

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 22, 2016

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 22, 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 1, 2016, & February 5, 2016: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve minutes of the February 1, 2016, budget meeting and the February 5, 2016, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by County Comptroller, Tina Hubbard. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$143,103.86 for accounts payable, \$262,729.90 for payroll, \$658,121.33 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, and \$1,796.95 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,065,752.04. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Comptroller's Report: The Board reviewed the current Fund Balances Report.

Direction on Personnel Budget Items: Ms. Hubbard and Payroll Specialist, Kim Todd, will prepare information on anticipated personnel costs for the next fiscal year. The Board provided direction on what information they would like to see in relation to wages, salaries, and benefits. These estimates will be presented at the next budget meeting, scheduled for the afternoon of March 7th.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Commissioner Etchegaray attended the budget meeting on February 11th, and attended the Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting on February 16th.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Crescent Valley Search & Rescue meeting on February 8th; attended the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on February 9th; attended Community Development Block Grant training in Carson City on February 11th; and attended a Nevadaworks meeting in Reno on February 12th.

Chairman Goicoechea attended the budget meeting on February 11th; chaired the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting in Carson City on February 12th; met with

representatives of Barrick Gold on February 16th; and attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Association meeting in Fallon on February 19th.

Set Budget Meeting: The Board agreed to hold a budget workshop the afternoon of the next regular meeting scheduled for March 7th. Topics of discussion will include revenues, tax rates, and personnel costs.

Review of Contracts: The Board reviewed a comprehensive list of current contracts and agreements. The primary purpose was to identify contracts including mileage reimbursement so the contractors can be notified of the County's recently adjusted rate. This overview provided an opportunity to contemplate the status of all contracts and agreements. Department heads were reminded to be cognizant of efforts to eliminate or reduce services wherever possible as agreements involving their departments come up for renewal.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program & Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: The last meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council was held in Carson City on February 12th. Chairman Goicoehcea reported there was a good response to the call for projects to test the Conservation Credit System. Numerous projects were proposed from Eureka County through the Eureka Conservation District. \$1 million in funding is available this first year. Projects will be reviewed by the Council in early April in order to make funding recommendations.

The Council meeting included a discussion with the BLM on how they plan to implement the Land Use Plan Amendments (for the Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan). There is still a lot of confusion and uncertainty (among the federal agencies, as well as the stakeholders) on how the plan will work and how it will coordinate with the State Plan.

Program Manager, Kacey KC, is leaving the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, so there are efforts to fill that vacancy. The next meeting of the Council is April 7th.

Plain Talk Newsletter: Abby Johnson, *Plain Talk* Editor, joined the meeting by telephone to discuss the spring issue of the newsletter, with a tentative distribution date of April. The following potential topics were discussed: ongoing budget planning; pertinent election dates; the fuel tax ballot question; direction of local Cooperative Extension, including the potential consolidation of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources; water conservation encouragement (as a follow-up to last issue's coverage of the Draft Water Resources Master Plan); and a brief update on the US Environmental Protection Agency's continued activity in Eureka, including completion of the EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis) for the Townsite of Eureka.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Update on Yucca Mountain Project: Nuclear Waste Advisor, Abby Johnson, reported that things are fairly quiet in relation to Yucca Mountain due to the impending presidential election.

The US Department of Energy began an initiative to determine what qualifies as 'consent-based siting' for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. A consent-based approach was recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, but they failed to define what this entailed. Meetings on the consent-based initiative will be held this spring and summer, with a comment deadline of June 2016. The DOE's final report is expected by December.

The DOE is also investigating deep borehole disposal and selected a demonstration site in North Dakota, but have run into several problems in carrying out the contract.

After the Nuclear Regulatory Commission felt the DOE's Environmental Impact Statement on the Yucca Mountain Repository did not adequately address impacts to groundwater, the NRC completed a secondary Draft Supplemental EIS. The comment period on the Final Supplemental EIS has ended and approval is pending.

PUBLIC WORKS

State Route 306: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, gave an update on recent activities. He reported that Nevada Department of Transportation is completing shoulder work on State Route 306 in northern Eureka County. A member of the public recently raised a concern over the lack of shoulders on areas of SR 306, so Mr. Damele has been following progress of this work.

US Environmental Protection Agency: The EPA will return to Eureka in March to conduct geotechnical analysis on the parcel being considered for the long-term repository site. The parcel is located along the south side of Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka. This site will be used for storage of soils contaminated with lead and arsenic that have been excavated, primarily from privately owned properties, within the Town of Eureka.

Fire Departments, Equipment, Training: L.N. Curtis & Sons visited the previous week to conduct annual certifications on all SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) for the Volunteer Fire Departments in Eureka, Diamond Valley, and Crescent Valley.

All Road Department and Public Works staff participated in the Annual Red Card Wildland Fire Refresher training the previous week. A few volunteer firefighters attended as well.

Dan Gralien has served as Chief of the Dunphy VFD for many years, but is now retiring. Dallas Kelly will advance to Chief and George Huntington will become the Assistant Chief.

AWOS: There were some issues with the AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) at the Eureka Airport. New parts were ordered and all repairs have been made.

Janitorial Contract Bids: Bids were received for the three janitorial contracts (Courthouse, Annex/Administration Facility, and Justice Facility/Eureka Library) and will be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Activity Report: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on activities since his last report on January 20th. Eureka had 17 calls for service (21 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had 12 calls for service (14 year-to-date). The high volume of calls was due to inclement weather.

Continuing education training is scheduled in Crescent Valley on February 26th and in Eureka on February 29th. Training was conducted on the HILTs (human injury limiting tools) which were donated by Nevada POOL/PACT, and the tools have been placed in the ambulances. EMT II, Shaelene French, completed the EMT Instructor class and is currently doing field training.

On January 28th, Mr. Sullivan met with representatives of Reach Air Medical Services (the company that bought Summit Air Ambulance). Reach will honor the Summit memberships and subscribers should watch for updates by mail.

On January 29th, Mr. Sullivan was tasked by the Newmont HazMat Team to serve as Medical Section Chief on the hazardous materials incident on Interstate 80. The accident closed the freeway for several hours. Mr. Sullivan was very impressed with the professionals who responded to the incident.

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for January was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Ending General Fund balance was \$13,565,381.38. Overall ending balance, including encumbered funds, was \$59,198,756.60.

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Budget Augmentation Resolution: Budget Director, Michael Mears, was not available for the meeting, but provided background information to the Chairman. His request was to carry

forward unexpended funds from the Assessor's Technology Fund from the previous fiscal year. This will cover items that are being paid from the Tech Fund that weren't budgeted in the current fiscal year (specifically unanticipated technology and network expenses).

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt the Budget Augmentation Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 augmentation of the Assessor's Technology Fund in the amount of \$148,208.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

BUDGET AUGMENTATION RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION FOR AUGMENTATION OF THE 2015-2016 BUDGET OF EUREKA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the revenues of the ASSESSOR'S TECHNOLOGY FUND were budgeted to be \$864,612; and

WHEREAS, said ASSESSOR'S TECHNOLOGY FUND sources are as follows:

<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Available YTD</u>	<u>Excess Revenues</u>	<u>Augment Amount</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$864,612	\$1,012,820		
Totals	\$864,612	\$1,012,820	\$148,208	\$148,208

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these unanticipated proceeds in the Assessor's Technology Fund to fund several necessary network and hardware upgrades; and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Eureka County shall augment the FY 2016 expenditure budget for the Assessor's Technology Fund; and

THEREBY increasing appropriations from \$864,612 to \$1,012,820; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget Director shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED the 22nd day of February, 2016.

AYES: Chairman Goicoechea
Vice Chairman Sharkozy
Commissioner Etchegaray

NAYS: None

By: /s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
 Julian J. Goicoechea, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley
 Beverly Conley, Clerk

COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Update Report: Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, reported on activities for the Opera House, Sentinel Museum, and Economic Development. Ms. Rossman provided a copy of the Great Basin Regional Development Authority quarterly submission to the Governor's Office of Economic Development outlining utilization of the grant funds received from the State. The Economic Development Program Board met on February 10th. A murder mystery dinner theater is planned at the Opera House on Saturday, March 19th. Museum Director, Ree Taylor, submitted a written report detailing recent activities at the Sentinel Museum.

Appointment to ECEDP: On February 10th, the Economic Development Program Board voted to recommend appointment of David Pastorino. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to appoint David Pastorino to the Economic Development Program Board for the remainder of a one-year term representing southern Eureka County; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF

Forensic Services Contract: Sheriff Keith Logan presented contract options from Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division for the annual forensic services contract. Of the three options offered, the Sheriff recommended Option A which includes full forensic services for a flat fee of \$3,000.00. The other options are based on hourly rates and could easily exceed \$3,000.00. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to select Option A and approve the contract with Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$3,000.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Appointment to Vacant Seat: Health Insurance Committee Chair, Toni Wright, explained that a vacancy exists on the Health Insurance Committee. Nona Kellerman currently serves as an alternate member on the Committee and is willing to move into the vacant seat. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to advance Nona Kellerman from the alternate seat to the seat representing 'public taxpayers' on the Health Insurance Committee for the remainder of the two-year term; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Scholarship Drive: Eureka County High School Guidance Counselor, Winnona Eversgerd, sent a letter requesting a donation for the annual scholarship drive. Monies donated by the County go into the general scholarship fund and the County or its employees do not participate in the selection/award process. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to contribute \$1,500.00 to Eureka County High School for the annual scholarship drive for the Class of 2016; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Meetings & Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, gave an update on recent events. 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 was held February 8th in Las Vegas. Their next meeting will be March 9th in Winnemucca.

The Legislative Committee on Public Lands met on February 16th in Las Vegas. Their upcoming meeting schedule is April 15th in Winnemucca, May 2nd in Caliente, July 22nd in Elko, and a legislative work session on August 19th.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting on February 26th in Winnemucca; the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan meeting at the Opera House on February 29th; and the 2016 Nevada Water Resource Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas February 29th-March 3rd (which will include a presentation on the differences between vegetative and hydrologic drought).

BLM – Planning 2.0: The Department of Interior, BLM, is moving forward with what they're calling Planning 2.0, which is a proposed update of planning regulations related to FLPMA (Federal Land Policy Management Act). They've issued a 244 page document explaining the background for their decision. The proposed regulations are included in the final portion of this document. Planning 2.0 raises major concerns and will have a huge effect on Eureka County and the west. Mr. Tibbitts has already been working with Nevada Association of Counties to draft an overview document for awareness purposes; the document will be distributed at an upcoming NACO event in Washington, DC.

One of the most troubling aspects is the proposal to remove BLM's obligation to maintain consistency with local plans, policies, procedures, and proposals, and to replace it with

language only requiring the BLM to be consistent with '*officially approved and adopted land use plans.*' Once notice is published in the Federal Register, there will be a 60-day comment period.

Grazing Decisions: Mr. Tibbitts briefly touched on recent grazing decisions that were issued by the BLM in December. A past letter from the Battle Mountain District BLM office stated that, in consultation with their experts, drought decisions are appropriate in May; yet they are already issuing decisions based on the Drought EA. Many of these Full Force & Effect decisions are effective immediately, plus one growing season. So the BLM is using inaccurate and ill-timed data to make decisions that have far-reaching impacts on the ranchers.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the Sustainable Grazing Coalition is working on drought issues and may reach out to Mr. Tibbitts for some information on this matter.

Sage Grouse Issues: Mr. Tibbitts continues monitoring sage grouse issues and is communicating with the attorney as she works through the administrative record. NACO and others are providing assistance as well. (This is in preparation for the briefing schedule in June, as a result of the sage grouse hearing in US District Court in Reno last November).

MOU with BLM for Gold Bar Mine Project EIS: There is still no progress 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. Field Manager, Jon Sherve, responded with an email concerning items they didn't want included in the MOU.

Mr. Tibbitts called District Manager, Doug Furtado, and was informed that their office recently received direction that all documents from Eureka County are to be reviewed by the Solicitor. The Regional Solicitor is opposed to some of the language included by Eureka County (even though this language has been incorporated in past MOUs). Mr. Furtado is willing to meet with Eureka County to negotiate and possibly sign the MOU, so Mr. Tibbitts and the Chairman will work to set up a meeting with him.

Out-of-State Travel: Mr. Tibbitts was appointed as a Nevada CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching) delegate by the Dean of University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR). He has been asked to attend the CARET meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, in March. Full expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and per diem will be paid for by CABNR, but in compliance with County policy, Mr. Tibbitts requested authorization for out-of-state travel.

Commissioner Etchegaray authorized out-of-state travel for Jake Tibbitts to attend the Council for Agriculture Resource Extension & Teaching meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, March 7th-10th, at no cost to Eureka County; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Chace Green; David Pastorino; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (4); Sheriff Keith Logan (2); Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley (2); Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts (2); EMS Coordinator, Michael Sullivan; Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram; Payroll Specialist, Kim Todd; Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg; Eureka County High School; Eureka Owl Club (4); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); NACO News; Tri-County Meeting; White Pine County (2); Abigail Johnson; Allison, MacKenzie, Ltd. (2); Genesis Home Health; McMullen McPhee & Co., LLC; Nevada Attorney General (Open Meeting Law workshop co-sponsored by State Emergency Response Commission, State Fire Marshal Division, and State Public Works Division); Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada State Clearinghouse; Nevada Deferred Compensation (2); Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; (2); US Dept. of the Interior-BLM Nevada News (2); Jorge Artalego; and Western Counties Alliance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, notified everyone that candidate filing dates for the 2016 election are March 7th-18th in the County Clerk's office during regular business hours.

Chairman Goicoechea announced that he was recently selected to serve as Nevada State Veterinarian for the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Etchegaray, Commissioner Sharkozy, and others present congratulated the Chairman on this prestigious appointment.

ADJOURNMENT

With a motion by Commissioner Sharkozy and a second by Commissioner Etchegaray, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 7th day of March, 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 22, 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