

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

New Mexico
Special Meeting
Board of County Commissioners

Preston Stone, Chair
Dallas Draper, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Stewart, Member
Elaine Allen, Member
Lynn Willard, Member

Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2016

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Commission held at 11:00 AM on November 10, 2016 in the County Commission Chambers, Lincoln County Courthouse, in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order

Chair Stone called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 11:01 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.
Absent: Commissioner Draper.

Others present included Nita Taylor, County Manager; Alan Morel, County Attorney; and Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk.

3. Invocation

The invocation was presented by Chair Stone.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Pledge – US Flag
- b. Salute – NM Flag

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Acceptance of the Agenda and authorized the Chair to move items as necessary;

Action: Approve, Moved by Commissioner Willard, Seconded by Commissioner Stewart.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.

6. Canvass November 8, 2016 General Election Votes

Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk reminded the purpose of the meeting was for the Board of County Commissioners acting as the Canvass Board for Lincoln County to review and certify the 2016 General Election results.

Ms. Burrows introduced staff from the Office of the County Clerk including Shannan Hemphill, Bureau of Elections Clerk; Charlotte Emmons, Deputy Clerk; Diane Shoemaker, Deputy Clerk and Allysanne Huey, Deputy Clerk. Ms. Burrows commented on the invaluable assistance of Whitney Whittaker, Chief Deputy Clerk who was unable to attend this meeting.

Ms. Burrows discussed the process to train and deploy approximately 80 precinct officials and expressed appreciation for the long hours and good service they perform. Ms. Burrows stated 14 of the appointed precinct officials were high school students and commented on the benefits of students participating in the election process.

Ms. Burrows presented the 2016 General Election Unofficial Results for Lincoln County. Ms. Burrows informed 13,871 registered voters were eligible to cast a ballot for the General Election held on November 8, 2016. Ms. Burrows stated a total of 8,958 ballots were cast resulting in a total voter turnout of 64.62%. Ms. Burrows stated of the total ballots cast 926 were cast by

Absentee Voters, 4607 were Early Voters, and 3425 were Election Day Voters. Ms. Burrows commented on the trend of increasing numbers of early voters and stated belief this year's Early Vote turnout was one of the highest ever in Lincoln County. Ms. Burrows informed of the 926 Absentee Ballots returned 9 were rejected for either lack of signature or lack of ID as required for a first time voter who registered by mail. Ms. Burrows noted of the 30 Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots issued all 30 were returned and tallied. Ms. Burrows stated 18 Provisional Ballots were issued of which 7 were qualified and tallied and 11 were rejected. Ms. Burrows discussed the above average number of provisional ballots and suggested this was primarily a result of the voter registration purge conducted in 2015. Ms. Burrows reminded the purge process was a federally defined process and the list of voters purged was reviewed by an independent Board of Registration. Ms. Burrows stated 3 In Lieu of Absentee Ballots were issued and all 3 were qualified and tallied into the final vote totals.

Motion: Recess the Special Meeting and convene the Board of Canvass, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Ms. Burrows provided printouts of vote totals by precinct and summaries by contest. Ms. Burrows also presented supporting documentation for review by the Board of Canvass including rosters, applications and permits.

Motion: Certify the results of the 2016 General Election, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Motion: Adjourn the Board of Canvass and reconvene the Special Meeting. , **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

SEE EXHIBIT A: Copy of the Certificate of Canvass for the 2016 General Election is attached hereto in reference thereto made a part hereof.

Ms. Burrows also acknowledged the long time service of the outgoing Assessor, Paul Baca who had assisted with elections as a vote technician for many years. Ms. Burrows reminded Mr. Baca would retire with 42 years of service to Lincoln County and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with Mr. Baca as a fellow Elected Official.

Commissioner Stewart discussed his history of working with Paul Baca during his tenure as County Manager and commented on Mr. Baca's articulate, congenial, dedicated, dependable, diligent, diplomatic, honest, insightful, persistent, reliable, tenacious, and loyal service to Lincoln County. Commissioner Allen, Chair Stone, Commissioner Draper and Commissioner Willard shared similar sentiments. Beverly Calaway, Treasurer reminded Mr. Baca had first worked in the Treasurer's Office and commented on Mr. Baca's solid working relationship with all of the Elected Officials. Marilyn Chewning, Appraiser expressed appreciation for Mr. Baca's leadership and presented a token of appreciation from the Assessor's Office. Nita Taylor, County Manager expressed gratitude for Mr. Baca's excellent service as the County Assessor. Punkin Schlarb, Finance Director discussed her long association with Mr. Baca and thanked him for his service to the residents of Lincoln County.

Paul Baca, Assessor thanked everyone for their kind words and noted his employment with Lincoln County began on August 15, 1974. Mr. Baca discussed his many years of work in the Assessor's Office and the role of the tax assessor in county government. Mr. Baca stated his primary goal working as an appraiser and serving as Assessor for eight years was to educate the tax payer so they would appreciate and not be angry about the assessment process. Mr. Baca shared some personal experiences and expressed appreciation for the luncheon in honor of his retirement.

7. **Signing of Official Documents**


8. **Next Meeting:**

November 15, 2016 - Regular Commission Meeting

9. **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.

County of Lincoln
Board of County Commissioners



Preston Stone, Chair



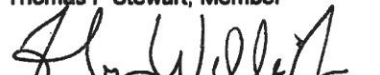
Dallas Draper, Vice Chair



Elaine Allen, Member



Thomas F Stewart, Member



F Lynn Willard, Member

ATTEST:



Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk

December 22, 2016
Date Approved

