

**Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials (VALEO)  
Los Lunas Village Hall Council Chambers  
660 Main St. NW, Los Lunas 87031  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 6:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Attendees were invited to help themselves to the refreshments.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Mayor Griego invited all present to introduce themselves and sign in. Attendees included:

Charles Griego, Los Lunas Mayor  
Gregory Martin, Los Lunas Administrator  
Luis Brown, Los Lunas IT Director  
Peggy Gutjahr, Rio Communities Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jimmie Winters, Rio Communities Councilor  
Lawrence Gordon, Rio Communities Councilor  
Art Apodaca, Rio Communities Councilor  
Marty Moore, Rio Communities Manager  
Joseph Bizzell, Valencia County Commissioner  
Danny Monette, Valencia County Manager  
Melissa Jaramillo, Valencia County Community Development  
Mike Milam, Valencia County Clerk  
Steven Holdman, Belen City Councilor  
AJ Forte, New Mexico Municipal League Executive Director (virtual)  
Damon Fleming, Citizen

**REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES:**

Los Lunas Administrator Gregory Martin referenced copies available of the last VALEO meeting on November 15, 2022, which are/will be posted on the Valencia County website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2023 Legislative Briefing, AJ Forte, New Mexico Municipal League (NMML) Executive Director (virtual)**

NMML Executive Director AJ Forte summarized a number of bills making their way through the State Legislature that will potentially impact New Mexico municipalities and counties, including bills regarding the following:

- Roads/Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

- Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA)
- Airports
- Tax Policy/Anti-pyramiding
- Law Enforcement
- EMS & Fire
- Other miscellaneous smaller bills

Director Forte explained the potential positive and negative effect of different bills making their way through the legislative process and answered questions from the group. He reminded the group that participating in the legislative process and submitting comments and testifying for or against certain bills can make a difference, and he thanked those in attendance for their efforts to do so. He reminded the group that the League sends out an electronic Legislative Bulletin on Fridays and holds Legislative Updates via Zoom on most Fridays during the Legislative Session.

### **OLD BUSINESS/OTHER DISCUSSION:**

- **Homelessness in Valencia County** – Valencia County Manager Danny Monette said this is a work in progress, and there is a lot going on behind the scenes. He said he recently attended NACO meetings in Washington, DC, and is pursuing funding sources to deal with the homelessness issue in Valencia County.
- **Hospital Update** – Valencia County Manager Danny Monette said they are still working on the hospital RFP and hope to release it soon. He said he is 100% positive this project is going to work, that momentum is starting to pick up and is moving fast.
- **Interchange Update** – Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego said they are looking for more funds to get the project done. Costs have increase dramatically. The Village is seeking additional funding in the current Legislative Session. He is hoping for at least \$45 million to be earmarked for this project through HB 2 with the help of local legislators, the Governor, and NMDOT Secretary Ricky Serna.
- **Rio Communities Update** – Rio Communities Manager Marty Moore said the Rio Communities City Hall administrative offices construction is starting soon.
- **Belen Update** – Belen Councilor Steven Holdman said road project bids in Belen are also coming in much higher than budgeted. He announced the future construction of a Starbucks and Champion Xpress Car Wash in Belen.

### **FUTURE VALEO MEETINGS:**

- May 16, 2023 – Hosted by City of Belen
- August 15, 2023 – Hosted by City of Rio Communities
- November 21, 2023 – Hosted by Valencia County

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by Los Lunas Administrator Gregory Martin.