

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 7, 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 March 7, 2016. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg; and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, 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 written; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Eureka resident, Christine Smith, discussed ideas for water conservation in Eureka. Ms. Smith asserted that in order to achieve a balance between the goals of having the County water system pay for itself, as well as encouraging conservation, she was in favor of a lower base rate and a higher commodity charge (the fee for water used in excess of the allowable gallons).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 11, 2016, and February 22, 2016: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016, budget meeting and the February 22, 2016, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy 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 \$225,348.11 for accounts payable, \$367,327.07 for payroll, \$614,263.70 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$3,814.03 for a pass-through tax payment to the State of Nevada, and \$2,500.00 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,213,252.91. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balances Report: The Board reviewed the report from the Comptroller showing current fund balances.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Etchegaray attended the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan Workshop on February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Eureka Opera House.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Republican Caucus in Crescent Valley on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; attended a Crescent Valley Fire Department meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>; completed a tour of northern County roads with Road Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, on February 24<sup>th</sup>; and attended the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan Workshop on February 29<sup>th</sup> in Eureka.

Chairman Goicoechea attended the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan Workshop on February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Opera House; attended a meeting with the Battle Mountain District BLM, along with other County representatives, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss pinyon-juniper

thinning; continued the meeting with the BLM, along with Jake Tibbitts, to work on details of the Memorandum of Understanding for the McEwen Mining Gold Bar Mine Project; and participated in a NACO Public Lands & Natural Resources Subcommittee conference call on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman also participated in several phone conversations with legal counsel for the County's sage grouse lawsuit addressing the proposed Land Use Plan Amendments in order to prepare the brief, which is due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nevada Works: John Thurman, CEO of Nevadaworks, joined the meeting via conference call to discuss the Cooperative Agreement for the Creation of Nevadaworks, which required updating of some language to reflect changes due to adoption of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act of 2014. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the updated Cooperative Agreement for the Creation of Nevadaworks pursuant to the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act of 2014; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Letter of Resignation: A letter was received from Andrea Rossman notifying the Board of her resignation, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, as Cultural, Tourism & Economic Development Director. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to accept the resignation of Andrea Rossman as Cultural, Tourism & Economic Development Director, effective June 30, 2016; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Nuisance Complaint: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, briefly discussed the appropriate response to a written complaint filed with the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services alleging the existence of a nuisance pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes. The complaint alleges discharge of wastewater and presence of fecal matter on real property located at 366 Third Street in Crescent Valley. A specific process gets triggered upon filing of the complaint, including notification to the property owners and scheduling of a public hearing.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to sign and mail a letter to the property owners of 366 Third Street, Crescent Valley, informing them that the Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on April 6, 2016, at 11:15 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers, to consider abatement of an alleged public nuisance as described by NRS 40.140 and NRS 244.360. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program & Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: The next meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council is April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Council will work to make recommendations on projects (both private and public projects) to receive awards from the first \$1 million in State funding to be used for projects to test the Conservation Credit System.

## **KINROSS GOLD CORPORATION**

Update on Bald Mountain Mine: Representatives from Kinross Gold Corporation were in attendance to give a brief overview of activities at Bald Mountain Mine. General Manager, Randy Burggraff, and Ranay Guifarro, Corporate Social Responsibility, introduced themselves to the Board. (Ms. Guifarro also serves as Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator for Round Mountain Gold and Mr. Burggraff was General Manager of Round Mountain Gold until transferring to Bald Mountain Mine).

Kinross Gold Corporation recently acquired the majority of Bald Mountain Mine from Barrick Gold Corporation. Kinross owns what is known as the North Area (being actively mined) and the South Area (with plans to mine in the next two to three years), but there is a central portion that is still jointly owned by Barrick. Exploration is taking place on the joint property.

Current mine life is seven years, but Mr. Burggraff is optimistic that mining will be extended beyond that. Bald Mountain Mine currently has 470 employees, many who reside in Eureka. The heap leach process takes place on site, but the resulting carbon is trucked to a different location for processing. Barrick previously sent it to Goldstrike, but Kinross will soon begin shipping to Round Mountain Gold.

The guests concluded their update by stating that Ms. Guifarro is a good point of contact if the County has any questions or concerns.

## **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 762 meals and Crescent Valley served 446 meals. A total of \$8,208.17 was deposited for the month.

Transportation Grant Application: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the grant application to Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Transportation Services Grant #07-000-10-BC-16 in the amount of \$22,500.00, with a County match of \$3,971.00; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Genesis Home Health Services: Based on contract usage to-date in the current fiscal year (less than \$4,000.00), the Board agreed to reduce this contract from \$15,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to renew the contract with Genesis Home Health for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, with a not to exceed amount of \$10,000.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Consumer Direct dba Better@Home: Based on contract usage to-date in the current fiscal year (around \$8,000.00), the Board agreed to reduce this contract from \$20,000.00 to \$15,000.00. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to renew the contract with Consumer Direct Personal Care, LLC (doing business as Better@Home), for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, with a not to exceed amount of \$15,000.00; 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. Mr. Hodson reported that from December 14<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>, crews worked on snow removal every day. The Road Department has been monitoring water, fixing culverts, and blading roads. The Dann Road and Spa Road in northern Eureka County are ongoing problems due to the tremendous amount of runoff. Cracks have been filled on all parking lots and several roads in Crescent Valley. Crack filling will be done in southern Eureka County in the upcoming weeks. Crews worked with the School District (for the second year in a row) to fill cracks in the school parking lots. The School District purchases material in exchange for this work.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

US Environmental Protection Agency: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on recent projects and activities. The US Environmental Protection Agency will be in Eureka the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> to conduct geotechnical analysis on the proposed repository site located along the south side of Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka.

Red Card Training: Wildland Firefighting Red Card training will be held at the JD Lodge in Pine Valley for several days in March. This is primarily to train employees at the JD Ranch, Hay Ranch, and Dean Ranch, but others are welcome. This is the full Red Card training and will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. A refresher course will be held at the Eureka Fire Station on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Capron Street Sidewalk: Mr. Damele continues assisting the School District with review of civil plans for the Capron Street sidewalk. The sidewalk, along with curb and gutter, will be constructed on one side of Capron Street from Ruby Hill Avenue to the Elementary School.

Janitorial Services – Administration Building: Three janitorial bids were received for the Annex/Administration Building. Mr. Damele reported that the most responsive and responsible bidder was Crystal Clear Janitorial, Leanna Cantrell, for \$1,800.00. Commissioner Etchegaray

motioned to accept the bid and award the janitorial contract to Crystal Clear Janitorial for the Administration Building, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, for two years, with an option to renew for an additional two years. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Janitorial Services – County Courthouse: Three janitorial bids were received for the Courthouse. Mr. Damele reported that the most responsive and responsible bidder was Crystal Clear Janitorial, Leanna Cantrell, for \$2,300.00. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to accept the bid and award the janitorial contract to Crystal Clear Janitorial for the County Courthouse, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, for two years, with an option to renew for an additional two years. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Janitorial Services – Justice Facility & Eureka Library: Four janitorial bids were received for the Justice Facility and Eureka Library. Mr. Damele reported that the most responsive and responsible bidder for the Sheriff's Office and Eureka Library was Crystal Clear Janitorial, Leanna Cantrell, for \$1,300.00. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the bid and award the janitorial contract to Crystal Clear Janitorial for the Justice Facility and Eureka Library effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, for two years, with an option to renew for an additional two years. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hoss Disposal: Mr. Damele reported that the current contract with Hoss Disposal has a provision for one additional two-year term from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2018, and he recommended renewal. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the two-year contract extension with Hoss Disposal for curbside refuse collection within the franchise service area and for curbside refuse collection at County buildings outside the franchise service area. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fair Board Senior Department Assistant Job Description: Mr. Damele reported that contract Human Resources created a new job description that specifically outlines duties of the Fair Board secretary (this was previously a combined job description with the Television District secretary). This is a casual position at Range 115 on the County wage and salary scale. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the updated Fair Board Senior Department Assistant job description; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

TV District Senior Department Assistant Job Description: Mr. Damele reported that this job description was created for the same reason, and is also a casual position at Range 115. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Television District Senior Department Assistant Job Description; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **IT / NETWORK**

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Misty Rowley, IT/Network Analyst, to attend CompTIA Conference and Training in Chicago, Illinois, March 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Bill Story, Project Manager for Nevada Department of Transportation's mandated Statewide Bicycle Plan, presented the Draft Eureka County Bicycle Plan. Mr. Story indicated that the United States Bicycle Route System (USBR) has designated Highway 50 as Bike Route 79, tentatively "The Western Express". He outlined some of the challenges for creating safe routes for bikes in rural communities in Nevada. Difficulties include limited shoulders, lack of bikeways leading to recreational destinations, limited rights-of-way, convoluted ownership, and a lack of local support. Mr. Story explained that the document before the Commission was a planning document that wouldn't be implemented until it was affiliated with another project, i.e., sealing or repaving.

The Commissioners voiced concerns about a bike lane through the Town of Eureka where road widths are already limited. There were several other concerns. Chairman

Goicoechea indicated that a letter will be sent to NDOT outlining concerns before Eureka County would consider accepting the plan. Once the concerns are addressed, the Bicycle Plan can be placed on a future agenda.

### **JUVENILE PROBATION**

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Steve Zimmerman, Juvenile Probation Officer, and Joyce Jeppesen, Senior Department Assistant, to attend a site tour of Provo Canyon School and Residential Treatment Center in Provo and Springville, Utah, March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Zimmerman's travel is being paid by the Provo Canyon School and Residential Treatment Center.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel on May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> for two Facilitators to attend the Girls' Circle Facilitator Training in San Pablo, California; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. All travel expenses are paid through a grant, so there is no cost to the County.

### **EUREKA COUNTY FAIR BOARD**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to appoint Rebecca Glocknitzer to the Eureka County Fair Board representing the County-at-large for the remainder of the four-year term through December 2017; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0

### **ELKO-LANDER-EUREKA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Chairman Goicoechea indicated that library costs will remain static for the upcoming fiscal year, with the exception of a decrease in the mileage rate; but he noted that contract costs have decreased considerably over the past two years. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the library services contract with Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$94,182.00; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

MOU with BLM for Gold Bar Mine Project EIS: In the absence of Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, Chairman Goicoechea reported on progress of the Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Chairman and Mr. Tibbitts were able to have a face-to-face meeting with Doug Furtado, District Manager, to work on details of the MOU and some progress was made. The updated MOU was now before the Board for approval.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Battle Mountain District BLM establishing Eureka County as a Cooperating Agency for the McEwen Mining Gold Bar Mine Project EIS process. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PERDIZ SPORT SHOOTING**

Jim Evans, Consultant, and Jerry White, Range Master, representing Perdiz Sport Shooting, were in attendance to inform the Commissioners of their intentions to pursue a grant to enhance shooting range development and hunter education. Perdiz Sport Shooting will submit a grant application to Nevada Department of Wildlife for installation of a Five Stand at the shooting range. A client has donated the modular building. The building and volunteer services will serve as the match for this grant. The design team is made up of Mr. Evans, Dean Day Engineering, and Prospect Peak Construction.

No monies or assistance were being requested from the County. Perdiz Sport Shooting simply requested the County's support for their project, which will be noted in the grant application. The Board eagerly agreed to send a letter stating their support for this project.

### **CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Purchase of Wrestling Team Uniforms: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board to purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts for the Crescent Valley children's wrestling team, not to exceed \$407.00, with funds provided from the Crescent Valley Activities Program. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Nancy Collins; Perdiz Sport Shooting, Jim Evans; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (6); Public Works Director, Ron Damele; Payroll Specialist, Kim Todd (3); Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts (3); Cultural, Tourism & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman; Eureka County Economic Development Board; Eureka County Planning Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Eureka Owl Club; Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System; EIS Coordinator, Abigail Johnson; Lumos & Associates; Barrick Cortez; Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance; Genesis Home Health; Consumer Direct Personal Care; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (4); White Pine County Commission; Committee on Local Government Finance Subcommittee; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry (2); Nevada State Clearinghouse (4); Nevada Deferred Compensation, VOYA; Nevadaworks, John Thurman; Nevada Health Centers; Henry Shushan; Arizona Dept. of Transportation; Paul Draper; U.S. Dept. of the Interior-BLM (3); ISO; and US Postal Service.

### **RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The Board recessed for lunch from 11:16 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

### **BUDGET PREPARATIONS**

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Revenue Projections: Ross Eardley, of McMullen McPhee & Company, joined the meeting by telephone. Mr. Eardley gave a brief overview of projected revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. The County's main revenue sources for operating costs are ad valorem (property tax) and consolidated tax (primarily consisting of sales tax). The main revenue source for capital projects is net proceeds of minerals tax, but any net proceeds realized in the upcoming fiscal year will be credited against the several million dollar overpayment received by the County in prior years.

Property tax estimates are fairly status quo, with no remarkable increases noted. The State does estimate an increase of \$500,000.00 in consolidated tax (CTAX), but these are preliminary figures. Mr. Eardley felt, with the preliminary figures, that the County might be able to achieve a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Commissioners noted that it is only achievable with no capital projects planned, such as road or infrastructure improvements; and it is only a matter of time before things start to deteriorate significantly without annual maintenance being written into the budgets.

County Tax Rate: Eureka County's overall tax rate is currently \$1.7782, the lowest in the State (the next lowest rate is \$2.5462, which is \$0.768 higher). Out of the 17 counties in Nevada, 14 have rates over \$3.00. Payroll Specialist, Kim Todd, spoke with the County's analyst at Nevada Department of Taxation, and the analyst recommended a \$2.50 increase for Eureka County.

The Board considered how a \$0.05 or a \$0.10 increase would affect the rate and what revenues would be generated. Ms. Todd worked with the Board on an interactive spreadsheet to show what monies would be raised and how the rate could be distributed to the different funds.

A \$0.05 tax increase would generate an estimated \$439,000.00 annually. So at the current assessed property values, each penny generates not quite \$100,000.00.

Assessor, Michael Mears, explained how the property tax abatements work and how they limit the annual tax increase experienced by property owners. Owner occupied parcels are limited to a 3% annual increase and most other parcels are limited to a 5.3% increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Mears explained that the tax rate for net proceeds is 5% (\$5.00 per every \$100.00 of assessed value). Of that \$5.00, the County retains its tax rate (\$1.7782) and the balance goes to the State of Nevada. If the County's base rate is increased, a larger portion of net proceeds would stay in the County.

The Commissioners all agreed they are not fans of raising taxes, but the County is currently operating under a deficit budget even with drastic budget cuts and decreased spending over the past several years. It is literally to the point where services will be decreased or eliminated, layoffs will be considered, and buildings will be shut down (i.e. possible six month closure of the Swimming Pool). Any proposed tax increase must be considered at a public hearing, which is set by statute on the third Monday in May (May 16<sup>th</sup>).

Reallocation of Tax Rate: The Board had a detailed discussion of current fund balances and distribution of the tax rate. They worked with Ms. Todd on the interactive spreadsheet to reallocate the current tax rate along with a \$0.05 increase. Nothing will be finalized until the final rate is determined at the hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Depreciation: The Board briefly discussed depreciation and whether a portion of the tax rate should be assigned to this. Enterprise funds are required to budget depreciation, but in recent years this has been covered by grants from the General Fund. The County's enterprise funds are Eureka Town Water & Sewer, Crescent Valley Water, and Devil's Gate GID Water. Enterprise funds are intended to be self-sufficient. But user fees don't support the annual operating costs, much less the annual depreciation number of approximately \$1 million.

## **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS**

Crescent Valley Activities Program: The Commissioners agreed to tentatively budget \$9,000.00 for the Crescent Valley Activities Program. The previous year's budget was \$16,700.00, which included \$10,400.00 in wages and benefits. The Crescent Valley Activities Coordinator position was eliminated, so the wages and benefits are no longer needed.

Eureka Activities Program: Assessor, Michael Mears, and Eureka Activities Coordinator, Cindy Beutel, discussed the proposed budget for Eureka Activities. The services and supplies budget was reduced by \$1,500.00, leaving a total budget request of \$36,100.00.

Mr. Mears provided a list of grants and sponsorships for activities in 2016, totaling \$110,195.00. He explained that these donations supplement the budget and allow for numerous activities in Eureka which contributes to tourism.

The County receives a grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development. This is routed through the Great Basin Regional Development Authority, but in years past was paid directly to the County and used to fund the salary/wages of a position that no longer exists. Chairman Goicoechea suggested that, due to the nature of the activities hosted by this department, the grant should be used to fund Ms. Beutel's salary. Commissioner Sharkozy serves as Commission representative on the GBRDA and stated this correlates with how other member counties are utilizing their portion of the grant.

Planning Commission: The tentative budget for Planning Commission was presented by Senior Department Assistant, Anne Kniefel. There were some minor changes to services and supplies and a decrease to wages and benefits, for a total proposed budget of \$25,500.00, a net decrease of \$3,900.00 from the previous year.

Fair Board / Ag District #15: Senior Department Assistant, Crissy Hubbard, reviewed the Fair Board tentative budget. Services and supplies were decreased by \$4,700.00 and there was a substantial decrease to wages and benefits, since the Department Assistant is now a non-benefited position. Overall proposed budget was \$122,200.00, a net decrease of \$10,200.00 from the previous fiscal year.

Direction Related to Tentative Budgets: Comptroller, Tina Hubbard, and Ms. Todd outlined which departments and funds still need to be addressed before filing the Tentative Budget, which is due to the Nevada Department of Taxation by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Based on this, the Board provided direction to all departments who have not yet submitted their budgets. Flat or reduced budgets may be submitted directly to the Comptroller's office. All other budgets will be placed on the next agenda for review by the Board.

## **PERSONNEL BUDGET**

Projected Insurance Costs: A letter was received from Toni Wright, Chair of the Health Insurance Committee, informing the Board that insurance broker, John Carlson (of Benefit Intelligence Insurance Services), anticipates an overall premium rate increase of up to 10%. This is based on the industry standard and the County's claims experience. The current insurance contract is effective through December 2016, so this is the rate increase anticipated in January 2017.

Health Savings Account: The Health Insurance Committee recommended continuing the County's match of up to \$500.00 per employee for employees enrolled in the high deductible plan. The Board provided consensus that the \$500.00 match will continue for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Preliminary Personnel Costs: The Comptroller's office reviewed projected personnel costs for the upcoming fiscal year. Due to elimination of several positions, through attrition and for other reasons, personnel numbers are down significantly. Ms. Todd gave a recap of the eliminated positions and gave an overview of budgeted positions.

Payroll costs (wages and benefits) are anticipated to be around \$8.5 million, with wages accounting for just over \$5 million of that figure (this is without merit or cost of living increases). This is a significant reduction from the previous year, attributable to the eliminated positions.

As requested, the Comptroller's office provided cost comparisons for projected salaries/wages and benefits using different scenarios. Several options were covered including a merit increase, cost of living adjustments, elected officials salary increase (per NRS), and various combinations of the aforementioned options. More refined estimates will be presented at the next budget workshop.

Holiday Pay: Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Todd explained that several supervisors have suggested that the County eliminate the 10-hour holiday pay and return to an 8-hour holiday pay benefit. Holiday pay was increased several years ago and is an added cost, plus has caused scheduling conflicts for some departments when another employee must cover someone taking the additional two hours of holiday leave. The Board will consider this at the next meeting.

## **FUTURE BUDGET MEETINGS**

March 21<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop: The Board decided to hold the next budget workshop during the regular meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. They provided direction to the Comptroller's office and department heads regarding what information should be presented at the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 21<sup>st</sup> 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 March 7, 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