

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monday, February 7, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Worksession**

Chairman Minor called the February 7, 2022, Worksession of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 1:00 p.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Duce Minor, Vice-Chairman Holly Irwin, Supervisor David Plunkett, County Administrator Megan Spielman, Chief Deputy County Attorney Ryan Dooley, IT Tech Joey Lucas and Clerk of the Board Diane Green.

Purpose of the Worksession:

Discussion regarding request by the La Paz County Fair Board for additional acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land lease.

Chairman Minor called the worksession to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Minor stated that he had been in communication for some time regarding the use of the Fairgrounds more often. He stated that a letter was received from the Fair Board requesting additional acres of the land lease for this purpose.

He noted that Mike Ford, of Abbey, Stubbs & Ford, consultant for the County on BLM issues, was present via Zoom.

Karen Bonds, Fair Board President, read the letter from the Fair Board, asking for additional acres of land, noting that promoters were inquiring about putting on events in Parker.

Chairman Minor stated that the Fair Association would need to work with the promoters to determine what kind of events and how many acres were needed. He added that he thought it was a good idea and felt there should be a stadium built for the crowds.

Discussion ensued noting that the current lease the County has with BLM only allowed two events in a year.

Mr. Ford explained the type of lease the County held; a recreation and public purpose (RPP) lease, which was different from a commercial lease. This type of lease is a not-for-profit use, and has restrictions. He stated that an updated plan for development would need to be submitted to the BLM, and the amenities would need to be defined. He suggested that the county's submittal for an

updated plan for the land should describe how the land would be used, stating that "the devil is in the details" and the description should be as accurate as possible so as not to get in trouble with BLM.

Chairman Minor acknowledged that the Fair is out to make money with the holding of these events, as do the promoters.

Vice-Chairman Irwin stated that the two-event limitation needed to be changed for the off-road events that occur.

Mr. Ford reiterated that the questions "needed to be asked up-front" as to how the additional acres was to be used.

Chairman Minor stated that the purpose of the worksession was to find out what the needs were and what to do going forward. The county had acres of land not being used and it would be good to be able to find out what was needed to do that, and stated that Mr. Ford would be able to help.

Mr. Ford stated that usage would need to be defined and whether structures were needed. He felt all was within the realm of possibility. He stated that it was his job to advise the County so as not to get into a problem. He added that the current lease is limited; however, he would help to get something appropriate and sustainable for the public's use.

Discussion ensued, noting that it would take time to create a plan of development although some expressed a desire to have it by April.

Ms. Newton stated that she did not have the time to devote to this task.

Mr. Ford stated that he would reach out to Sherry Ahrens with BLM and report back to County Administrator Spielman, and get a copy of the lease and discuss it with them.

A person in attendance asked if there needed to be an additional permit to have an event in addition to any two events allowed by the lease.

Chairman Minor stated it would be a separate event and apart from the lease.

Chairman Minor stated that he appreciated the opportunity to discuss this issue with those that attended.

There being no further comments, Chairman Minor adjourned the worksession at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

Duce Minor, Chairman

ATTEST:

Diane Green, Clerk of the Board