

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

**March 9, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Hidalgo County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 9, 2016, 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	Patsy Camacho, HCSO
Melissa K. De La Garza, County Clerk	Jennifer Medina, Animas Foundation/Diamond A
Clarence Rudiger, Road Supervisor	Judy Keeler, PLAC
Priscilla Maxwell, Dispatch Supervisor	Carmen, Acosta, Probate Judge
Roland Lassiter, HCDC	Frank Pena, USBP
David Whipple, Fire/EMS	Jose Gardea, USBP
Patricia Saucedo, DWI Director	

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

**Roll Call:** Chairperson Marianne Stewart, Present  
Commissioner Richard A. Chaires, Present  
Commissioner Darr R. Shannon, Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairperson Stewart requested to have the minutes tabled. Commissioner Chaires moved to have the minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting tabled for further review. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, approval of minutes tabled.

***RESOLUTIONS and AGREEMENTS***

**RESOLUTION 2016-14 HIDALGO FIRE BUDGET INCREASE**

Hidalgo County Fire received grant funding to purchase a new fire truck. The Hidalgo County Board requests permission to increase the Hidalgo Fire's expenditure and revenue budget by \$100,000 for this purchase. Commissioner Chaires moved to approve Resolution 2016-14 Hidalgo Fire Budget increase. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2016-15 ANNUAL CERTIFIED COUNTY MAINTAINED ROAD MILEAGE**

This Resolution is to approve the annual certified county maintained mileage reports for County roads for 2016. This list is due to the state by April 1, 2016. Commissioner Shannon asked if there was a change needed in the certified mileage, could an amended report be submitted to the State. Mr. Rudiger stated yes that an amended report could be sent. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve Resolution 2016-15 the Annual Certified County Maintained Road Mileage. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2016-16 DWI BUDGET INCREASE**

Hidalgo County Commission requests permission to transfer \$15,000 from unallocated Grant funds (218) into the FY 2015-2016 expenditure and revenue budget for a grant received by the DWI program. This grant will be used for radio advertisement as well as for social media advertisement for drug prevention. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve Resolution 2016-16 Expenditure and Revenue Budget increase Grants 218 (DFA 218) for the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed. Chairman Stewart discussed with Mrs. Saucedo the increase of prescription drug usage within the County.

**MISCELLANEOUS****REQUEST PERMISSION TO PURCHASE BRUSH TRUCK-HIDALGO FIRE-  
DISCUSSION/ACTION**

David Whipple requested permission to purchase a brush truck for Hidalgo Fire. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the purchase of a brush truck in the amount of \$121,361. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed. \$21,000 will be needed for the purchase but will be paid out of fire marshal budget.

**REQUEST PERMISSION TO PURCHASE TANKER TRUCK-ANIMAS FIRE-  
DISCUSSION/ACTION**

David Whipple requested permission to buy a tanker for the amount of \$233,109. Tisha Green stated she and Mr. Whipple discussed the Animas Fire balance and as of January 31, it is \$235,000 in the actual fund. The amount that will be taken out for this purchase was budgeted under capital purchases for \$200,000. Tisha cautioned Mr. Whipple to make sure no other expenditures will come out of this fund. Mr. Whipple stated the remaining balance will come out of the Fire Marshal monies. Commissioner Shannon stated these actual numbers need to be presented to the Board because it causes confusion. Tisha Green stated she could not get a true accurate figure to provide to the Board due to the Treasurer's report being unavailable for February. Commissioner Stewart stated a large part of the problem is that the Treasurer's department is not providing this report with the current balances. Commissioner Chaires moved to approve the purchases for a tanker for the amount of \$200,000 to be taken out of the Animas Fire fund and \$33,109 taken out from Fire Marshal fund for a total of \$233,109. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed

**REQUEST FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR ANIMAS FIRE-DAVID WHIPPLE-  
DISCUSSION/ACTION**

David Whipple requested to send two members of fire department to South Dakota for training and then to drive the tanker truck back. The two members would fly into South Dakota for the training and pick up the truck in Minnesota just across the border. Commissioner Shannon approve to allow training out of state to Sioux Falls for two members and then to pick up a tanker truck and drive it back Animas Fire. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

**RE-APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3478, A BILL INTRODUCED BY U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE PEARCE REGARDING THE RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY  
AREAS IN HIDALGO AND LUNA COUNTIES**

The numbers on this letter of support were re-created to accommodate the new house bill number. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the re-approval of letter of support for H.R. 3478 regarding the release of wilderness study areas in Hidalgo and Luna counties. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

**REQUEST FOR TISHA GREEN TO SERVE AS A WORKER'S COMPENSATION BOARD  
MEMBER ALTERNATE-DISCUSSION/ACTION**

County Manager Bob Hill requested that Tisha Green serve as a workers compensation board member alternate being that she is directly involved with the claims that are filed and processed. Commissioner Chaires is the current worker's compensation Board principle member. Commissioner Shannon suggested to make Tisha Green the permanent board member and Commissioner Chaires the alternate member. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the request for Tisha green to serve as the Worker's compensation board principle member and Commissioner Chaires to serve as the alternate. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

#### **CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMENTS-DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Judy Keeler discussed the 2008 Hidalgo County Memorandum of understanding with the Coronado National Forest. Judy's statistics came from the Hidalgo County Land Use Plan for Natural Resources. Commissioner Shannon discussed her misinterpretation in paragraph four of the letter. The sentence that starts with "Unique areas" needs to be more specific. Commissioner Shannon stated. The sentence that starts with "The board also values private land ownership." Commissioner Shannon wants to make them separate ideas. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the completed letter from Hidalgo County to the District Travel Management Program Leader to Mr. Walter regarding the motorized travel system with the changes in the fourth sentence separating private land ownership from unique areas. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE-COUNTY MANAGER-DISCUSSION/ACTION**

County Manager Bob Hill inquired to NMAC about training for Hidalgo County. NMAC suggested, "Train the trainer" program. Mr. Lassiter went to become the "Train the Trainer and is now certified to teach the defense driving course for Hidalgo County. This course is eight hours and could be given during the regular workday. Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the defensive driving training course with Mr. Lassiter being the trainer and approve the payment for the booklets for the employees to come out of the commission professional services line item. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

County Manager Bob Hill discussed the Chain of command to the Board. Commissioner Shannon stated the Board is fully aware of the chain of command but wants each employee to sign off on a written document that he/she understands the complete process.

County Manager Bob Hill and Pricilla Maxwell presented to the Board informational reports on the number of calls to the County Dispatch Center for 2014/15. Expenditures for the services to each individual entities were also presented. Chairperson Stewart asked if there were any fees charged to the wrecker services, and if any could be assessed to them for the services provided by dispatch. Priscilla said that they dispatch as a courtesy, and does not think charging would be applicable. An analysis of the total cost for each call was estimated at \$36.18 per call. Services could be calculated and billed to each entity with this determination. (Please see attached)

County Manager Bob Hill discussed the transfer station hauling charges for each convenience station in the County. The majority of the usage is from residential use. County manager presented breakdowns of the usage of landfill and hauling charges. Totals from the City and the County are determined. (Please see attached)

Chairperson Stewart stated to the County Manager that the county's solid waste ordinance needs to be updated for the upcoming budget season.

County Manager presented the Board of the monthly charges for the three water taps at the fairgrounds. The taps are identified as Tap #1, #2, & #3. An increase will be implemented in the future for minimal usage. Commissioner Shannon discussed that the water taps should possible be shut off until the time of particular events. The County Manager recommends there is not a substantial savings to turn them off and on, and the road department can utilize the water at any time.

### **SET DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS-DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the preliminary date for the first budget meeting for Monday, April 11, 2016, at 8:00 A.M. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

#### **Commissioner Shannon-**

Inquired about the EMS billing. County Manager stated the wait is on Medicare. Meanwhile, Mr. Whipple is implementing some of the billing non-related bills to Medicare. As soon as the Medicare information is approved, it should be ready to go.

Inquired about Workman's comp claims in the last month. County Manager stated an incident occurred last month at the Animas convenience station. A worker was trying to remove some debris off a load, and a piece of sheet rock fell knocking the worker into the dumpster. Medical attention was necessary.

Inquired about the update on Clarity being implemented. County Manager's side is ready to go, however the Treasurer is working through certain elements. Chairperson Stewart inquired if the Treasurer has even put in information such as number to get the balances necessary to operate. Chairperson Stewart wants to force the issue with the Treasurer due to all the money being spent on the programs and the problem with the department update. Commissioner Shannon expressed to the County Manager to heavily pursue to the Treasurer that the Commission is extremely concerned on this status. County manager expressed that he has been in contact with Clarity at one point the county was ready to go and the Treasurer said no they were not. County manager stated the pushback that he gets is that the County manager does not run that office.

#### **Chairperson Stewart**

Would like to pursue changing of the personal policy and implement random drug testing through each and every department, include the costs in this budget cycle.

#### **Judy Keeler**

BLM has issued a federal register notice that they will be changing the rules and regulations when it comes to community planning. Everyone is anticipating it will be dysfunctional in the future. Local governments are encourage to ask for 180-day extension on comments on this new rule change. Commissioner Shannon requests any emails to be forwarded to the Board.

#### **County Manager Bob Hill**

Stated he had communicated to the mayor with the City regarding the possibility of them taking on the ten percent loan component Colonias grant on phase II of Animas street. The reply from the mayor said he would not be able to provide a council approved decision since he needed the amount of the ten percent match. The mayor did indicated he is willing to work with the match and was receptive of helping out.

#### **Jose Gardea-**

Stated that the Border Patrol has increased the number of horses by eleven, they now have four riders, which will cut down on the use of C001. Fifteen Push sensors have been accessed to put into residential homes to be operated by themselves. The resident would push the button in time of need.

Everyone can come to the station to visit now that the Real ID Act has passed.

The Border Patrol has installed two more mobile surveillance cameras on Highway 9 that has reduced the amount of break-ins in that Rodeo/Portal area.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF PAYROLL**

Commissioner Chaires moved to approve the certification of payroll. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, motion passed.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the certification of accounts payable. Commissioner Chaires seconded the motion, motion passed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Chaires moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

ATTEST:

HIDALGO COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa K. De La Garza, County Clerk

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Marianne Stewart, Chairperson

APPROVED:

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Richard A. Chaires, Member

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Darr R. Shannon, Member