

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2019

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on March 6, 2019. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Commissioner Rich McKay; and Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg. Vice Chairman, Michael Sharkozy, and District Attorney, Ted Beutel were absent. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to technical problems, the interactive video connection to Crescent Valley was not utilized, but it was confirmed that no members of the public were in attendance in Crescent Valley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Through the course of the meeting, the following items were removed from the agenda: approval of the February 20th minutes; the Electrical System Franchise Agreement; and out-of-state travel for the Sheriff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. There were none from the public, but the Chairman noted that Commissioner Sharkozy was absent because he was traveling and the District Attorney was absent due to illness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 11, 2019: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve minutes of the February 11, 2019, budget meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Maureen Garner. Ms. Garner explained that expenditures included a past due invoice from the Division of Public & Behavioral Health for the 3rd and 4th quarters of Fiscal Year 2017-2018, that were not previously billed to the County due to a change in staff at the Division.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve payment of \$4,354.34 to the Environmental Health Section of the Division of Public & Behavioral Health for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 charges; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$383,482.78 for accounts payable, \$290,961.48 for payroll and retiree related expenses, \$525,395.84 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$3,436.16 for a pass-through to the State Controller, \$548.86 for a pass-through to the Department of Taxation, \$72.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, and \$3,109.95 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,207,007.07. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the current Fund Balance Report.

COMMISSIONERS

Community Health Services Contract: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve an Amendment to Intrastate Interlocal Contract with the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health, Community Health Services Program, to extend

the two-year contract to four years with a new termination date of June 30, 2021, and a total contract not to exceed amount of \$29,808.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

This contract is for provision of public health services such as investigating and reporting infectious diseases, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, TB screening and treatment, public vaccine clinics, etc.

Propose Resolution: Based on a recommendation from the Health Insurance Advisory Committee on February 6th, the Board proposed a change to Personnel Policy to standardize the subsidy paid for employee dependent health insurance premiums.

County Code requires that Personnel Policy changes be proposed in an open meeting, followed by proposal of a resolution outlining the changes. The resolution is then circulated to all employees and a public hearing is scheduled where the Board may adopt or reject the resolution.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to propose a resolution to change *Eureka County Personnel Policy, Section 7.1.5. Employee Costs for Health Insurance for Dependents*, to eliminate current employer/employee splits for dependent health insurance premiums of 60/40 and 50/50 based on employee date of hire, and to apply the 70/30 dependent health insurance premium split to all active eligible employees effective July 1, 2019. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

The Board agreed to hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 5th, where they will consider adopting or denying the resolution. The resolution will be circulated to all employees prior to the public hearing, inviting comments on the proposed changes.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: Chairman Goicoechea reported that the next meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council is March 19th in Carson City and will include a hearing on the proposed regulations that would require compensatory mitigation when sage grouse habitat is disturbed, by applying the Conservation Credit System, which is in the State Plan.

Legislative Updates: Chairman Goicoechea and Assessor, Michael Mears, gave a brief update on the Nevada Legislative Session. Several water bills have been referred to committee, but the tax bills are not moving yet. The Chairman and Mr. Mears will continue to track legislation along with Lobbyist, Steve Walker, and Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts.

HEALTHY PAWS OF EUREKA

Grant Request: Healthy Paws of Eureka is a State-licensed organization that helps control over-population of cats and dogs through wellness programs, spay and neuter incentives, and a variety of proactive efforts. Healthy Paws works with local veterinarians who test for diseases, spay and neuter, or do humane euthanasia when needed.

Cindy Beutel reported that in the previous year Healthy Paws raised \$1,100.00 in donations from private citizens, businesses, and mines. Another \$500.00 was raised at the annual wreath auction. With the Commissioner grant of \$5,000.00, the organization had \$6,600.00, which was all used for the animals. The organization is strictly volunteer and nobody is paid.

Ms. Beutel sends letters to businesses and mines requesting donations. She is selling sweatshirts for \$25.00 and all of the money goes to Healthy Paws. Unfortunately, when the money runs out, the program is suspended until more funds can be raised.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to grant \$10,000.00 to Healthy Paws from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget, but encouraged the organization to work on getting more community involvement. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In February, Eureka served 606 meals and Crescent Valley served 511 meals. A total of \$8,341.46 was deposited for the month.

Nutrition Grant Award: Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify the Notification of Grant Subaward from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Nutrition Grant #07-000-57-NX-19 in the amount of \$3,173.00, with no match required from Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

IT / NETWORK

IT Update: IT Manager, Misty Rowley, provided an update on IT projects and activities. She has been working on the expressway project, which will allow secure audio/video collaboration with people outside of the County's network. There was a meeting with County staff, the School District, and State IT regarding the upcoming fiber project to connect to the NDOT yard in Eureka. Quotes are being obtained to replace the interactive video system in the Commission Chambers, the Crescent Valley meeting room, and the Opera House. Ms. Rowley is researching how to integrate the CAD system with the jail for the Sheriff's Office. SkyFiber replaced the networking equipment in Crescent Valley that was damaged by a recent power outage.

In addition to the day-to-day issues with workstations, printers, etc., Ms. Rowley is working with Rick Hukkanen of BCT (Business Continuity Technologies). Since Rory Jackson is no longer with BCT, Mr. Hukkanen is now the main technician assigned to Eureka.

Wireless Network Equipment: Ms. Rowley presented a quote from BCT for wireless network equipment (hardware, software, and installation) for the Courthouse, Administrative Facility, and the Sheriff's Office. An additional quote will be presented at a future meeting from Gust Electric to install cable into the buildings for this project.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchasing Ruckus wireless network equipment from Business Continuity Technologies, utilizing State Contract No. AR214, for a total amount of \$27,723.04. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Assistant Public Works Director, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department activities. With plentiful winter weather over the past month, both northern and southern crews have been busy plowing snow, checking roads for washouts, and cleaning out culverts. Washouts on the Roberts Creek Road, 3 Bars Road, and Antelope Road have all been repaired and are passable.

Mr. Hodson received a couple of phone calls from people concerned about the piles of snow in town. He apologized for any inconvenience, but stated crews are getting to them as fast as they can. More salt and sand was used in the month of February than has been used in the past year. He reviewed the priority for snow plowing. School bus routes and paved roads are done first, then outside roads and ranch roads. So it may take a few days to get to some of the non-priority roads.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities.

Utilities & Facilities: All utilities are in good working order. The Opera House elevator has been repaired and is operational, but cannot be used until the State inspects and certifies it. The building maintenance crew is finishing the bathroom remodel at the Fairgrounds as time and weather allow.

There have been some challenges with the boilers at the Courthouse and Opera House. The Courthouse boiler is nearing end-of-life, and \$1 million-plus must be budgeted in a future year for replacement. GML Architects has been engaged to do an analysis of the Courthouse's current heating system, hot water system, roof mount reheat system, and air conditioning system, and the final report will be completed soon.

Surplus Equipment Auction: Some vehicles and a trailer were recently declared surplus property by the County. Mr. Damele announced that the items will be sold online by TNT Auction on Saturday, March 23rd, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time.

Hiring Freeze Waiver: The Board reviewed a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification for the Equipment Operator I position, which will be funded by Barrick Cortez, Inc., under a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Damele reminded the Board that this position is permanent regardless whether the funding agreement remains in place.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to hire an Equipment Operator I, to be funded at this time under a Memorandum of Understanding with Barrick Cortez, Inc. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Update on Municipal Solid Waste Request for Qualifications: Public Works has reviewed the Statements of Qualifications from two responders to the RFQ. Olcese Waste Services was the top-ranked responder and there have been some preliminary discussions with the company. Hoss Disposal (current contractor) was the second-ranked responder. Olcese will tour the County with Public Works on March 11th. Once they have assessed the County, contract negotiations can begin. Mr. Damele advised that even if contract details are worked out, it will take at least six months for a new company to get the equipment and personnel in place to provide the service. This will require an extension of the contract with Hoss Disposal.

SHERIFF

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Deputies: Undersheriff James Clark, representing the Sheriff, requested approval to hire the two Deputy positions budgeted to begin July 1st. One will be stationed in Eureka. The other will be stationed in Crescent Valley and will receive the \$350.00 per month housing stipend.

Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Sheriff to fill the position of Deputy Sheriff I, II, III, or Sergeant in Eureka and the position of Deputy Sheriff I, II, or III in Crescent Valley. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Civil Process Administrator: Undersheriff Clark explained that the position of Civil Process Administrator is also allocated in the budget to begin July 1st.

Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Sheriff to fill the position of Civil Process Administrator; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Cisco Catalyst Core Switch: The Sheriff's Office currently has two core switches, but no remaining ports. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to authorize purchasing a Cisco Catalyst Core Switch for the Sheriff's Office, not to exceed \$10,000.00, utilizing monies augmented to the General Fund for capital outlay. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Ruckus Wireless Outdoor Access Points: The IT Manager explained that the Sheriff wants to add wireless outdoor access points so data can be downloaded directly from the patrol cars.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchasing two Ruckus T310d wireless outdoor access points for the Sheriff's Office in Eureka and the Crescent Valley Substation, not to exceed \$2,750.00, utilizing monies augmented to the General Fund for capital outlay. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Audiolog Recording System: Undersheriff Clark explained that it was recently discovered during a training session that the 911 recording system had failed and approximately 15 days of data from around the beginning of February was lost. Fortunately, that was not a very active time, but it is important to be able to record 911 calls.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to authorize purchasing a Goserco Verint Audiolog Recording System to record calls to the 911 system at the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center, not to exceed \$25,000.00, utilizing monies augmented to the General Fund for capital outlay. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET

Preliminary Revenue Projections: Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd, provided more details on preliminary revenue projections for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. She reminded the Board that they had decided the tax rate allocation for the upcoming fiscal year based on an estimated assessed valuation for the County of \$650 million. This was a conservative number agreed to by the Assessor and Comptroller's office based on the Assessor's segregation report and other factors. Mr. Mears explained that the County is seeing a substantial decline because much of the secured personal property is mine equipment that is not getting replaced and is depreciating in value.

Also, Newmont has until March 11th to appeal valuation of the TS Power Plant to the State Board of Equalization. If the State should uphold the appeal (Newmont is seeking salvage value on the plant), the County's assessed valuation would drop by \$54 million. Mr. Mears and Ms. Todd cautiously accounted for this, applying approximately half of that to reach the \$650 million valuation.

Ms. Todd showed the Board the State's preliminary projections, which estimate the County's assessed value for next year to be \$742 million. The Treasurer ran the proforma report, which estimates the County's assessed value at \$631 million.

Ms. Todd warned the Board that these projections indicate a strong potential of a \$1 million decrease in tax revenues in the upcoming year. If Newmont's petition is successful, or partially successful, the decrease will be even more. The Assessor's final segregation report was submitted to the State earlier in the day, and the Department of Taxation should have final revenue projections to the counties by mid-March.

Departmental Budgets – Television District: The Television District originally presented a proposed budget of \$443,200.00 during the February 20th meeting. The Commissioners rejected that budget and asked the District to return with a reduced proposal. In reviewing the status of each mountaintop site, the Commissioners advised the District that it should be able to reduce the proposed budget by at least \$100,000.00.

President of the Television District, Bill Leppala, and contractor, Dale Lotspeich with Eagle Communications, were in attendance to present the District's revised tentative budget, with a new proposed total of \$308,990.00. Mr. Lotspeich explained that capital outlay was reduced by roughly \$130,000.00.

At the last meeting, Mr. Lotspeich thought \$35,000.00 would be needed annually to maintain the northern microwave system once Elko County moves to fiber transmission in July. But after consulting the technicians, the District learned it can transmit from a single site – from Winnemucca Mountain to Mary's Mountain – which drops the cost to roughly \$10,000.00.

Mr. Lotspeich explained the proposed capital outlay: new transmitters for Tank Hill, new antennas for Prospect Peak, and contingency for Argenta Ridge (for backup microwave transmission from Grindstone Mountain if there is a failure at Mary's Mountain). Mr. Lotspeich stated that Humboldt County and Elko County have donated all of their excess equipment to Eureka County, which should help with capital outlay. There is a meeting in Winnemucca on March 8th to discuss microwave issues and several counties/districts will be represented.

Mr. Lotspeich added that the US Department of Agriculture has released grant guidance for broadband projects, but he hasn't had a chance to look into it yet.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to accept the Television District tentative budget in the total amount of \$308,990.00, contingent on no major changes arising from the upcoming microwave meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Departmental Budgets – District Court: Ms. Todd stated that the Board had determined to pay the public defender fees of \$60,000.00 from the County Indigent Fund for one year. After reviewing everything that is paid from this fund, and the potential of a large indigent medical bill, Ms. Todd recommended that public defender contract remain in the District Court Budget.

The Board agreed that the public defender would be paid from the District Court budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks (2); Seventh Judicial District Court (3); District Attorney, Ted Beutel (2); Sheriff Jesse Watts; Eureka County Board of Equalization; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Recreation Board; McEwen Mining; Owl Club; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); PACE Coalition; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Nevada Div. of Public & Behavioral Health; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div.; Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection; Nevada POOL/PACT; Nevada Business Aviation Assoc.; US Dept. of the Interior, BLM (3); and US Navy.

Commissioner Updates: Commissioner McKay participated in the recent Northeastern Nevada Rural Development Authority meeting in Elko, and there is a follow-up housing forum in Ely on March 8th. Developers will be there and he hopes there may be some interest in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision lots.

Chairman Goicoechea received an email from Carolyn Swed, Field Supervisor for the US Fish & Wildlife Office in Reno. Ms. Swed is leaving the agency at the end of March. She served as F&WS representative on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, so it will be interesting to see who the new administration appoints as her replacement.

The Chairman commented that a Secretarial Order is expected from the Department of the Interior, possibly this week, concerning migration corridors for wildlife, including bighorn sheep. There is talk about removing fencing and removing contact with domestic livestock along the corridors, so it's something to pay attention to.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion for adjournment by Commissioner McKay, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of March, 2019.

/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 March 6, 2019, 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