Commissioner Hatch moved to approve the certification of accounts payable. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

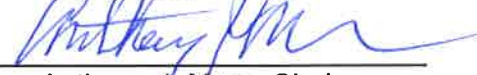
There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

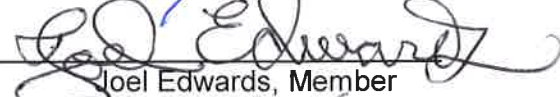
ATTEST:

  
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Melissa K. De La Garza, County Clerk

APPROVED: 4.18.19  
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HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony J. Mora, Chairman

  
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Joel Edwards, Member

  
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John Hatch, Member