



VALENCIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2017- *16*

**Resolution Calling upon the Village of Los Lunas and the City of Belen to Abandon
Litigation to Permit the Hospital Project to Move Forward**

WHEREAS, the Valencia County Commission met upon notice of meeting duly published on February 15, 2017, at 3:00 P.M. in the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Valencia County overwhelmingly authorized the imposition of a property tax to expand the provision of healthcare in the community to provide for the operation and maintenance of a 24 hour emergency room/hospital by a margin of 14,245 in favor to 4,438 opposed; and,

WHEREAS, over the past ten years, the Board of County Commissioners has made several attempts to utilize the funds entrusted by the public to expand the provision of healthcare services to the Community, ranging from the execution of a healthcare facilities contract that would have resulted in the construction of a hospital in Rio Communities, to the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement as would have provided for the construction of a hospital in Belen; and,

WHEREAS, these efforts to improve the community's access to healthcare have been thwarted by litigation; and,

WHEREAS, litigation regarding the hospital has gotten so extreme that local governmental entities have utilized limited public funds and resources to advance their own agendas by attacking other local governmental entities; and,

WHEREAS, these local governmental entities have forgotten that we are all part of one community, one Valencia County united; and,

WHEREAS, the frivolity of the use of public funds is epitomized by Belen's lawsuit against Los Lunas, seeking to stop Los Lunas from distributing information expressing its opinion that the Belen site is not the most suitable location for a hospital, which Complaint was ultimately dismissed by the Court after costing the taxpayers of Belen and Los Lunas thousands of dollars to bring and defend; and,

WHEREAS, the litigation continued with Los Lunas's action against Belen and the County, seeking to have the MOU providing for the construction of a hospital in Belen invalidated, which Complaint

is responsible, in part, for the further delay of the provision of healthcare services to the community since 2013; and,

WHEREAS, Belen has now filed an action against the County, seeking to force the County to execute a contract with a healthcare provider that Belen had previously acknowledged the County had executed, which contract has since expired by its own terms, which action will result in yet additional expense and delay in the provision of healthcare services to the community; and

WHEREAS, to date, this litigation has not only cost the residents of this County tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, in litigation costs and fees, but more importantly has cost the residents of the County greater access to healthcare services; and,

WHEREAS, Belen has additionally insinuated, without any basis in fact, that the County Treasurer has misallocated or misappropriated mill levy funds and has called for the expenditure of limited State resources to audit the mill levy account;

WHEREAS, this session a bill was introduced in the Legislature that would spur yet additional litigation, additional cost and delay, providing a mechanism to propose an alternate use for the mill levy funds, despite that Valencia County residents overwhelming supported the imposition of the mill levy for the purpose of financing the cost of operating, maintaining or providing for a hospital/24 hour emergency healthcare facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County that it calls upon the each resident of the County to reach out to their local elected officials to call for an end to this in-fighting, an end to the unnecessary expenditure of the limited public resources with which they have been entrusted, and to request that their local elected officials respect the electorate's decision to entrust the Board of County Commissioners with the determination as to how to utilize the hospital mill levy to expand the provision of healthcare services to the residents of the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County that it calls upon its legislative delegation to respect the will of the overwhelming majority of the electorate by withdrawing their proposed legislation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County that the County welcomes the audit called upon by Belen, which audit will demonstrate the depths to which Belen will sink to impugn the character of other elected officers and its continued willingness to squander limited public resources; and,


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County that it calls upon the City of Belen and the Village of Los Lunas to come together in harmony in the best interest of the community at large, and to stop wasting taxpayer money and thwarting the ability of the Board of County Commissioner to move forward with expanding the availability of healthcare services in the community.


PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 15th day of February, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF VALENCIA COUNTY**


Charles D. Eaton, Chair, District IV


Jhonathan Aragon, Vice Chair, District V


Helen Y. Cole, District I


Billy Ray Martinez, District II


David A. Hyder, District III

Attest:

Peggy Carabajal, County Clerk

