

**Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials
(VALEO)
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Belen Harvey House, 104 North 1st Street, Belen, NM. 87002
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The VALEO meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova asked that each member introduce themselves, members went around the table stating their name and affiliation. These are the names of the individuals present for this meeting via the sign in sheet:

Members:

- Mark Gwinn, Rio Communities
- Danny Monette, Valencia County
- Arturo R. Siaz, Rio Communities
- Charles Griego, Los Lunas
- Chris Ortiz, Los Lunas
- Frank F. Ortega, City of Belen
- Jerah R. Cordova, City of Belen
- Tom Scroggins, Rio Communities
- John Chavez, Magistrate Court
- Bill Brown, Rio Communities
- Bob Skerry, Rio Communities
- Greg Martin, Los Lunas
- Peggy Gutjahr, Rio Communities
- Gerald Saiz, Los Lunas
- Jim Winters, Rio Communities
- John Gordon, Bosque Farms
- Claudio Moya Jr., Peralta

Audience:

Leona Vigil, Rose Mary Sandoval, Brian McBain, Lenore Pena, Ronnie Torres, Maricella Melendez, Jay Peters, Clara Garcia, Traci Morerod, Scott Conner, Lisa Valenzuela, Vince Torres, Naithan Gurule, Shonda Muaillo, and Chris Tyrolt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last VALEO meeting which took place on November, 7, 2017 in Los Lunas, NM. Mayor Mark Gwinn of Rio Communities made the motion to approve, Councilor Frank F. Ortega of Belen seconded the motion. All members voted yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ON CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES IN VALENCIA COUNTY

Los Lunas Police Chief Nathan Gurule presented a PowerPoint emphasizing building relationships and making a difference in crime within the community. Chief Gurule focused information on how the Los Lunas Police Department uses police and community resources to help battle vandalism, auto burglary and theft within the village. Chief Gurule advised that the Los Lunas Police Department meets with businesses and community members at least once per month to gauge any issues, but also to see what the public expects from their police department. Chief Gurule advised that his officers will provide feedback that is evaluated every six months, which will then lead to operational planning and implementation of new techniques in battling crime that may be a problem in real time. The Los Lunas Police department also offers educational resources to victims, ensuring that officers are keeping in constant communication with the public, because the only way to battle crime is through public approval/trust. Los Lunas Police Department currently has 38 officers, with 2 additional on the way through a federal grant, and 5 detectives.

Belen Police Chief Scott Conner handed out a copy of the Belen Police Departments annual report, then presented information on this report on how the department is responding to crime in the area. Chief Conner advised that the most successful technique used to battle crime within the city is through the community watch program, he believes that this has resulted in more calls for service, which went up by 2,000 for the year, but also believes that this has been an effective tool in protecting the citizens. Currently the Belen Police Department works with federal prosecutors, determining the worst of the worst to prosecute federally, they also work closely with the DA's office and build relationships with them to ensure consistent communication. Chief Conner advise that currently the department is looking at dividing up the City in 4 quadrants, then assigning police officers to these areas so that they can provide greater community outreach and awareness of what is happening in those specific areas, determining what needs to be addressed to battle crime in real time.

Question and Answer Session: Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova then opened up the meeting to questions for Chief Gurule and Chief Conner.

- Question: What is the impact of substance abuse for crime and what training is needed for mental health awareness?
 - Chief Conner advised that some State legislation has been passed, mandating that all law enforcement officers receive training in mental health awareness.
 - Chief Gurule advised that his department also attends this training, but also ensure that crisis intervention training is mandated. Substance abuse leads to crime but this needs to be addressed from the beginning through the community and households, parents need to be aware of what is going on to stop this at home from the beginning of the problem, home structure is key.

- Member then stated that she would like the various police departments to attend a community wellness council meeting, allowing for greater communication and approach to battle this problem.
- Question: Is there a great impact of crime spillover coming from Albuquerque, is our area a main buffer zone for this crime?
 - Chief Gurule advised that the departments do communicate with Albuquerque law enforcement officials when needed, however, this can be difficult in achieving, so in response there is a divide in communication. We do communicate with the State Police and this seems to be effective when crime is crossing from one area to another, they are very effective and helpful.
- Question: Can we get a community of law enforcement officers in the area together to talk and share information on a regular basis?
 - Chief Conner advised that this is currently taking place, agencies within Valencia County meet regularly to help each other in cases that require this assistance, we also share the same network of data so one agency can see what the other one is doing, we are looking at implementing some task forces to combine agencies to fight certain crimes together.
 - Chief Gurule advised that a task force can be difficult to create, but the thought of this could create unity, and given the new technology that is coming out, this can be used to help better communication between agencies as well. The department used to have a detective breakfast where information was shared by all agencies in Valencia County, which is something that we can look at recreating.
- Question: The times are changing, what are officers doing as criminals get smarter?
 - Chief Conner advised that with the new dispatch center getting ready to open, the technology present will allow for better capabilities to stay on top of things strategically.
 - Judge John Chavez advised that at times extradition can be the problem, especially trying to send criminals back to Albuquerque, if we can address this we will ensure that Valencia County is not a sanctuary for criminals. Danny Monette, Valencia County Manager, advised that in order to help the issue, if a person is arrested in Valencia County and has warrants in Albuquerque, the jail is not charging to house them for the first two days, allowing an easier opportunity for agencies in the Albuquerque area to come pick them up and take them to be prosecuted in Bernalillo County.
- Question: When we have citizens in our municipalities, saying they know there is a drug house, or crimes are being committed, how do we report this, what information is needed to take care of their concerns?
 - Chief Gurule advised that the departments takes this information, sets up surveillance of the area, and takes actions as needed to ensure the problem is taken care of, this ensure that the citizens does not lose trust in the department itself. Chief Gurule also advised that setting up deals and buying the drugs is no longer advised, it can be too dangerous, and has many complications.
 - Chief Conner advised that in these cases, he likes to speak to the citizens directly, getting more information so that action can be taken and moved on.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next VALEO meeting will take place on May 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Town of Peralta.

ADJOURN:

Belen Mayor Jerah R. Cordova adjourned tonight's meeting at 7:11 pm.

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AGENDA

1. Call To Order By Mayor Jerah Cordova
2. Pledge Of Allegiance
3. Introductions
4. Approval Of Minutes From November 7, 2017
5. New Business; Crime in Valencia County:
Discussion, Prevention, Strategies
Speakers: LLPD- Police Chief Nathan Gurule
BPD-Police Chief Scott Conner
Q & A
6. Next Meeting May 1, 2018-Town Of Peralta
7. Adjourn

*Agenda subject to change.

VALEO

Belen Harvey House

February 6, 2018 6:00 p.m.

PLEASE PRINT
SIGN IN SHEET

	PRINT NAME	REPRESENTING
1	Brian McBeir	City of Belen
2	MARK GWINN	City of Rio Communities
3	Lenore G. Peña	CITIZEN IN Belen
4	JIM RICKY	—
5	Danny Murrett	Valencia County
6	Arturo P. Jais	City of Rio Communities
7	Deena Jajic	COB
8	LISA VALENZUELA	LLPD
9	VINCE TORRES	LLPD
10	NAITHAN GURULE	LLPD
11	Charles Griend	Village of Los Lunas
12	CHRIS ORTIZ	Village of Los Lunas
13	Frank F. Ortega	Belen -
14	Terah R. Cordova	City of Belen
15	Tom Scroggins	City of Rio Communities
16	Ronnie Torres	citizen
17	Mancella Melendez	citizen
18	JOHN CHAVEZ	MAGISTRATE COURT -
19	Fabrice Houston	
20	BILL BROWN	RIO COMMUNITIES

VALEO

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	PRINT NAME	REPRESENTING
21	BOB SKEERY	RIO COMMUNITIES
22	Jay PETERS	SELF
23	Mara Garcia	News Bulletin
24	Greg Martin	Village of Los Lunas
25	Feggy Gut, AHC	City of Rio Communities
26	GERARD SALL	Village of U
27	Traci Morehead	Neighborhood Watch
28	Joseph Bizell	Self
29	Jim Winters	Rio Communities
30	John Gordon	Basque Focus
31	Claudio Moya Jr	Peralta
32	Eric Caser Montane	Los Lunas
33	Kabe Oller	Belen
	Shonda Musillo	Belen
	CHRIS TYROLT	BOSQUE FARMS PD