

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2016

STATE OF NEVADA            )  
                                      :ss  
COUNTY OF EUREKA        )

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 5, 2016. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (who was absent for a portion of the meeting to be present in District 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**

Some minor corrections were made to the agenda – Public Guardian/Administrator was added to the Clerk & Treasurer budget discussion and the Eureka and Beowawe Justice Court quarterly reports were combined to reflect the consolidated court. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Dean Day of Day Engineering introduced himself and informed the Board that he is now located in Eureka at 350 South Spring Street. Day Engineering has done work over the years for the County on several projects.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 20, 2016, & January 26, 2016: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016, Commission meeting and the January 26, 2016, budget meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by County Comptroller, Tina Hubbard. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$307,362.11 for accounts payable, \$385,025.80 for payroll, \$927,659.69 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$5,516.93 for a pass-through tax payment to the State of Nevada, \$331.50 for pass-through fees to Nevada Division of Minerals, and \$3,000.00 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,628,896.03. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Comptroller's Report: The current Fund Balances Report was presented for the Board's review.

Payroll Specialist Position: Ms. Hubbard notified the Board that she successfully filled the vacant Payroll Specialist position. Only one application was received during the advertised time period.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: All Commissioners attended the recent budget meetings on January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and attended the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Goicoechea attended the NACO Board of Directors meeting in Carson City on January 22<sup>nd</sup>; attended a pre-budget workshop with department heads on January 25<sup>th</sup>; and participated in a conference call on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with Commissioners from neighboring counties to discuss NACO's continuing work related to consolidation of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program & Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: The next meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council is February 12<sup>th</sup>. They continue working to implement projects to test the Conservation Credit System. Newmont Mining will attend the meeting to present their conservation plan.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Utah's Governor filed a complaint in US District Court in Utah against the federal agencies in relation to the Greater Sage-Grouse Management Plan for their state.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In January, Eureka served 755 meals and Crescent Valley served 514 meals. A total of \$9,057.25 was deposited for the month.

Grant Award: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the Notification of Grant Award from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Nutrition Grant #07-000-57-NX-16 in the amount of \$983.00, with no match required from Eureka County; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Report on Activities: Road Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department projects and activities. Both north and south end crews have spent the bulk of their time plowing snow. There have been multiple snow storms, followed by winds that are causing huge drifts. Crews are working to help citizens that have been snowed in due to the large drifts, and everyone should be out by the end of the day.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Winter Weather: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported that Public Works has been busy with snow removal. The Honor Camp Crew from Nevada Division of Forestry has returned to Eureka to assist with snow removal.

Repeater on Mary's Mountain: The Sheriff's Office repeater on Mary's Mountain was down the previous week. A temporary repair was made until the antenna can be replaced this upcoming spring.

Fair Board Senior Department Assistant: An internal job announcement was posted for the casual Fair Board Senior Department Assistant. One application was received from Crissy Hubbard. Ms. Hubbard is a member of the Fair Board, which works well for this position. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Crissy Hubbard to the casual position of Fair Board Senior Department Assistant; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Waiver of Policy: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve a waiver of County policy to allow the Fair Board Senior Department Assistant to exceed the 29-hour per week limit, during the months of July and August, to ensure adequate preparation time for the County Fair; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The policy to limit non-benefited employees to no more than 29 hours per week was put in place to meet requirements of the Affordable Care Act without adding an excessive tracking burden to County administration. The limits outlined in ACA will not be exceeded due to this waiver for Fair activities.

Supervisor for Senior Department Assistants: As a matter of housekeeping, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to formally designate the Public Works Director as supervisor for the Fair Board Senior Department Assistant and the Television District Senior Department Assistant and to direct contract Human Resources to create updated job descriptions for these positions; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for the District Attorney to attend the Computer Forensics for Prosecutors course at the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) in Hoover, Alabama, on March 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. The cost of travel, per diem, and the course will be paid by NCFI, so there are no costs to the County.

### **EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF**

Grant Application: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize the Sheriff to make application for a grant through Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, in the amount of \$29,572.67 for purchase of body cameras and related equipment and, contingent upon grant confirmation, authorized the capital outlay expenditure to be later reimbursed by the grant. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Keith Logan explained that recent legislation (Assembly Bill 162 and Senate Bill 111) have attempted to require law enforcement to wear body cameras and it's just a matter of time before legislation is successful. This is an opportunity for Eureka County to outfit the Deputies with a net cost to Eureka County of \$8.91.

### **NORTH AMERICAN EAGLE LAND SPEED PROGRAM**

Letter of Support: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve sending a letter of support to North American Eagle related to their plans to attempt a new world speed record in Diamond Valley; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Ed Shadle, owner and driver, has appeared before the Commissioners in past years to provide information on his company's experience and history in land speed trials. He is currently working with the BLM to meet the requirements to conduct a land speed trial on the dry lake bed in Diamond Valley. This letter will proclaim the County's support of these efforts.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Meetings & Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, gave a brief update on recent events. Mr. Tibbitts participated in the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council meeting via telephone on January 29<sup>th</sup> as they continue dealing with legislative issues related to historical road rights-of-way. Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, attended the Boulder Valley and Maggie Creek Monitoring Plan meeting in Carson City on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Tibbitts was in Reno the first week of February for the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting with 600+ attendees from throughout the United States. As part of the conference, he hosted the Nevada Rangeland Tour, which had 108 participants. The tour included input from a variety of experts on current issues being faced in the west. It was a good opportunity to highlight these issues since most of the attendees were not from the west.

Upcoming Meetings: A legislative subcommittee was named to study Nevada's water laws. State Senator, Pete Goicoechea, serves as Chairman of the committee and their first meeting is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. Other upcoming meetings include the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, and the Legislative Committee on Public Lands meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas.

Letter to Board of Wildlife Commissioners: Mr. Tibbitts shared a letter that he sent to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners containing comments regarding their Draft 1 Fiscal Year 2017 Predator Management Plan.

Oil & Gas Leasing: The Battle Mountain District BLM recently issued an Environmental Assessment to analyze parcels to be offered for oil and gas leasing. Multiple parcels were nominated in Eureka County, but didn't move forward in the analysis for various reasons, one of them being sage grouse. It just shows that this issue is beginning to affect industry in Eureka County.

Sage Grouse Issues: Mr. Tibbitts continues monitoring sage grouse issues and the affects the Land Use Plan Amendments will have on grazing, mining, etc. The BLM is proposing to withdraw lands in Sagebrush Focal Areas. This would prohibit location and entry of new mining claims in the designated areas. This primarily affects Elko, Washoe, and Humboldt Counties in Nevada, but could set precedence for Eureka County as well.

Mr. Tibbitts commented that the sage grouse suit filed by Utah officials (referenced earlier in the meeting by Chairman Goicoechea) is very well written and, although it is lengthy, is worthwhile reading for anyone interested in understanding the background of this issue.

MOU with BLM for Gold Bar Mine Project EIS: Despite continued promises from the BLM, there is still no movement on the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Battle Mountain District BLM to establish Eureka County as a Cooperating Agency for the McEwen Mining Gold Bar Project EIS.

Grazing Decisions: As approved during the last meeting, a letter was sent from the Commission to the BLM Tuscarora Field Office in response to fire related grazing closures in Squaw Valley, Dixie Valley, and Boulder Valley. The letter commented on the unreasonable objectives imposed in these fire closures. Tuscarora Field Manager, Rich Adams, responded by email that he wants to visit with Eureka County regarding the concerns.

Mr. Tibbitts also sent a letter to the Battle Mountain District outlining concerns on the grazing closure related to the Diamond Fire. No response has yet been received.

## **UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Presentation on Biochar Field Trial & Demonstration Project: Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Assistant Research Professor with the University Center for Economic Development, College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, was in attendance to give a detailed presentation on results of the Biochar Field Trial & Demonstration Project conducted over the past couple years in Eureka County. The biochar utilized in the study was created from pinyon-juniper harvested in Eureka County and processed by Amaron Energy. The project was done in cooperation with Desert Research Institute and was co-funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant along with cash reserve/rollover funds from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

The study included trials on pivots in Diamond Valley for agricultural purposes, trials in large planters/pots at Barrick Ruby Hill Mine for reclamation purposes, and trials in large planters/pots at Desert Research Institute's eco-cell facility. The project included two tasks: Task 1 consisted of an engineering assessment of the pyrolysis process and productions; and Task 2 consisted of the effect of different biochar amounts on plant biomass production, plant tissue nutrient content, and water holding capacity.

Task 1: Task 1 included an examination of biochar, bio-oil, and bio-gas that are produced in the pyrolysis process utilizing the chipped pinyon-juniper. It was determined that the biochar produced in Eureka County meets the standards and specifications for worldwide biochar. Unfortunately, the process was problematic and until some of the production challenges are addressed, it is not yet economical to produce biochar in Eureka County for sale or exportation, although it may be feasible at some point. Unlike biochar, the oil and gas produced were not of

sufficient quality to be marketed. To a certain degree, the gas recaptured in the pyrolysis process is necessary to fire the pyrolysis reactor in order to economically produce the biochar. If the technical problems with the oil and gas are resolved, it could be economical to move forward with biochar production in Diamond Valley.

Recommendations related to the technical processes were provided to Amaron Energy for incorporation into their next generation of pyrolysis reactors.

Task 2: A main objective of Task 2 was the study of biochar in agricultural production. Task 2 included four objectives: (1) determine if biochar will enhance biomass production – increase agricultural production, enhance soil reclamation, prevent erosion, and prevent invasive species; (2) determine if biochar will increase plant tissue nutrient; (3) determine if biochar will increase soil water holding capacity when used as a soil amendment; and (4) determine whether biochar will increase water use efficiency.

Findings showed that in terms of plant biomass, the use of biochar had no significant effect on biomass production for alfalfa or seed mix grown on pivot corners, but there was evidence of significant increase in plant biomass production from reclamation seed mix plants. In terms of water holding capacity, there was a slight, but statistically significant, increase. So there is potential value to both mining reclamation and agricultural applications.

Requirements of Study: Presentation of these technical reports completes one of the requirements of the study. Two field days are also required. The first was held at the Desert Research Institute campus on May 12, 2015. The second is planned in Diamond Valley in March of this year. Both Task 1 and Task 2 identified further objectives that will be pursued.

## **RUBY HILL MINING COMPANY**

Introduction & Update: Randy Hassen, General Manager, and Matt Zietlow, Director US Environmental Affairs, were in attendance to introduce themselves and provide a brief update on Ruby Hill Mining Company following the recent acquisition by Waterton Global Resource Management. Both gentlemen serve in a regional capacity, so they work out of Elko and travel to the various mine sites. Mr. Hassen also serves as General Manager for Waterton's Borealis Mine near Hawthorne.

No immediate changes are planned at Ruby Hill Mine. Several people were hired to fill the vacancies left by employees who declined the offer of employment from Waterton. A small amount of gold is still being produced from the heap leaching process. The only change in production is that carbon will be shipped to the Borealis Mine for processing. Due to financial reasons, most studies and permitting had stopped while Barrick Gold held ownership of Ruby Hill. In the short term, Waterton has no plans to reinstate these efforts, but will continue taking stock of where the property is at and will continue monitoring gold prices.

## **CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Update on Christmas Activities: CVTAB Chair, Dawn Gann, reported on the success of the Christmas activities held in Crescent Valley on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The activities and prizes were paid for through donations and with funds from the Crescent Valley Activities Program. Activities included the Parade of Lights, a holiday dinner, a bonfire, and a house decorating contest.

Citizens Institute Workshop: The Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Plan Working Committee is working with Dr. Frederick Steinmann of the University of Nevada Center For Economic Development to host a Citizens Institute class in March. This is part of the Nevada Leadership Program and is a two-day workshop scheduled on March 18<sup>th</sup> in Crescent Valley and March 25<sup>th</sup> in Eureka. Ms. Gann requested authorization to distribute flyers with information on the workshop.

Commissioner Sharkozy authorized a minimum of 100 flyers to be copied and distributed, paid from the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board budget, to advertise the upcoming Citizens Institute Workshop; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Easter Egg Hunt: Ms. Gann explained that the CVTAB plans on hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on March 26<sup>th</sup> and requested Activities Program funds. She believed the previous year's costs were around \$1,500.00. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board to utilize Crescent Valley Activities Program monies, not to exceed \$1,500.00, to sponsor the 2016 Easter Egg Hunt; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea encouraged the CVTAB to keep costs as reasonable as possible.

Flyer for CVTAB Vacancies Denied: Ms. Gann requested authorization to mail a flyer to Precinct 4 voters notifying them that the three CVTAB seats are up for election during the 2016 election cycle. The Board discussed that the County Clerk is required to publish notification of all offices up for election and the first publication took place in November. Additionally, the information is posted on the County's website. The Commissioners were hesitant to begin singling out specific races for extra advertisement, as this sets a precedent and is an added expense. After a brief discussion, the Board declined this request.

## **COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Resignation from ECEDP: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to accept the resignation of Earl Overholser from the Economic Development Program Board; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Resignation from Health Insurance Committee: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the resignation of Cindy Garcia from the Health Insurance Committee; 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 received from Chief Dan Brown. There were three emergency responses for the quarter (October, November, December) including a vehicle fire, a controlled burn, and a false alarm. Training consisted of pre-planning, fire department connections, utility shut-offs, and use of self-contained breathing apparatus.

Crescent Valley Fire Department: A written report for the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department was received from former Chief Rick Harding. There are currently 15 active members. Crescent Valley responded to four calls during the quarter consisting of two small structure fires, one ambulance assist, and one motor vehicle accident. After action reviews were conducted following each emergency call. Training for the quarter consisted of pre-planning fire suppression and engine operation.

## **IT / NETWORK QUARTERLY REPORT**

Surplus Property: IT/Network Supervisor, Michael Mears, reported that eight computer towers were recycled after pulling and disabling the hard drives. Due to a poor response in attempting to sell surplus equipment online, the County will instead focus on responsible recycling of these materials.

## **JUSTICE COURT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka County Justice Court: Eureka County Justice Court provided a written report that \$165.50 in court fees and \$136.75 in facility fees were collected for the quarter. These figures represent combined totals from both locations - Eureka and Beowawe/Crescent Valley.

## **CLERK QUARTERLY REPORT**

Clerk Quarterly Report: Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, provided a quarterly report showing that a total of \$3,775.72 in court and Clerk fees were collected for October, November, and December.

## **TELEVISION DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT**

TV District Quarterly Report: A written report was submitted by Dave Pastorino, President of the Television District, and Senior Department Assistant, Annie Kniefel. The vacancy on their board was filled by Eldon Brown who was appointed on December 4<sup>th</sup>. A 40 feet extension was purchased for the tower on Prospect Peak and will be installed in the next budget year. The Television District is working on an agreement with the City of Carlin for continued use of the tower on Mary's Mountain.

## **MEDICAL PROVIDER QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Nevada Health Centers, Inc.: Nevada Health Centers submitted a quarterly report for the Eureka and Crescent Valley Medical Clinics. The report detailed the following statistics for the quarter: in Eureka 713 patients were seen by a provider (physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant) and 234 patients were seen by Medical Assistants; in Crescent Valley 208 patients were seen by a provider and 89 patients were seen by a Medical Assistant.

Rehab Services of Nevada: A written report was received from Dr. Greg Barker, Physical Therapist, and Director of Rehab Services of Nevada. There were 20 clinic days and 135 patient visits in Eureka during the quarter. Total subsidy paid for this period was \$10,953.82.

Eureka Dental Care: Daniel Norris, DDS, submitted the following statistics for Eureka Dental Care: there were 35 clinic days and 245 patient visits during the quarter. Office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. 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: Earl Overholser; Cindy Garcia; Sheriff Keith Logan (2); Assessor, Michael Mears; Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley (2); Comptroller, Tina Hubbard; Public Works Director, Ron Damele; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts (2); EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan; Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman; IT/Network Analyst, Misty Rowley; Economic Development Program (2); Planning Commission (2); Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Eureka County Fair Board; Television District; Eureka Owl Club (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System; White Pine County (3); University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; University of Nevada, Center for Economic Development; University of Nevada, College of Business; Desert Research Institute; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division; Nevada Dept. of Agriculture; Nevada Attorney General; Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Nevada Dept. of Motor Vehicles; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada Div. of Minerals (2); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry; Nevada Deferred Compensation; Nevada Connections newsletter; Consumer Direct Nevada News; Las Vegas Urban League; BLM Nevada News (4); and US Senator Dean Heller.

## **RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The Board recessed for lunch from 11:30 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET PREPARATIONS**

### **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEWS**

Clerk & Treasurer: Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, addressed the Board to discuss services provided by the dual constitutional office of Clerk & Treasurer. This encompasses Clerk, Treasurer, District Court, and Elections, as well as assignment of Public Guardian/Administrator duties. Ms. Conley outlined the multiple duties in the report provided to the Board in October (outlining essential services and minimum staffing). Her office is currently staffed with three FTEs (full-time equivalents), one part-time position, and the acting Public Guardian/Administrator who also provides some assistance in financial reporting.

Ms. Conley provided a brief review of the budgets under her purview. She highlighted areas that can be reduced, but noted some line items must be increased. The Public Defender fees in the District Court budget currently reflect a flat-fee contract, but should consider the possibility of additional services or fees. There is a potential capital outlay of ~\$20,000.00 to replace the Jefferson Audio Video System (JAVS) used by the court, as maintenance of the system is no longer supported and it will have to be replaced if it fails. The Board agreed to include this amount in the Contingency Fund rather than adding capital outlay to this budget.

The Elections budget is fairly standard because it is based upon the multiple requirements associated with elections. The current election equipment will be used through the 2016 election, but beginning in 2018 it will no longer be supported or certified by the Nevada Secretary of State. Ms. Conley proposed splitting replacement costs over two budget years and is still working on obtaining accurate quotes. Based on preliminary estimates, \$26,000.00 will be needed for the first year. The Board agreed to include this in the Contingency Fund as well.

District Attorney: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, discussed essential services provided by his department as detailed in the report submitted to the Board in October. The main duties of his office are to prosecute criminal cases and to advise local government on the rules of law and practice.

The Deputy DA position is vacant and Mr. Beutel has no anticipation of filling it in the current economic climate. His office is currently staffed with three full-time positions, including the elected position of District Attorney. Mr. Beutel restated what his report indicated, that the duties of the office can be accomplished with two FTEs, although this would be challenging. The caveat is that only truly essential duties could be accomplished at this lower staffing level, meaning certain duties would have to go away. This would include updating and publishing the County Code book and the Personnel Policy manual, and the assistance provided on Human Resources issues.

Mr. Beutel provided a cursory review of his budget. He identified savings in the current budget year that can, consequently, be reflected in the next budget. With the vacant Deputy DA position, there are unused funds of nearly \$100,000.00 in salaries, wages, and benefits. As offered at the February 1<sup>st</sup> budget meeting, these monies can be transferred to cover outside litigation costs incurred by the County.

Mr. Beutel concluded by asking the Board to consider people's need to plan for their future and, therefore, to provide as much advance notice as possible to any employees whose positions may be subject to reduction.

Senior Centers: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, provided the Board with an updated report outlining duties and minimum staffing. The report noted that many of the functions must be maintained at a certain level to qualify for the generous grants received through Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division. Current staffing is as follows: in Eureka there are two full-time employees (including the Director), two 3/4-time benefited employees, and two casual employees; in Crescent Valley there is one full-time employee, one 3/4-time benefited employee, and four casual employees.

Ms. Oram indicated that one 3/4-time employee in Eureka plans to retire in June and this position will not be filled. In regards to the upcoming budget year, Ms. Oram doesn't anticipate any capital outlay needs.

Justice Court: Justice of the Peace, John Schweble, provided documentation and reviewed Justice Court duties, stating that almost all of the functions are set by statute or court rule. Consolidation of the two Justice Courts (Beowawe and Eureka) made it a challenging year for staff to complete all requirements and maintain compliance, but priorities have been set accordingly.

Current staffing level for Justice Court is three FTEs, including the Justice of the Peace, and one casual employee. In addition, an employee from the casual pool is being used to work on some special projects that resulted from the court merger.

Judge Schweble doesn't foresee any major budgetary needs for the upcoming fiscal year; although similar to District Court, there may be a need to replace the outdated JAVS (Jefferson Audio Video System). There will be some reduction in services and supplies, since duplicated items will no longer be needed due to the court consolidation.

County Facilities & Economic Development: Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, provided an updated report outlining services provided by her department. Museum Director, Ree Taylor, joined the conversation. Although functions of the Opera House, Sentinel Museum, and Economic Development Program are not mandated by law, Ms. Rossman feels they add substantial benefit to the community due to the services the facilities offer and the importance of Economic Development whether a region is struggling or thriving. Her written report included alternative scenarios depicting how the facilities could function with reduced staff. There was discussion on how operation of the facilities could be coordinated if staff and/or hours of operation were reduced.

Current staffing levels are three FTEs, including the Director, and one casual employee. Ms. Rossman indicated that one full-time person is planning on leaving by the next fiscal year.

The Board asked about the \$15,000.00 annual grant received from the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Installments are received quarterly as part of the Great Basin Regional Development Authority Interlocal Agreement for Economic Development Activities. In addition to this grant, Ms. Rossman noted that marketing grants pay for promotional expenses. She agreed that additional grants might be available for cultural activities.

Shared Employees: Throughout the day, the Board discussed the option of utilizing employees between departments to share workloads as the workforce is reduced. This is already occurring in some instances and helps the County adhere to the attrition policy and ultimately save employment costs.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Michael Mears announced that Attorney General, Adam Laxalt, will be in Eureka at the Owl Club at noon on February 6<sup>th</sup> for an informal Meet 'n' Greet as he travels throughout the State.

Commissioner Sharkozy asked about the upcoming Presidential Caucus. Mr. Mears, who serves as Chairman for the Republican Party in Eureka County, responded that the Statewide Republican Caucus is on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; participants in Eureka will gather at the Opera House and participants in Crescent Valley will gather at the Town Center. The Democratic Caucus is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With a motion by Commissioner Etchegaray and a second by Commissioner Sharkozy, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

*I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 5, 2016, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

*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 Commissioner Clerk.*

/s/ Beverly Conley

Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer