

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2018

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 20, 2018. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; and Deputy Clerk, Amanda Pearce. 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 Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 6, 2017: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the February 6, 2017, Commission minutes; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Maureen Garner. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$203,470.56 for accounts payable, \$250,249.05 for payroll and \$6,625.14 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$460,344.75. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balances Report: The Board reviewed a printout of current fund balances.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: No updates from the Commissioners.

March 20th Scheduling Conflict: Due to a scheduling conflict on March 20th, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to cancel the meeting and schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Sheriff Logan indicated that there would be a Liquor Board meeting on that day as well. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Nevada State Museum: The Board requested Mr. Damele enlist Ree Taylor to contact the Nevada State Museum and identify subjects representative of Eureka County to be featured in the redesigned Battle Born Exhibit to be displayed at the Nevada State Capitol.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: Chairman Goicoechea indicated that the subject would be addressed by Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts.

Plain Talk: Nuclear Waste Advisor, Abigail Johnson requested topics for inclusion in the April Plain Talk newsletter. Topics included: updates from the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Eureka and Crescent Valley Health Fairs; air ambulance information; information about the upcoming elections including a list of candidates in the primary election, election security and an overview of the new voting machines; summer events including a car show, a car race, a demolition derby and the Eureka County Fair.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Yucca Mountain Project: Miss Johnson reported that although the current Administration's budget includes funds for restarting the licensing project, conventional wisdom holds that nothing will happen in 2018 as it is an election year and politicians are not wont to broach controversial issues. She indicated that she will (virtually) attend an upcoming meeting where the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will present options regarding the electronic discovery system.

Navis Strategic Services: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Abigail Johnson's request for a sub-contract with Irene Navis of Navis Strategic Services, LLC, to provide Yucca Mountain related services in 2018, for time and materials not to exceed \$10,000.00 utilizing Yucca Mountain funding. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Richard Moore, PE: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve Abigail Johnson's request for a sub-contract with Richard Moore, PE, to provide Yucca Mountain related transportation advisor services in 2018, for time and materials not to exceed \$10,000.00 utilizing Yucca Mountain funding. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: Interim Ambulance Coordinator, Ken Sanders reported that there were 20 runs since the last report on February 6, 2018.

Out-of-State Travel: A request by Briana Brown, EMT, to attend Management of Emergency Medical Services training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland was tabled by the Board until the March 6, 2018 Commissioner meeting pending review of paperwork and further details. A discussion ensued with Cathy Wolf reporting that training was not offered to Advanced EMTs. Shealene French concurred.

Computer: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve purchasing a replacement computer for the EMS office, not to exceed \$1,500.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Training: Mr. Sanders reported that an EMT training program needs to be procured, as the program former EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan had is no longer available. The matter will be addressed at the March 6, 2018 Commissioner meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Projects & Activities: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities. Utility systems are all in good working order with the exception of the well on Frontier Street that is undergoing an upgrade after a pump and motor failed. Mr. Damele reported that L.N. Curtis completed all the annual SCBA and compressor certifications and will return to hydro test and rebuild all tanks and valves. He also reported that annual Incident Qualification "Red Card" recertification classes will be held on February 20th at the Eureka firehouse, February 21st at the Opera House and March 13th at the fire station in Crescent Valley.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel, including waiver of per diem limits, to Washington, D.C., scheduled for March 18-March 23, 2018, for Chairman Goicoechea, Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts, and Public Works Director Ron Damele to meet with Congressional Delegation and staff, Yucca Mountain representatives, Department of the Interior staff, and others relating to Eureka County issues and concerns, including but not limited to recent Yucca Mountain Repository developments, renewable energy, RS2477 rights-of-way, and wild horse and grazing issues. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Printer & Scanner Purchase: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchasing a new printer and scanner for the Tyler (Incode) software conversion, out of the Capital Projects

Fund account, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Water Bills Purchase: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve purchasing water bills for the Tyler (Incode) software conversion, out of the Capital Projects Fund account, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 plus shipping. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for January was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$21,299,272.86.

RECORDER

Casual Employee: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve authorizing the Recorder's office to utilize a recently hired casual worker as needed through June 30, 2018. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

IT/NETWORK

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel March 19, 2018 through March 23, 2018 for IT Manager, Misty Rowley, to attend the CompTIA AMM Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

SERC FY19 Grant Application: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve signing the Fiscal Year 2019 State Emergency Response Commission grant application. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Meetings included the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council in Las Vegas on February 9th, a Rodent District Board meeting on February 12th, A Firewise meeting on February 13th, a Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on February 13th, a grazing management tour with the Bureau of Land Management and Jim and Bill Baumann on February 14th, and a Cooperative Extension Advisory Council meeting February 15th and 16th.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include a trip to Battle Mountain to attend the Legislative Committee on Public Lands on March 2, 2018 and a Council on Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching in Washington D.C., March 5, 2018 through March 8, 2018.

Haliburton Grinding Facility: Mr. Tibbitts reported that materials provided by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection assuaged any concerns that he and Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig had on behalf of Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea suggested Mr. Tibbitts write a letter to NDEP expressing gratitude for providing the information.

Triple B Complex Horse Gather: Mr. Tibbitts indicated that the BLM reported on the poor condition of the horses gathered. They also reported that the BLM will gather and remove more horses than anticipated. Mr. Tibbitts remarked that this was a developing issue and that he would bring the matter forward on a future agenda.

Sage Grouse Issues: Mr. Tibbitts reported that at a recent NRAC meeting, members recommended delaying a formal response on recent Instructional Memoranda until after an upcoming federal Land Use Plan Amendments legislation meeting on February 26, 2018.

BLM Programmatic EIS (2): Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve scoping comments for the two BLM programmatic EISs, one for Fuel Breaks across the Great Basin Region and the other for Fuel Treatments and Habitat Restoration. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Tonkin Springs Project: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve sending comment to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit for the Tonkin Springs Project. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET – DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Television District Tentative Budget: Dale Lotspiech of Eagle Communications and TV District President, Bill Leppala, presented the Eureka Television District's tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for \$411,600.00. The Commissioners requested the TV Board research some cost saving options and decrease the budget.

Sheriff Tentative Budget: Sheriff, Keith Logan, requested a tentative budget of \$360,600.00, a slight increase over the previous year.

Jail Tentative Budget: Sheriff Logan proposed a budget of \$43,500.00 for Fiscal Year 19, no change from Fiscal Year 18.

Natural Resources Tentative Budget: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts presented a proposed budget of \$81,100.00, a slight increase over the previous year because of the possibility of a need to hire a casual employee to train in the event that his assistant moves from Eureka. Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, stated that he is requesting flat budgets for his department and the groups under Natural Resources. This includes the Natural Resources Advisory Commission and the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (which is State-funded), Diamond Valley Weed Control District, and Diamond Valley Rodent Control District. Additionally, the Commissioners pledged a \$25,000.00 grant to the Conservation District for Fiscal Year 19.

Public Works Tentative Budget: Public Works Director, Ron Damele presented department budgets. An additional \$200,000.00 was budgeted in Public Works because of a proposed partnership with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to fence the county slag dump. The project is contingent on cooperation from the Environmental Protection Agency. If the project moves forward, it will be paid for by NDEP.

The Building and Grounds budget remained the same as the previous year. Mr. Damele reported that he does not anticipate using any of the \$350,000.00 in the Regional Transportation Commission budget.

Mr. Damele reported a \$210,000.00 increase in the proposed Road Department budget in anticipation of a bad fire season and less than robust support from Nevada Division of Forestry. He also reported an increase in Fire Budgets in Eureka and Crescent Valley for the same reason. Other factors are the need for a full time blade man to work on the road near the man-camp at JD Ranch, from SR278 to Horse Canyon, as well as increased maintenance and an anticipated upsurge in fuel costs. Mr. Damele also added 140 hours for two casual positions for road maintenance.

Mr. Damele reported a \$1,000.00 increase to the tentative Pool budget, because of a concerted effort to provide employees with training that meets Red Cross guidelines. There is also discussion of opening the pool six days a week from June through August.

Mr. Damele presented the Parks tentative budget, with an increase of \$4,000.00 from last year for work at the fairgrounds including a permanent chute installation, arena improvements and a concession stand remodel.

The Emergency Management Fire proposed budget also increased by \$200,000.00 from last year in anticipation of a bad fire year and decreased resources from NDF.

The Opera House budget increased by \$3,000.00 from last year. Mr. Damele reported that his department would be trying different marketing techniques in the coming year. The budget for the Museum also increased by approximately \$9,000.00, in order to enhance exhibits and work towards getting inventory online.

Mr. Damele indicated that in Fiscal Year 18, the Board granted \$50,000.00 to Eureka Activities and only spent \$1,200.00. He recommended the Board decrease the budget to \$25,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

For Devil's Gate Water Department, Mr. Damele explained to the Board the need for \$100,000.00 in each respective water budget to plan for catastrophic failures. To this end, the tentative budget increased by \$33,500.00. Similarly, the Eureka Water Department tentative budget increased by \$29,900.00 to ensure the \$100,000.00 in the event of a catastrophic well failure. Mr. Damele indicated the Eureka Sewer Department tentative budget increased by \$1,500.00, in the event of a need to camera and jet sewer lines in portions of town. The Crescent Valley Water Department budget remained the same, as did the Crescent Valley Fire Department, Crescent Valley Public Parks, Crescent Valley Street Maintenance, Planning Commission and Eureka Townhomes budgets.

Mr. Damele increased the Landfill budget by \$24,000.00 for equipment maintenance and garbage collection, although he is expecting to garner a less expensive contract for garbage collection.

The tentative Airport budget remained the same as last year, except for a \$300,000.00 Federal Aviation Administration grant for a snowplow.

For Yucca Mountain, Mr. Damele would like to budget the entire fund balance in order to encumber the full amount.

Mr. Damele reported an increase to the tentative Streets and Grounds budget, which includes purchasing sterilant for the cemeteries and allocates \$11,700.00 in anticipation of a bad fire season.

Mr. Damele reported that he is not requesting any full time employees, although he did request the Comptroller provide hours for the Museum and Opera House in the event an employee retires.

Review of Budgets: Kim Todd reported that the Comptroller's office received a revised budget proposal from the IT Network Department that was less than the prior budget proposal. She indicated that tax allocation and personnel discussions should be addressed at the next board meeting.

Revenue Report: Ms. Todd reported on projected assessed value and net proceeds which should bring in upwards of \$1,600,000.00, Motor Fuel Tax rates are up and Consolidated Tax Distribution (CTX) is up \$1,200,000.00.

Assessor Budget: Assessor, Michael Mears, asked for clarification on the Appraiser I position that was requested in his tentative budget. He referenced the budget letter and his previous testimony supporting the reasons for needing this position. With a key employee planning her retirement, this position will allow time for a replacement employee to train and work towards obtaining necessary certification. Mr. Mears reminded the Board that this was a budgeted position in his office three years earlier.

Mr. Mears reiterated that in addition to regular duties, he has taken on the role of I/T Supervisor, his office performs DMV duties and the office is facing migration to the new Devnet CAMA system.

At the last meeting, the Board requested a letter with a retirement date. Commissioner Etchegaray felt this should be a requirement from any department asking for a replacement employee. Mr. Mears explained that the employee was uncomfortable naming a specific date that was nearly two years in the future. He asked if the Board intended to deny the budget request if a letter was not forthcoming at this time.

Chariman Goicoechea stated the Board's hesitancy in approving a position without a known retirement date. He referenced that the Board had worked diligently on attrition over the last several years and is not willing to regress now. He noted that if Mr. Mears felt an additional employee was necessary, he should present justification for such.

Mr. Mears responded that he is seeking overlap for the necessary training that must occur over the next couple of years before retirement of the Appraisal Supervisor, and the intent is to return to a three-person office. If it becomes apparent that the office needs an additional employee at that point, Mr. Mears would then return to the Board with justification.

Commissioner Etchegaray offered that the Board would be comfortable if they received a letter stating a date range for retirement and he felt a few months would be reasonable. Chairman Goicoechea agreed, noting that the Board understands that circumstances in people's lives can change. The final direction to Mr. Mears was to see if this type of letter could be procured.

County Salaries: Chairman Goicoechea asked Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd for direction with personnel salaries. The two agreed to look at flat salaries, Cost-of-Living Adjustments and merit increases at the meeting on March 6, 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel (2); Sheriff, Keith Logan; Recorder, Lisa Hoehne; Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts (2); Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig; NRAC; DV Rodent Control District Board; TV District; Rich McKay and Jerry Millett; Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System; Humboldt Wildlife LLC (2); NDOT; NDEP (2); Nevada State Museum; Abigail Johnson (2); Navis Strategic Services, LLC; Richard C. Moore, PE; Rich and Hazel Hettrich; US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m.; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of March, 2017.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Amanda Pearce, Deputy Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 21, 2017, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Amanda Pearce
Amanda Pearce, Deputy 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