

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Quarterly Meeting – January 15, 2015**

STATE OF NEVADA    )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law for their quarterly meeting on January 15, 2015, at the Crescent Valley Town Center. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chairman Mike Sharkozy, Commissioner Fred Etchegaray, and Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was absent. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. Crescent Valley resident, John McClure, voiced concerns over the Crescent Valley Activities Program budget. He understood the 15% cuts received by other departments, but didn't understand the cuts to the Activities Program budget. He stated, *"If you're willing to cut 52%, what are you going to cut next time?"* Mr. McClure provided a petition, opposing the reduction and asking for additional funding for the Activities Program, with additional signatures. This petition was originally read into the record at the December 5, 2014, meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Sharkozy attended a Search & Rescue meeting in Crescent Valley on January 12<sup>th</sup>, and attended the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Goicoechea chaired the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting in Carson City on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting in Eureka the evening of January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Lack of Quorum for CVTAB: The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board is made up of three elected members. Members must reside in the Town of Crescent Valley and are elected by Precinct 4 voters (unincorporated Town of Crescent Valley). Each member serves a two-year term; therefore, the full board is elected each two-year election cycle.

The candidate filing period for the 2014 Election ended on March 14, 2014, with only one candidate filing for election or re-election. The Commissioners contemplated this at the quarterly meeting on April 15, 2014, and directed the CVTAB to distribute a questionnaire to Precinct 4 voters asking whether they would be in favor of sunseting the Town Board effective January 1, 2015. The results of that survey are as follows:

**CVTAB SUNSETTING SURVEY (2014)**

**PRECINCT 4 REGISTERED VOTERS (TOWN OF CRESCENT VALLEY)**

"NO" - DON'T SUNSET = 33	"YES" - SUNSET = 16	NO REPLY = 94	RETURNED TO SENDER = 9
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At the subsequent quarterly meeting on June 16, 2014, the Commissioners reviewed the results of the survey. They ultimately decided the fairest way to handle this was to postpone any decisions until the new Commissioners were seated in January 2015.

Future of CVTAB: Chairman Goicoechea briefly explained the situation to those present. With only one member, the CVTAB lacks a quorum to hold meetings or conduct any business. He reminded everyone that he was not in favor of making appointments to an elected board. He thanked Dawn Gann for showing interest in the town by filing her candidacy. The Chairman invited input from his fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner Sharkozy stated he has spoken with a lot of Crescent Valley residents about their wishes on this issue. Some are in favor of dissolving the CVTAB, but many want to see it continue and this is his desire as well. He hopes that the Town Board continues and that more residents will take an interest in attending the meetings.

Commissioner Etchegaray was not in favor of dissolving the Town Board and asked if it could simply remain inactive until the next election cycle.

Chairman Goicoechea had discussed the situation with District Attorney, Ted Beutel, and leaving the Town Board inactive is one possible option. The Chairman noted that the Board of Commissioners acts as the Town Board on behalf of Eureka and could do so for Crescent Valley as well. The quarterly meetings will continue to be held in Crescent Valley. Advancements in technology, including the interactive video and cell phones, make the Commissioners much more accessible today than in years past - both as a whole and individually.

Chairman Goicoechea indicated that he did not want to make a final decision regarding the CVTAB until the Commissioners had the benefit of counsel. Therefore, this item will be placed on the next available agenda so that the District Attorney can advise on various options and proper steps to be taken.

Several questions were raised by those assembled, including whether a special election might be an option. Chairman Goicoechea responded that status of the one elected member, status of the Town Board secretary, and how the budget will be handled will all be answered when this is discussed at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committees serving under the CVTAB will essentially not function. Requests and recommendations will have to be made directly to the Commissioners. As far as a special election, which is a very expensive undertaking, State statute outlines that vacancies on advisory boards are filled through appointment by the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to table a decision related to the future of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board until the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting when counsel is available for advisement; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **CRESCENT VALLEY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

Quarterly Report: Senior Center Site Director, Adell Panning, and Social Activities Coordinator, Karen Bowser, reported on recent activities related to the Crescent Valley Activities Program. The annual Spook Walk was held on October 25<sup>th</sup> and included a jack-o'-lantern carving contest, a dessert walk, and costume contests for children and adults. There were several tables of volunteers handing out goodies to the children, including a table and handouts sponsored by Barrick Gold.

A Craft Bazaar was held in November with 15 vendors. This was followed by a community dinner, with catering provided by Barrick Gold at a donated cost of \$2,700.00. Members of the community were asked to bring a new unwrapped toy to be used for the upcoming Christmas event. The evening ended with several rounds of bingo. The event was featured in the *Eureka Sentinel*.

The Christmas celebration began with the annual Parade of Lights and ended with a community dinner. Santa and his elf handed out bags of goodies to the kids. Each child in attendance received one of the donated toys. Festivities included an ugly sweater contest, a gingerbread house decorating contest, a secret chair prize, and bingo. Contributors included Barrick Gold (\$2,000.00), Klondex Gold & Silver Mining Company (86 gift cards totaling \$920.00), Sam Caster of the Dean Ranch, and Betty Krambs. These Christmas festivities were also featured in the *Eureka Sentinel*.

Ms. Bowser provided a breakdown of expenses and revenues for each event. The Activities Program publishes a monthly newsletter which is appreciated by the residents. She stated, *"The amount of volunteers is growing with each event. The community seems eager and willing to help. I'm grateful for the positive support from the community."*

The next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt which is in the early stages of planning.

Activities Program Budget for Current Fiscal Year: Ms. Panning reminded the Commissioners that she first brought up the shortfalls in the current Activities Program budget during the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. It was discussed again at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, but at the request of Ms. Panning and area residents, it was tabled to this quarterly meeting.

Ms. Panning relayed that during the budget process the previous year, she requested no change to the Activities Program budget, but expected a 15% reduction since that was the standard applied to most County departments. She acknowledged that she didn't review a copy of the budget until November when holiday activities were being planned. At that time she found there was a 52.5% reduction from the previous budget year.

Ms. Panning outlined her concerns. First, the Social Activities Coordinator is a casual position at 1,039 hours a year which equals \$16,987.00 in salary, yet only \$6,500.00 was budgeted. Second, there are three events or purchases planned for the remainder of this budget year: the Easter Egg Hunt, May Cleanup, and purchase of uniforms for the local youth wrestling team. Ms. Panning stated that only \$2,871.00 remains in the budget and this will not cover these three items. By her calculations, she is approximately \$1,700.00 short.

The Board responded to Ms. Panning's concerns. Chairman Goicoechea noted that the program was initiated as a volunteer program that operated on a small budget supplemented with donations. He emphasized the importance of volunteers and donations to keep the program viable. Regarding wages, Chairman Goicoechea noted that casual employees are not guaranteed 1,039 hours in a year and often aren't budgeted for that amount. This number serves as a maximum that employees classified as casual may not go beyond. Chairman Goicoechea stated the budgeted hours must be managed – determine what the priorities are and scale back on hours during the slow times so they are available when needed for the larger events. He reminded everyone that in Fiscal Year 2013, only \$4,000.00 was budgeted for salaries and wages; in Fiscal Year 2012, zero was budgeted for salaries and wages and the program ran solely with volunteers.

The Chairman suggested utilizing online ordering when possible. This would alleviate paying wages for someone to travel to Elko for supplies and would serve the dual purpose of reducing costs and freeing up casual hours to be utilized directly for events.

Chairman Goicoechea asked Ms. Panning about overtime hours worked by the casual employee. Ms. Panning responded that they were worked for the Activities Program when event preparations required a long day. She added that the hours allotted to the Social Activities Coordinator are not abused. This casual is also used at the Senior Center and those hours are tracked separately on the time sheet.

Crescent Valley resident, Barbara Dugan, suggested combining May Cleanup with the Firewise Community Day as a way to share costs. The Board felt this was a good idea and Ms. Panning offered to contact Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, regarding this.

Commissioner Etchegaray asked if monies could be transferred from another budget. The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board may be in limbo for a time, depending on what is decided at a future meeting, so possibly funds could be transferred from their budget to the Activities Program.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed that this may be a possibility, but the Board will have to check with the Budget Director and the District Attorney. He added that the Commissioners have to be fiscally responsible. There are other budgets that are close to being over-expended as well, and the Board must carefully consider each transfer and be accountable for their decisions.

The discussion concluded with Chairman Goicoechea stating he is encouraged by the donations and volunteers that have been a vital part of recent events. Regarding both the Town Board and the Activities Program, he encouraged the people of the community to step up, take an active role, and let their concerns and wants be known to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to table a decision related to the budget for the Crescent Valley Activities Program until the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting when the District Attorney and Budget Director can be consulted related to options for supplementing the program for the remainder of the current fiscal year; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Fire Department: A written report for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department was provided by Chief Dan Brown. There were nine emergency responses for the quarter including one fire, three suspected fires, a propane leak, three motor vehicle accidents, and a hunter with a broken ankle. Training consisted of rescue truck and tools, extrication training, FDC (fire department connection) training for sprinkler systems, major utility disconnects, preplanning, and fit testing and usage of SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus).

Crescent Valley Fire Department: Chief Rick Harding provided a written report for the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department. There are currently 14 members. They responded to a total of four calls comprised of two wildland fires, one false alarm, and one vehicle accident. Action reviews were conducted after each incident response. Training for the quarter included vehicle extrication, operation and equipment training on unit CV-31, hazardous materials awareness, fit testing and usage of SCBAs, structure fire ventilation and victim rescue, hydrant operations, and fire ground size-up of structure fires.

## **EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY REPORT**

Detention Facility: Sheriff Keith Logan provided the Detention Facility report. There were a total of 19 inmates for the quarter, including those housed at onset of the quarter and 14 new bookings. This equaled 364 inmate days for October, November, and December. A patrol statistics report was included and showed a total of 2,370 incidents for the quarter. Incidents include calls for service, officer initiated incidents, traffic stops, building checks, vehicle/pedestrian checks, traffic accidents, arrests, animal control, and other incidents.

Sheriff Logan also provided reports for calendar year 2014. The Detention Facility had a total of 90 inmates for the year. Annual patrol statistics included 10,292 incidents for the year. Notably, there were three fatalities in 2014 due to traffic accidents all involving persons from outside of the area.

## **JUSTICE COURT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Justice Court: Eureka Justice Court provided a written report and collected \$70.00 in fees for the quarter. Total fees collected for 2014 were \$924.75.

Beowawe Justice Court: Beowawe Justice Court provided a written report and collected \$330.61 in fees for the quarter. Total fees collected for 2014 were \$955.11.

### **CLERK & TREASURER QUARTERLY REPORT**

Clerk Quarterly Report: A written report was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Clerk and court fees collected for the quarter totaled \$4,223.86.

### **EUREKA COUNTY TELEVISION DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT**

Quarterly Report: A written report was submitted by Dave Pastorino, President of the Television District, and Department Assistant, Annie Kniefel. In the last quarterly report, the Television District relayed that Larcan, a longtime television and radio transmitter manufacturer, had ceased operation. This posed a potential problem as much of Eureka County's equipment was manufactured by Larcan, some of which is still under warranty. In this quarterly report, the Television District was pleased to convey that two seasoned employees of Larcan were taking the initiative toward support of Larcan equipment in the field.

In December, an engineer from AT&T contacted the Television District to report cellular phone interference from a translator on Prospect Peak. The translator was temporarily shut down to immediately alleviate the issue. Technician, Paul Burkholder, traveled to Prospect Peak to resolve the interference issues. A temporary solution was reached and research will be done to find the root cause of the interference in order to achieve a permanent resolution.

### **MEDICAL PROVIDER QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Nevada Health Centers, Inc.: Nevada Health Centers submitted an update on the Eureka and Crescent Valley Clinics. Patient visits for the quarter were 706 in Eureka and 221 in Crescent Valley. This includes patients seen by providers and/or medical assistants.

Jason Rusk, PA-C (certified physician assistant), began at the Eureka Medical Clinic on October 13<sup>th</sup>. PA Rusk attended the recent Health Fair at the Eureka Elementary School and provided information on health effects from smoking.

Rehab Services of Nevada: A written report was received from Greg Barker, Physical Therapist and Director of Rehab Services of Nevada. There were 23 clinic days and 127 patient visits in Eureka for the quarter. Total subsidy paid for the quarter was \$14,856.87.

Eureka Dental Care: Daniel Norris, DDS, submitted the following statistics for Eureka Dental Care: there were 34 clinic days and 218 patient visits for the quarter. Eureka Dental Care provides a wide range of dental services. Eureka Dental Care accepts most insurance and is a preferred provider for Guardian Dental, the County's dental insurance carrier. Dr. Norris receives no County subsidy for his services. He has a lease agreement with the County for space at the Eureka Medical Clinic.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Ron Rankin; Lola Sanders; Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg; Economic Development Program Board; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Health Insurance Committee; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Nye County; White Pine County Commission; Nevada Association of Counties (3); Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry (2); and Western Counties Alliance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Lisa Wolf thanked the Board for holding quarterly meetings, welcomed Commissioner Etchegaray, and thanked Nona Kellerman for the work she has done for the Crescent Valley community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.*

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

*I, Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant to the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the January 15, 2015, quarterly meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant

*I, Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Executive Assistant of the Board.*

/s/ Beverly Conley

Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer