

## MINUTES

Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials

December 14, 2015

### PRESENT:

Mayor Jerah Cordova, Mayor Bryan Olguin, Mayor Mark Gwinn, Mayor Bob Knowlton, Mayor Charles Griego, Councilor Darlene Aragon, Councilor Wayne Gallegos, Councilor Frank Ortega, Councilor Robert Chavez, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Commissioner David Hyder, Commissioner Jonathan Aragon, Commissioner Charles Eaton, Jay Ruybalid, Bob Skerry, Greg Martin, Danny Monette.

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Mayor Jerah Cordova.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Cordova.
- III. Introductions were conducted by going around the table and everyone introducing themselves.
- IV. Old Business:

Mayor Cordova stated that it was discussed at the last meeting that the managers/administrators would discuss recommendations for membership, structure, name, bylaws, and voting rights and he asked for a report from the managers/administrators:

Jay Ruybalid stated that the managers did discuss the issues and recommended that the membership remain at elected officials (governing body) and managers/administrators in Valencia County. The group also recommended the structure to go along with what was recommended at the last meeting: meetings would rotate amongst the entities in the county with the mayor of each entity conducting the meeting at a site in their town.

The name recommended by the group was either the Valencia Council of Governments (VCOG) or the Valencia County Council of Governments (VCCOG). However, Jay stated that Greg had a list of other names to consider.

Jay stated that the group felt that the same bylaws from the Arizona association would work just fine. The group of managers/administrators also agreed with the recommendation made at the last meeting that this group be a non-voting group.

Greg Martin provided additional information that the question had arisen as to which elected officials would be part of this group (i.e. county clerk, county treasurer, etc.)

and the managers/administrators agreed that it should only be governing body elected officials.

Bob added that the managers/administrators felt that the Arizona bylaws were simple and seemed adequate.

Mayor Cordova then asked the group for any other ideas/suggestions:

Bryan stated that there should be refreshments provided by the hosts for each meeting.

Charles stated that the discussions should be non-binding and non-policy driven. He felt that collaboration is really important.

Alicia said that the purpose of the group should be to share ideas and get to know each other and not to exclude.

Mark stated that the purpose should be to make Valencia County stronger.

Wayne stated that the group's function reminded him of an emergency plan – we should build pride and strength. He stated that we should not be policy driven and that we should build on things that we agree on.

Frank brought up the issue as to whether school leadership should be invited. A discussion ensued and many felt that it would be important to invite school leadership when direct school issues were discussed, such as the Los Chavez line, etc. Robert stated the concern about the group becoming too big and cumbersome. Wayne wondered if we are too big now.

Charles G. felt that we should “get off the ground first,” then invite schools and perhaps even Isleta. Bob stated that Animal Control and Economic Development should be the initial focus areas. Peggy felt that there is an advantage with the current group – beginning with as many members of local government bodies as possible. She stated that school issues are different, but tangential. Robert stated that he hadn't looked at the Arizona model, but felt that it would be productive to use.

Mayor Cordova then asked what the group felt about the name. Jay stated that Greg had a list of other names besides the two recommended. The group looked at the list of possible names and agreed upon the name of “Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials.”

Mayor Cordova asked that the managers/administrators review the Arizona bylaws and make a recommendation at the next meeting. He also recommended that the minutes from meetings be available in an electronic cloud. Jay stated that both issues would be discussed at the next managers/administrators luncheon and Danny offered to have his IT staff person available at that luncheon.

All agreed that the group should remain a non-voting group.

V. New Business:

Mayor Cordova asked the group what it felt the priorities should be:

Peggy – Supporting education, economic development, crime, law enforcement, and animal control.

Bryan – Cooperation and support as a county; stated he was not happy with the Valencia Regional Emergency Communication Center.

Bob – Police, fire and EMS, tourism, and agriculture.

Charles Griego – Succeed as an organization; keep meeting; incremental accomplishments.

Charles Eaton – Information sharing is great; upcoming legislative session; the criminal element; tight budgets, so we need to help each other; become more efficient to better serve our citizens.

Alicia - A hospital, crime and drugs, solid waste, education, and economic development.

Additional Comments:

Charles G. – “We must support each other’s economic development efforts.”

Jonathan – He said he is glad to see us together, because he has seen poor communication. We should look to each other for help.

Jerah – Animal Control, jail, dispatch, solid waste, and illegal dumping are the issues he believes are priority issues.

Danny – Mental health issues.

Darlene – “We echo each other’s concerns and we need to work together.”

Bryan – Bring in law enforcement and fire protection.

Jay – There is the regional economic development group that has begun (SET) and it includes Valencia County, Socorro County, and Sierra County.

VI. Scheduling Next Meeting

The group decided to meet either the first Tuesday or the second Monday in February. Bryan volunteered Peralta to host the next meeting. Jay stated he would work with Bryan to coordinate the logistics of the next meeting and information would be sent out.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.