

Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials (VALEO)
Los Lunas Transportation Center
November 7, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance (based on sign-in sheet):

Belen:

Jerah Cordova, Mayor
Darlene Aragon, Councilor
Claudine Montaño, P & Z
Steven Tomita, Econ. Dev.

Bosque Farms:

None present

Los Lunas:

Charles Griego, Mayor
Christopher Ortiz, Councilor
Gregory Martin, Administrator

Peralta:

Claudio Moya, Jr., Councilor

Rio Communities:

Mark Gwinn, Mayor
Peggy Gutjahr, Mayor Pro Tem
Arturo Sais, Councilor
Tom Scroggins, Councilor
Bill Brown, Councilor
Jim Winters, Econ. Dev.
Bob Skerry, Manager

Valencia County:

None present

Others Present:

Mark Roper, Regional Rep., NM Econ. Dev. Dept. (Guest Speaker)
Peter Mitchell, Regional Rep., NM Econ. Dev. Dept. (Guest Speaker)
Deborah Fox, Reporter, Valencia County News Bulletin
Jim Rickey, Citizen

I. Call to Order

Chris Ortiz, Councilor from Los Lunas, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Claudine Montaño from Belen P & Z led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

IV. Review of minutes from February 7, 2017

Greg Martin, Los Lunas Administrator, explained that minutes from the February 7, 2017, VALEO meeting were not available, but that he would try to track them down and get them posted on the Valencia County web site, which is where minutes from other meetings are posted.

V. New business

a) Presentation on Economic Development in Valencia County

Chris Ortiz, Councilor from Los Lunas, introduced guest speakers Mark Roper and Peter Mitchell from the NM Economic Development Department. Mr. Mark Roper gave a brief background about himself and NMEDD. He complimented the county for doing so well lately in economic development, citing three specific projects that have benefitted the county: Niagara Bottling, Facebook Data Center, and Keter Plastics.

Mr. Roper stated that Niagara Bottling has added, or will add, 47 jobs, \$1 million in tax revenue, and will have a \$142 million fiscal impact to the county over a ten-year period.

Mr. Roper stated that the Facebook Data Center is another project that will have a huge impact on Valencia County over the next ten years. According to Mr. Roper, this project, currently moving into phase two, will have half a billion-dollar impact in capital expenditures during its current phase, and could have a \$1.5 billion-dollar impact over its full lifetime. He said it is estimated to create 150-200 full-time jobs at full buildout, in addition to an average of 300 construction jobs per day for the next ten years. Altogether, he estimated about 4,000 total full-time jobs would be created, including direct, indirect, and construction jobs, and that it would bring an estimated \$25 million in total new tax revenue to the county, over the life of the project.

Lastly, Mr. Roper highlighted the Keter Plastics project in Rio Communities. He stated that the City of Belen went above and beyond to pull this project together. With ACIM in Los Lunas, it has created somewhat of a plastics cluster in Valencia County. He estimated it would bring about 30-40 construction jobs, and about \$1.5 million in projected tax revenue to the county.

Mr. Roper summarized his report by saying the combined economic impact of all three of these projects over the next ten years is estimated to be \$27 million in tax revenue, with nearly 5,000 jobs created. He went on to say that people now know who we are, and where we are, and will continue to look at expanding and relocating in Valencia County. He thanked the leadership and staff of the various communities for working together with the State. He believes NM is headed in the right direction, and that Valencia County is well-positioned for continued growth over the next decade. He mentioned the Central NM Rail Park as being the next big economic development project/opportunity that will benefit the entire county.

Peter Mitchell then gave his own background and experience working in economic development. He stated he was the one who originally started the regional representative program at NMEDD, now having 15-20 years of experience in economic development. He has been in his current position just a couple of weeks. Both Mr. Roper and Mr. Mitchell are happy to be here, and are ready and willing to do what they can to help Valencia County grow and develop.

The floor was then opened for comments/questions from VALEO members:

Q: What can we do to keep jobs filled with good employees, provide better training, combat drugs, etc.?

A: Use educational institutions, community colleges, junior colleges to develop programs specific to jobs/companies. Partner with Department of Workforce Solutions (“Work Keys” program, for example). Drug problem is a societal issue; needs to be addressed at the local level with available programs and resources.

Q: With all this growth, public safety becomes a big issue. How can we work together to address public safety?

A: Find resources to work together (more of a VALEO issue, possible topic for a future VALEO meeting).

Q: What's happening with senior centers? Can private sector help more with that?

A: Another possible topic for a future VALEO meeting.

Q: Any way we can tap into the fiber optic line being built for Facebook?

A: Initial discussions were to allow public institutions (schools) to connect, but right now our understanding is that the line is proprietary, and they won't share with public or private sectors.

Comment: Keter project was a great win; result of teamwork between cities, State, CID, etc.

Comment: Effort is underway to train technicians for local companies at local colleges and universities. Companies also often offer their own training programs. Neighboring states trying to lure qualified employees/trained technicians away by offering higher pay. Need to stay ahead of that.

Comment: Intern program exists at JTIP, which helps subsidize pay.

b) Distribute/Review Articles of Association

Administrator Greg Martin from Los Lunas distributed current Articles of Association and reminded the group about its purpose and process for meeting and doing business. Everyone agreed the organization was beneficial and it should continue to operate as outlined in the Articles of Association, including meeting quarterly, and rotating the meeting around to be hosted at different locations.

c) Proposed 2018 VALEO Meeting Schedule

The group agreed to the following schedule for VALEO meetings in 2018:

February 6, 2018 – Belen

May 1, 2018 – Peralta

August 7, 2018 – Rio Communities

November 6, 2018 – Valencia County

VI. Next Meeting

The next VALEO meeting will be February 6, 2018 in Belen

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.