

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 4, 2020

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 4, 2020. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel (following his attendance at Justice Court); and Commissioner Clerk Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. He congratulated the Junior High boys' and girls' basketball teams for their recent victories at the Basketball Tournament in Tonopah. There were no other public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 6, 2019: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve minutes of the January 6, 2020, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

E-RATE PROGRAM

E-Rate Universal Service Support Program: Elmer Porter, Technology Director for Eureka County School District, was in attendance to explain the E-Rate Universal Service Support Program for Schools & Libraries. The E-Rate Program is a federal grant program under the FCC that provides substantial discounts for eligible schools and libraries (particularly rurals) to obtain or expand telecommunications, broadband, and internet access. Each year, qualifying schools and libraries submit requests for competitive bids, which are posted on the Universal Service Administration Company's (USAC) website.

Under this program, Eureka County School District has been able to secure a 60% discount on services utilizing E-Rate, and State programs often fund an additional 20%. This enabled the School District connect to fiber at the NDOT Yard in Eureka, and the County benefitted by collaborating on this project.

The School District is currently working on bid documents for the FY20-21 E-Rate cycle. The Nevada State Library System posted a request for bids to provide fiber to rural libraries and the School District and the County may have an opportunity to extend off hard fiber installed to the Crescent Valley Library at a tremendous savings.

IT / NETWORK

Quest Quote: IT Director Misty Rowley presented a quote from Quest for wireless equipment installation in Crescent Valley. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a quote from Question to install, terminate, and test replacement microwave equipment in Crescent Valley, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, to be paid with monies budgeted for fiber optic and network upgrades in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Letter to Department of Taxation: Comptroller Kim Todd prepared a response letter to the Department of Taxation regarding the single audit finding in Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 annual audit. The Town of Crescent Valley General Fund was over-expended by a small amount for salaries and wages. The letter explained that duties necessary to support the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board were more than anticipated, causing the slight over-expenditure, which will be rectified in future budgets.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve sending the letter to Nevada Department of Taxation in response to the County's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Audit Report; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Position on Utilization of Funds for Medicaid Match Program: (*Note: This item was discussed later in the meeting when the District Attorney was available.*)

Counties participate financially in the State's Medicaid Match Program for the non-federal portion of costs for long-term hospital care for indigent persons. Due to changes in the Program, including recent legislative changes, costs to counties have increased and will increase again in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Counties receive \$0.015 as a portion of their tax rates to be deposited into a fund for hospital care for indigent persons (regulated in accordance with NRS 428.115 - NRS 428.255). The IAF (Indigent Accident Fund) Board is meeting on February 7th to consider a proposal to allow counties to dedicate these funds to help pay rising costs of the Medicaid Match Program.

Commissioner Sharkozy represents Eureka County on the IAF Board, and the Commissioners wanted to present a consolidated position on use of these funds. After discussing options, the Commissioners favored using the hospital indigent funds if the rate collected by Eureka County is dedicated to pay the County's portion of rising costs. The Commissioners were not in favor if the State wants to 'sweep' these funds and place them in a pool for the benefit of all counties and/or the State.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned that Eureka County supports using funds collected for hospital care of indigent persons to pay rising costs related to the Medicaid Match Program if each counties' funds are dedicated for their respective liability, but Eureka County is not in favor of pooling the funds for the benefit of all counties in the State. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Chairman Goicoechea has been asked to participate in taping of a television show, *The County Seat*, to discuss reform of NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) regulations and overhaul of BLM grazing regulations. Taping is scheduled for February 13th, and the Chairman has been asked to give a presentation on February 14th at the rural caucus meeting of the Utah State Legislature.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize out-of-state travel for Chairman Goicoechea to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, February 13th & 14th for the purposes discussed; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Positions Requiring POST Certification: The County recently received emails and correspondence from Nevada POST (Police Officers Standards & Training), which prompted the Board to seek acknowledgement from the Sheriff that employees in positions requiring POST certification either currently possess certification or are working to obtain certification within the statutory timeframe (12 months, with an optional one-time six-month extension).

Sheriff Jesse Watts stated this discussion could have been avoided if he had been party to the meeting held upon receipt of the referenced correspondence from POST, which he also received. The Sheriff confirmed that all law enforcement employees either possess certification or are in the process of obtaining certification in compliance with State law, department policy, and in order to meet criteria listed in the respective job descriptions.

In response to the correspondence, Sheriff Watts spent two days in Carson City talking at length with the Director of POST to ensure that his department is not out of compliance.

The Board inquired whether an employee failing to gain certification during the allowable timeframe (or anyone, for that matter, who is not POST certified) is granted access to patrol vehicles or other equipment routinely provided to peace officers.

Sheriff Watts assured the Board that access is not granted to anyone other than qualifying law enforcement officers. The exception to this is when administrative staff transports a patrol vehicle, or when Public Works staff services a patrol vehicle, but in these instances the employees are not representing themselves to be peace officers. He added that anyone not gaining certification in the 12-month period, or 18-month period if an extension is granted, is not eligible to be a peace officer in the State of Nevada and is not able to continue employment with the Eureka County Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Goicoechea commented that the emails were concerning and he wanted to give the Sheriff opportunity to clarify, on the record, how this issue is being handled.

Defense of District Court Case WM 2001-003: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to direct the defense of lawsuit WM 2001-003 pursuant to NRS 244.165 (prosecution and defense of suits), which was filed on January 27, 2020, in Seventh Judicial District Court in Eureka. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Position Reassignment: During recent budget discussions, Chairman Goicoechea suggested reassigning the Deputy Clerk position regularly utilized by the Board to be funded by the Commission budget and jointly supervised by the Board and Clerk Recorder. He recently met with the District Attorney, Comptroller, and Clerk Recorder to work out details of this transition. Minor revisions were made to the previous job description to replace references to 'Clerk Treasurer' with 'Clerk Recorder'. As was done in the past, the Commissioners will conduct annual performance evaluations for this position on a rotating basis. Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne requested additional time to review the job description, and the Chairman agreed to table it until the next meeting.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve reassigning the Deputy Clerk position regularly utilized by the Board to be funded by the Commission budget and jointly supervised by the Commissioners and Clerk Recorder. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK RECORDER

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification - Deputy Clerk Recorder: Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne submitted a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification requesting authorization to fill the vacancy created in her office with reassignment of a position to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Clerk Recorder to fill the vacant position of Deputy Clerk Recorder; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Proposed Changes to Supplemental Pay: Based on a preliminary discussion at an earlier meeting, and a written request from Sheriff Watts, Comptroller Kim Todd presented possible options related to categories of supplemental pay outlined in the Personnel Policy.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that changes to Personnel Policy can only be made following a public hearing after the proposed changes are memorialized in a resolution that has been circulated to all employees and made available to the public upon request.

Remote Duty Station Pay: Law enforcement officers stationed in Crescent Valley currently receive a stipend of \$350.00 a month for remote duty pay. The question arose at an earlier meeting whether other remote employees, subject to callback for emergencies, should also receive this stipend (for instance, Public Works employees called out to plow snow or attend to urgent utility issues, and EMS employees responding to after-hours ambulance calls).

Estimated fiscal impact for this change is over \$24,000.00 per year. Supervisors in attendance were not opposed to sunsetting this policy, but most felt that the three employees already receiving the stipend should be “grandfathered-in.” The Commissioners agreed.

Standby Pay: Current standby pay is \$0.25 an hour, so an employee on 24-hour standby earns a total of \$6.00. Policy describes typical standby as four hours prior to shift and four hours following shift, or alternate schedule determined by the supervisor. An employee on standby must carry a cell phone or pager, comply with standby requirements, and be available to report to work within 15 minutes of a call. Everyone agreed that the current standby rate is ‘insulting’ and should be changed.

After polling other counties, Sheriff Watts recommended increasing standby pay to \$2.00 an hour, which is a low average compared to other agencies. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

Shift Differential: Shift differential is currently \$0.25/hour for swing shift and \$0.50/hour for graveyard shift. Again, based on comparisons with other agencies, Sheriff Watts recommended an increase to \$1.00/hour for swing shift and \$2.00/hour for graveyard shift. County employees working shift work include patrol officers, detention officers, and dispatchers, all of whom are now working 12-hour shifts. A rough estimate, based on graveyard differential, reveals this could cost \$5,800.00 annually for each affected employee.

This represents a fourfold increase in shift differential, but with other factors (changes in shift schedules, number of affected personnel, etc.) it is difficult to calculate exact fiscal impact. The Board postponed proposing any changes until more definitive cost estimates are available.

FTO Pay: Field Training Officers and Communication Training Officers currently receive an additional 5% when training. It was noted that FTOs and CTOs are frequently consulted at times they are not actively training, essentially conducting intermittent training with no compensation. To rectify this, Sheriff Watts recommended that Training Officers receive an extra 2% for all hours worked, plus another 3% (for a total of 5%) when training.

After considering this alternate scenario, the Board voiced a preference to leave Training Officer pay as it is currently outlined in policy.

Canine Handler: The Sheriff proposed supplemental compensation for a patrol deputy assigned as a canine handler. Ms. Todd explained that in the past there was a specific job description that included canine related duties, with a different assigned pay range. Certain expenses, such as veterinary care, were paid by the County, and the Deputy received a monthly stipend to cover food and other costs for daily care of the dog. Sheriff Watts agreed that a specific job description made more sense than supplemental pay.

Proposed EMT Certification for Law Enforcement: Sheriff Watts was approached by staff inquiring whether there was an incentive for deputies to obtain EMT certification. He felt this would benefit the County and suggested an extra 2.5% for Basic EMT certification and 5% for Intermediate EMT certification. Those responding when off duty could receive the volunteer stipend of \$50.00.

A discussion ensued considering potential liabilities. EMS Director Kenny Sanders informed that State law mandates that EMT functions be performed from an ambulance, limiting what Deputies with EMT certification could do from a patrol vehicle. Since CPR certification is part of POST, Deputies already have the ability to administer CPR.

The Board encouraged anyone interested to pursue EMT certification as a volunteer, but chose not to recommend a stipend for Deputies with EMT certification.

Holiday Hours: Currently all full-time employees receive 10 hours of paid leave for holidays. Those working 10-hour days receive 10 hours of holiday compensation and those working 8-hour days are paid eight hours for the holiday and must use the additional two hours within 30 days.

Sheriff Watts recommended that employees receive holiday compensation commensurate with their respective shifts, whether 8 hours, 10 hours, or 12 hours. This would save the County

holiday pay as well as overtime pay when an employee covers for someone using the additional holiday hours.

Ms. Todd explained that the policy started because 10-hour employees were receiving a higher holiday benefit than 8-hour employees. Under the Sheriff's proposal, 12-hour employees would receive 132 hours of holiday pay annually versus 88 hours for 8-hour employees. This could be equalized with a flat 8-hour holiday benefit, but the drawback is that those working longer shifts would have to claim sick leave or annual leave to account for the additional hours.

There were several comments that the current policy is 'crazy' and many of the supervisors agreed that a flat 8-hour holiday benefit made the most sense. The Chairman recognized that this will be a controversial proposal, but noted that employee comments will be heard before any policy changes are made.

Hours Worked: Current policy recognizes all claimed hours as hours worked (including paid leave). The Sheriff calculated that the County would realize a savings in overtime if only actual hours worked are recognized.

Ms. Todd explained that a Road Department employee can take a paid day off during the week, which counts towards the 40-hour week. If that same employee is called in on the weekend to plow snow, overtime is paid. If paid leave is not counted, overtime would not be paid until the employee reaches the 40-hour threshold.

Ron Damele commented that an employee called in on a scheduled day off should be paid overtime and changing this policy would impact an employee's willingness to be on-call. Chairman Goicoechea agreed that he was hesitant to change this policy since paid leave is a benefit that the employee has earned.

Proposed Changes: Based on the discussion regarding various supplemental pay, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to propose the following: (a) sunset remote duty station pay effective June 30, 2020, with current recipients grandfathered in; (b) increase standby pay to \$2.00 per hour; (c) review definitive cost estimates before considering changes to shift differential; (d) leave FTO/CTO pay at the current 5% rate; (e) address compensation for canine handlers in the job description; (f) deny supplemental pay for law enforcement employees with EMT certification; (g) standardize holiday compensation at eight hours for all employees; and (h) continue to recognize paid leave when calculating hours worked. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Process to Implement Policy Changes: Chairman Goicoechea reminded everyone that policy changes cannot be adopted until memorialized in a resolution circulated to all employees for comment, followed by a public hearing during an open meeting of the Board to hear comments from employees and members of the public, after which the Board may adopt, revise, or deny some or all of the proposed changes.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Amendment to HSI Agreement: The County has been utilizing Health Services Integration Inc. for several years for ambulance billing services. HSI retains 6% of all ambulance bills collected as payment, but is increasing this amount to 8% effective February 1st.

Commissioner McKay motioned to continue the contract with Health Services Integration for ambulance billing services with a rate increase to 8% of collected ambulance accounts effective February 1, 2020. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ASSESSOR

Background on Devnet Software: Assessor Michael Mears provided a brief history on implementation of Devnet's CAMA (computer aided mass assessment) software in his office. Counties were notified over two years earlier that the current software provider, Advanced Data Systems (AS400 system), was closing its business effective December 2019. This triggered the

15 Nevada counties reliant on ADS to begin searching for alternate vendors for the multiple software programs that would have to be replaced.

Assessors in Nevada vetted various CAMA vendors and 14 of the 15 ADS counties selected Devnet. Mr. Mears participated on a design committee, which met frequently to evaluate the software and recommend changes based on Nevada's assessment practices. His office completed conversion to Devnet in July 2019. The program, which initially seemed very promising, had substantial areas that didn't function properly, and the Devnet vendor proved to be quite unresponsive.

The segregation report, a mandatory proforma revenue projection due to the Nevada Department of Taxation each January, could not be run in Devnet, and Mr. Mears and Appraisal Supervisor, Garney Damele, recently spent hours manually creating the report. The deficiencies in Devnet make it impossible for the Treasurer to complete the mandatory proforma revenue report due to the Department of Taxation by mid-February.

Douglas County severed ties with Devnet in October, Humboldt County issued a 15-day notice to cure, and there is talk that Lander County is leaving as well. With these actions hinting at a mass exodus, Devnet has deployed resources to the State that should have been available six months ago.

Mr. Mears has not made a firm decision regarding Devnet, but is exploring options and has seen demonstrations from two other CAMA vendors, including GSA (Government Software Assurance), the company Lyon County selected in lieu of Devnet.

Mr. Mears relayed that disappointment and frustration have turned to anger over Devnet's lack of responsiveness and the tremendous amount of time, effort, and finances (\$118,000.00) that have gone towards a program that does not function properly. The Assessor does not have estimates yet, but asked that the Board budget funds for the upcoming fiscal year in the event there is a need to do an expedited software conversion with an alternate company.

NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Special Assessments for FY20-21: Each year the Nevada Division of Water Resources provides budgets for special assessments to be billed to water rights holders in Eureka County. Basins are charged anywhere from \$0.60 per acre foot (Humboldt River Distribution) to \$1.00 per acre foot (Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin and Kobeh Valley Groundwater Basin), with all other basins charged \$0.65 per acre foot. These are billed as special assessments on the real property tax statements and in turn paid to the Division of Water Resources. Total collectible amount for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is \$356,713.69.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Division of Water Resources budgets for special assessments for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to be collected by Eureka County on behalf of the Division for expenses related to supervision over the following waters in Eureka County: Maggie Creek Groundwater Basin, Boulder Flat Groundwater Basin, Humboldt River Distribution, Whirlwind Valley Groundwater Basin, Lower Reese River Valley Groundwater Basin, Crescent Valley Groundwater Basin, Pine Valley Groundwater Basin, Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin, and Kobeh Valley Groundwater Basin. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Easter Egg Hunt: The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board requested funds to support the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 11th. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a request for \$800.00 from the North End Activities Fund to be used for the Crescent Valley Easter Egg Hunt on April 11th, with the check issued to CVTAB member, Jessica Evertsen. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel (2); Sheriff Jesse Watts; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (3); Eide Bailly LLP (2); Health Services Integration; Allison MacKenzie Ltd.; Walker & Associates; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (2); Nevada Rural Housing Authority; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Private Activity Bond Council (2); US Dept. of Agriculture; US Dept. of Homeland Security (2); US Senator Jacky Rosen; and US Dept. of the Navy.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:06 to 1:20 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - TAX RATE

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Rate: The Commissioners did not support a tax increase, and Commissioner Sharkozy motioned that the County-wide tax rate remain the same for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Allocation of Tax Rate: Comptroller Kim Todd provided a breakdown of the current tax rate and anticipated revenues for each fund based on preliminary projected assessed valuations. The Board engaged in a thorough discussion of each fund.

The Board agreed to increase allocation to two funds. An additional \$0.025 will be distributed to the Landfill Fund, which covers substantial expenses including the waste collection franchise agreement. In addition, Ms. Todd recommended allocating \$1 million in consolidated tax revenues. She will consult the Department of Taxation to inquire whether this requires a resolution in addition to Board action. An additional \$0.02 will be distributed to the Capital Improvement Fund. The Board noted that after several years of conservative spending, infrastructure needs should be addressed.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the following allocation of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 tax rate; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. *Funds with an asterisk (*) are set by statute.*

	FY19-20	FY20-21
General Fund	\$0.6575	\$0.6125
Future Reserve Fund	\$0.0000	\$0.0000
Road Fund	\$0.0500	\$0.0500
RTC Fund	\$0.0900	\$0.0900
Ag District #15	\$0.0000	\$0.0000
Building Maintenance & Reserve Fund	\$0.0000	\$0.0000
Landfill Fund	\$0.0250	\$0.0500
Water Mitigation Fund	\$0.0250	\$0.0250
Natural Resource Multiple Use Fund	\$0.0100	\$0.0100
Capital Improvement Fund	\$0.0500	\$0.0700
Agricultural Extension Fund	\$0.0100	\$0.0100*
Accident Indigent Fund	\$0.0150	\$0.0150*
County Indigent Fund	\$0.0033	\$0.0033*
Hospital Indigent Fund	\$0.0100	\$0.0100*
<i>Total General County</i>	<i>\$0.9458</i>	<i>\$0.9458</i>
Television District	\$0.0085	\$0.0085*
Crescent Valley Town	\$0.2153	\$0.2153*
Eureka Town	\$0.2153	\$0.2153*
Diamond Valley Weed District	\$0.0781	\$0.0781
Diamond Valley Rodent District	\$0.0400	\$0.0400

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Note; In order to accommodate schedules, the Justice Court and Fair Board budgets were heard earlier in the meeting.

Justice Court; Justice Court AA Fund; Justice Court Facility Fund: Justice of the Peace Dorothy Rowley and Justice Court Manager Amy Jensen presented budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. An overall increase of \$58,860.00 was requested in the Justice Court budget. The bulk of the increase is for an estimate of jury trials due to a recent change in legislation that now allows defendants in domestic violence cases to request a jury trial. This will also cover conflict counsel – the County’s public defender is married to the prosecutor in domestic violence cases, creating a conflict of interest, necessitating the County to hire outside defense counsel. Ms. Rowley doesn’t foresee a need for casual staff, but asked that casual hours be budgeted status quo in the event coverage is needed during absence of regular staff.

The current layout of the Justice Courtroom doesn’t accommodate juror selection, so staff is working with Public Works to plan facility changes in the Justice Courtroom. The Justice Court Facility Fund will finance these upgrades.

Proposed increases in the Justice Court AA Fund are for technology replacements and contingency recommended by the IT Department.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative budgets for Justice Court, Justice Court AA Fund, and Justice Court Facility Fund as presented; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Fair Board (Agriculture District #15): Lynn Conley, Chair of the Eureka County Fair Board, presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 tentative budget for the Fair Board. She noted that all line items were status quo except for two categories.

The Fair Board felt there is a need for more activities for older youth. An increase of \$5,250.00 was requested for this, with the intent of finding sponsors for the additional events. If sponsors are not secured, additional activities will not be added.

The other request was to increase the line item for t-shirts to \$6,000.00. Pre-orders for sweatshirts and t-shirts will be taken for the Fair, so this is a reimbursable line item and will not result in an increased cost to the County.

Library: Comptroller Kim Todd budgeted \$110,000.00 for the library contract, based on an estimate received from staff at the Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System that the base contract amount will be \$106,111.00, an increase of \$6,950.00 over the previous year’s contract. This includes a 3% cost of living allowance for library staff. Library Director Kassie Antonucci plans to attend a future meeting to discuss the library budget and a proposed project to install fiber to rural libraries under the E-Rate program.

Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board: Nona Kellerman, Chair, presented budget requests on behalf of the CVTAB. The Town Board originally contemplated an increase to service and supplies, but now felt a status quo operating budget would suffice.

Ms. Kellerman requested tables, a rack, tablecloths, table skirts, and privacy screens for the Crescent Valley Community Center at an estimated cost of \$3,200.00. Street lights and solar lights for flags on the welcome sign were requested, with no immediate estimate.

Ms. Kellerman explained capital outlay requests for the Crescent Valley Town Park, but noted she didn’t have time to get definitive quotes. These include expansion of the concrete pad, picnic tables (one wheelchair accessible), a cover over the pavilion, and repair to the existing structure. This project will require tree removal and relocation of sprinkler lines. Ms. Kellerman gave a preliminary cost estimate of \$40,000.00.

Ms. Todd advised that the Crescent Valley Town budget would not support a capital project of this amount, so the Board asked that it be budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund. Ron Damele felt the project would exceed \$50,000.00, and suggested that the tree be removed by the arborist in the current fiscal year.

Recreation Board: The Recreation Board sent an email with tentative budget requests. This included a \$40,000.00 increase in the Recreation Fund to finance the new events coordinator position, and a \$10,000.00 increase in capital outlay to serve as matching funds for grants to begin the planned VFW Memorial Park on Main Street in Eureka.

An increase of \$3,000.00 (for a total of \$20,000.00) was requested in the Tourism Fund, for advertising and promotion of events. Ms. Todd informed that this may need to be decreased once revenue projections are finalized. State law does not allow a public entity to file a negative budget, and the current fund balance does not support this amount.

Television District: Bill Leppala, President of the Television District, and Dale Lotspeich, contractor/Eagle Communications, were in attendance to present the tentative budget for the Television District. Requested changes are as follows: an increase of \$3,000.00 in salaries and wages to accommodate additional meetings to manage equipment upgrades; a decrease of \$40,200.00 for Tank Hill capital outlay due to equipment purchased in the current fiscal year; an increase of \$20,000.00 for fiber delivery of signals from Prospect Peak, along with a decrease of \$45,000.00 for equipment purchased in the current fiscal year; an increase of \$20,000.00 for fiber delivery of signals from Argenta Ridge, along with an increase of \$55,000.00 for equipment replacements. Overall, this represents a 5% increase over the previous year's budget.

Mr. Lotspeich explained that the Television District is working more closely with Public Works and the IT Department to work cooperatively on improvements to avoid duplication of costs and efforts.

Sheriff / Jail: Sheriff Watts presented the proposed budget for his departments. The most substantial increases were requested in services and supplies to purchase a canine vehicle cage and provide canine training; for maintenance to cover body cameras, dash cameras, and tasers; and for jail maintenance for replacement of the large battery backup system for the facility. Minor increases were requested in the following categories: communication supplies/replacements, coroner fees, public relations, travel and training, fuel, and maintenance. Capital outlay represented an overall decrease of \$20,000.00, but includes a request for a new copy machine and a substantial contingency amount.

The Sheriff's Office currently budgets annually for Lexipol to update and maintain policies. This only pertains to the patrol policy, which hasn't been updated since 2011. Sheriff Watts proposed a one-time increase for the initial year to engage Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute (a POOL/PACT partner) to draft policies for patrol and detentions, after which this line item will decrease to an annual maintenance fee.

Public Works: Before reviewing budgets for the departments under Public Works, Director Ron Damele notified the Board that it is his intention to retire in the next fiscal year.

There was a notable addition to the Public Works budget for the Eureka Community Care Facility, a long-term care facility that the Chairman has been working with Mr. Damele on. A total of \$230,000.00 is budgeted for the initial year to cover details such as planning and schematic design. The County plans to purchase transformers from Mt. Wheeler Power at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision (with costs prorated to the affected lots), and Mr. Damele noted there should be sufficient contingency funds in the Public Works budget to cover these costs.

Buildings & Grounds: The Buildings & Grounds budget covers every County building including heating, cooling, fuel, maintenance, elevator maintenance, fire systems, etc. The ability to track each building in more detail in the Tyler Technologies software has allowed staff to make appropriate changes to line items and this budget had a minimal overall increase.

Road Department: The Road Department budget reflects changes in several categories, mostly due to rising costs of fuel and supplies. This budget provides for some in-house projects by the road crew, which saves the County money in contract services. Capital outlay requests for the Road Department include a grader, loader, two semi-tractors, and a snow plow. The County has some trade-in equipment that will substantially offset the costs of these purchases.

Regional Transportation Commission: The tentative budget for RTC includes \$2.5 million for the large Road & Utility Improvement Project expected to cost \$3 million in the next fiscal year for the first phase of the project. A portion of this has been identified in the Airport budget and Mr. Damele will work with the Comptroller to prorate costs accordingly to the affected utility and town funds.

Swimming Pool: Very little change was proposed in the Swimming Pool tentative budget. Joyce Jeppesen noted there is a plan to replace the old metal lockers with new lockers made of materials more conducive to the high humidity levels at the Pool.

Public Parks: This budget supports upkeep, repairs, and all maintenance for the public parks, including the Fairgrounds. This includes sprinkler systems, fences, painting, etc. A small increase was requested to use contract janitor services after large events, and \$25,000.00 was added to capital outlay for a potential project at the Eureka Fairgrounds.

Eureka County Fire District / Emergency Management: The largest annual cost in this operating budget is the contract with Nevada Division of Forestry, currently \$81,531.00. Contingency is budgeted in contract services in the event of a bad fire season, and \$200,000.00 was budgeted in capital outlay to purchase a new service truck for all fire equipment in the County.

Opera House: Minimal increases were requested in the Opera House budget to reflect higher costs for services and supplies and for marketing. Some marketing costs will be reimbursed with the annual \$4,800.00 grant from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Planned repairs include interior painting and work on the balcony.

Sentinel Museum: Minimal increases were requested in the Sentinel Museum budget to account for higher cost of supplies and to purchase merchandise that is sold at the Museum.

Eureka Water & Sewer: Mr. Damele explained that contingency is included in this budget in the event of a catastrophic failure of one of the wells. The budget includes a substantial increase to address one of the five sewer ponds that is currently out of service. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will almost certainly require a new liner and other measures before this pond can be placed back into service.

Crescent Valley Water: Mr. Damele explained that this budget includes contingency because, due to power issues in the area, well failures are more common in Crescent Valley. The budget also includes \$60,000.00 to replace media in the arsenic treatment plant, funds to repaint a water tank, and capital outlay for a utility truck.

Devil's Gate Water: Minimal changes were requested in the budget for Devil's Gate Water. Mr. Damele stated it makes sense at some point to standardize rates and combine all water systems, because the water systems are not sustainable on water rates alone.

Yucca Mountain: The Yucca Mountain Fund has been operating on reserves from the direct payment grant received in previous years from the US Department of Energy. This was supplemented in the current fiscal year by a transfer from the General Fund and Mr. Damele suggested another transfer is appropriate until more is decided on the political front in relation to the Yucca Mountain Project. The Board agreed to transfer \$50,000.00 from the General Fund for the upcoming fiscal year.

Landfill: The Landfill budget supports the waste collection franchise agreement. Monies must be budgeted as a volumetric study and solid waste management plan update may be required in the upcoming year. Monies were included in capital outlay for purchase of a new track loader for the Eureka Landfill.

Planning Commission: No increases were requested for the Planning Commission. This budget supports activity related to parcel maps, subdivisions, etc.

Town of Eureka: This budget supports Eureka Town Fire, Streets & Grounds, and Street Lighting. Although there were some adjustments to some of the line items, overall a flat budget was requested.

Town of Crescent Valley: Similarly, this budget supports the Fire Department, Street Maintenance, and Crescent Valley Town Park and only minimal increases were requested.

Cemeteries: A status quo budget was requested for the cemeteries. Mr. Damele explained that this budget supports the County Cemetery and Schwab Cemetery in Eureka. The other cemeteries are privately maintained by different organizations.

Airport: This budget supports contracts for the Fixed Base Operator and AWOS (automated weather observation system). Plans include an upgrade to the card reader for the fuel

system (cell-phone rather than internet based for increased reliability). The most notable increase in this budget is for capital outlay to support the large Road & Utility Improvement Project, which will span the next two fiscal years.

LEPC: The Local Emergency Planning Committee is funded by a grant from the State Emergency Response Commission and has allowed the County to purchase equipment for Search & Rescue and the Sheriff's Office. It also serves as an avenue for an ongoing relationship with the Division of Emergency Management in Carson City.

Capital Projects Fund: The County's Capital Projects Fund will support some important projects managed by Public Works. This includes radio repeater upgrades, continued development related to the Kobeh Valley Test Well, a new x-ray machine for the Eureka Clinic, partnering on an E-Rate project to provide fiber connectivity in Crescent Valley, Crescent Valley Town Park improvements, and a remodel project at the Sheriff's Office involving the dispatch console remodel and upgrades for jail/detentions. This fund will also support Sheriff's Office vehicles, and vehicle speed feedback signs and crosswalk signs (with possible offset from a POOL/PACT grant).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of February, 2020.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 4, 2020, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

I, Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Commissioner Clerk.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder