

**Minutes of Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
March 06 2014 Special Meeting**

Chairman Fulfer called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were, to wit: Commissioner Dale Dunlap District 1, Commissioner Mike Whitehead District 2, Vice Chairman Ron Black District 3, Commissioner Thomas G. Pierce District 4 and Chairman Gregory H. Fulfer District 5.

Also present were County Manager Michael P. Gallagher II and County Attorney Scotty Holloman

Commissioner Dunlap led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Vice Chairman Black.

ITEM 01: DISCUSSION ITEM

Chairman Fulfer stated I would like to start by recognizing a few of the people that have joined us today. James Duffey County Commissioner from Chaves County and on the Executive Board of the Association of Counties, Mayor White from Eunice, Ron Lethgo the Assessor from Chaves County, and also a member of the Board of the Risk Pool with the New Mexico Association of Counties, and Greg Nibert County Commissioner from Chaves County and a member of the Independent Petroleum Association Board.

Chairman Fulfer stated we are faced with some pressing legislation from the state if the governor passes this legislation it will cost our county about \$4.6 million. It will hurt our indigent care, detention center and social programs. We will also lose involvement on how our indigent care money is spent in Lea County. We feel this was done in an unconstitutional way and we need a review on this.

- **Lea County Manager Michael P Gallagher II**
 - Discussion of Senate Bill 268 and the Impact on Lea County's Budget if Approved and Implemented by Governor Martinez

Manager Gallagher presented a power point presentation explaining the fine points of Senate Bill 268. He stated Governor Martinez has until March 12, 2014 to sign Senate Bill 268 into law. With Senate Bill 268 the sole provider community program that we currently have goes away. He went over the impact of what a \$4.6 million hit would do to our yearly budget, and the categories we would possibly have to cut. Chairman Fulfer asked if there were any comments from Chaves County about Senate Bill 268. Greg Nibert, Commissioner with Chaves County made comments concerning Senate Bill 268, and the indigent health care program. James Duffey Chairman, Chaves County Commission, made comments concerning Senate Bill 268, and explained how the bill originated. Chairman Fulfer stated we are encouraging this to be reevaluated and restudied to see if there is a way to make this more balanced.

ITEM 02: ACTION ITEMS

- **Lea County Manager Michael P Gallagher II**

- Consideration of Approval of Legal Services Regarding Senate Bill 268 and the Constitutionality of this Legislation

Manager Gallagher requested for the next item to be tabled. Mayor White made comments concerning Timothy Van Halen and his opinion of Attorney Van Halen's legal services. After discussion of the options concerning obtaining legal services. Vice Chairman Black made a motion to hire Mr. Van Halen for legal services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunlap. Roll call vote; Commissioner Dunlap; yes, Commissioner Pierce; yes, Commissioner Whitehead; yes, Vice Chairman Black; yes, Chairman Fulfer; yes.

- Consideration of Approval of Continued Membership with the New Mexico Association of Counties

Chairman Fulfer stated there had been some concern regarding the Association of Counties. He expressed the New Mexico Association of Counties Board appeared to be more willing to study this matter. Vice Chairman Black moved to table the continued membership with the New Mexico Association of Counties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitehead and passed unanimously.

- Consideration of Approval of Lea County Resolution No. 14-MAR-008R Requesting Governor Martinez to Veto Senate Bill 268

Manager Gallagher requested approval. Manager Gallagher went through a summary of Resolution No. 14 MAR-008R. Commissioner Dunlap moved to approve Resolution No. 14-MAR-008R. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitehead. Roll call vote; Commissioner Dunlap; yes, Commissioner Pierce; yes, Commissioner Whitehead; yes, Vice Chairman Black; yes, Chairman Fulfer; yes.

ITEM 03: PUBLIC

- **Public**

- Comments from the Public

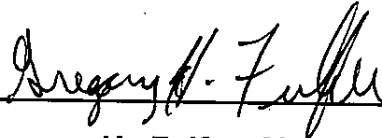
Greg Nibert, with Chaves County and a member of the Independent Petroleum Association Board made comments concerning the efforts with Mora County, the Ordinance that was passed there and what has been done since. Ron Lethgo, chairman of the Multi-line Pool Board made comments concerning the New Mexico Association of Counties involvement in the Mora County matter.

ITEM 04: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

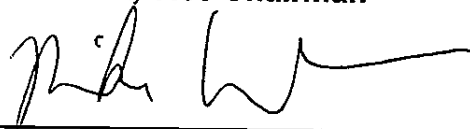
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



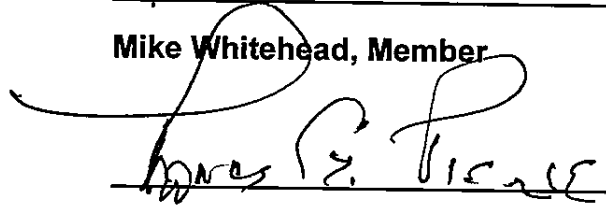
Gregory H. Fulfer, Chairman



Ron Black, Vice Chairman



Mike Whitehead, Member

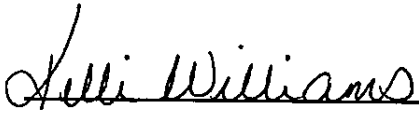


Thomas G. Pierce, Member

ATTEST: Pat Chappelle
Lea County Clerk



Dale Dunlap, Member



Kelli Williams

