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FACEBOOK Chooses Los Lunas, NM for Data Storage Facility

Hello, Los Lunas!

By Ken Patchett, Dir. of Data Center Operations, W. Region, Facebook.

Facebook is thrilled to announce that our next data center will be built in the village of Los Lunas, New Mexico! We'll break ground on the project in October, and will work as quickly as possible to add it to our [Prineville](#), [Forest City](#), [Luleå](#), [Altoona](#), [Fort Worth](#), and [Clonee](#) facilities as one of the cornerstones of our global infrastructure. Our Los Lunas data center will play a role in bringing our family of apps and services to people around the world — ultimately making the world more open and connected.

The process for finding a location for a new data center takes years, and it's an important one because these communities become our homes. In our search, we look for great partnerships with the local community, a strong pool of local talent for construction and long-term operations staff, and access to clean and renewable energy. We found all of this in Los Lunas, and we're excited to join the community there.

Our Los Lunas facility will be one of the most advanced, energy-efficient data centers in the world. It will feature the latest in our Open Compute Project hardware designs, and it will be cooled using indirect evaporative cooling systems that emphasize efficiency, while protecting our servers from the frequent dust storms that occur in New Mexico.

The data center will also be powered by 100% clean and renewable energy, thanks to the new solar and wind energy that we're working with PNM Resources to bring to the New Mexico grid. By powering our data center with renewable energy versus natural gas, we also reduce the water usage associated with the data center by 30 percent. The new solar and wind farms also bring additional jobs and investments to the region.

The Los Lunas Data Center will support thousands of new construction jobs, dozens of long-term operations jobs, and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in new investments to New Mexico. You can read more about the impact our data center investments have had so far in [Oregon](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Sweden](#). For us though, our project goes beyond just economic impact—we want to do what we can to help the village of Los Lunas and the state of New Mexico continue to thrive.

Thank you to those of you who have helped us get to this point. We're excited to be here!

The Future of VIA

The Board of Directors of Valley Improvement Association held a planning session in the spring of 2016, to examine the future of the Association. Based on current income projections and should the association not be able to sell property with a current option before the end of 2017, the association will only exist to June 2018.

As many of you are aware, the assessment revenue stream that the association once relied upon, to move and promote development in the Rio Del Oro and Canyon Del Rio Sub-divisions, as well in southern Rio Communities, is now 6% of what it once was. So at one time, the association collected approximately \$2.3 million a year in assessment revenue, 2016 will see a total collection of around \$145,000, that's a decrease of some \$2,155,000 less than we once collected. As a result of the loss of revenue, VIA's inability to push development and do the things we once did have diminished to almost nothing.

The VIA Board has adopted 2 scenarios, one is that should the association not be able to sell some property that we currently have options on, June 2018, the association and its subsidiary operations would close. Should this happen, the property asset which the association owns is some 7,800+ parcels of property in the Rio Del Oro and Canyon Del Rio, would need to be transferred to another entity, such as Valencia County or other such entity.

Currently the association owes approximately \$1.7 million in back property taxes, of that almost \$1.2 million is penalties and interest and state fees, the actual taxes owed is approximately \$520,000. The tax situation would need to be resolved prior to transfer. The association is currently trying to sell the retail plaza where its office is located and has it listed at \$229,000, the building is a 15,000 square foot building.

Should the association sell the property under option, then the plan is that the association can continue to operate through 2023 and beyond, this would allow the association to begin to market and sell some other properties and continue its oversight and management of the Rio Del Oro and Canyon Del Rio areas. Unfortunately, if the association no longer exists covenant enforcement will lie in the hands of the property owners, and there will be no one to protect the investment of the tens of thousands of property owners in both Rio Del Oro and Canyon Del Rio.

The resident communities are being encouraged to form their own Homeowners associations (HOA), this action is being encouraged whether VIA can continue to operate or not. The concept being that if a community has a community run HOA then they dictate their future.

VIA is also working on the transfer of the 20 acre Park in Las Maravillas to Valencia County, to be used as a County park. Currently Valencia County does not have a County park such as that at Las Maravillas; the transfer of the park would then allow residents of all of Valencia County to have a nice park. The talks continue.

So, the VIA Board and Management is prepared for whatever scenario we face and will adapt our plan of action accordingly.

The slow and calculated death of the Belen economy, intentional or accidental?

An encouraging and interesting thing about the Facebook deal coming to NM is that there are fantastic pledges of financial aid and political help for the Facebook facility, which will employ some 55 people when it's up and running and create some 300-500 short term construction jobs over the next several years.

So why in 2007, when the idea of a health commons was brought to the County Commission, commitments from six different health care providers and a nursing home to work at a County hospital, Covenant Health Systems would invest millions in dollars and would build and run, along with commitments from the Workforce Board to finance the training of 300 Valencia County people who'd work there, why would the health commons board get sued, the project get killed and two local attorneys, who were paid hefty salaries to kill the Health Commons, get judicial appointments? Why was there was no intervention by the political leaders other than to see that the health commons never happened?

Instead of the City of Belen embracing the project, pulling in political clout, annexing the site directly east of the river from Belen, and seeing some 250-300 permanent, good paying jobs come to the community, the City leaders did everything they could, to fight the project both behind the scenes and then finally publicly hi-jack the project and attempt to take it some 5 miles West to Belen proper, and the project has yet to happen!

Now the project is held up by lawsuit after lawsuit and the County residents hold their breath in hopes that a medical emergency doesn't haunt their family.

The lack of vision on the part of Belen City Leaders to embrace the Health Commons project, their efforts to take a project on their own, with little ability to manage what they have, and their failure to see that the 5,500+ resident population in Southern Rio Communities was a valid excuse to annex the community, only contributes to its dire condition and road to economic despair.

The in fighting amongst elected officials vying for either credit for nothing accomplished, or for personal financial gain, contributes to the already dismal lack of leadership and economic growth for Belen.

Instead of the City of Belen embracing growth and development in Valencia County they look at it as competition between communities. The growth and development of Los Lunas, Southern Rio Communities and Valencia County will only benefit the entire County. The City of Belen should be encouraging jobs in Valencia County rather than seeing others successes as a threat, perhaps others successes are a result of Belen's failure to participate.

Opportunities come and are gone in the blink of an eye, and if a community lacks the proper vision and leadership to take advantage of those opportunities then it soon finds itself suffering a slow and painful death. It finds itself with a community that attracts that which is less than desirable, and instead of building a viable and lasting economy, it builds despair, depression and hopelessness.

So blame the economy or blame the lack of leadership but soon, Belen needs to wake up and be a player in the game!

Below is a rendering of the Health Commons as was planned in Southern Rio Communities. Please note the partners that had planned to come with the facility. This facility would have changed the complexion of Valencia County and would have added much needed jobs to the local economy as well as attracted retirees and families.

The City of Belen was approached to simply annex the property across the river, making the site part of the City of Belen. The City could have had some 250-300 good paying jobs, but rather chose to “hi-jack” the project and take it west across the river to Belen.

The City has failed to bring even a simple hospital to Belen, a waste of taxpayer money and all the while people have no access to healthcare.



Come visit your property, we'd love to meet you!