

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**April 6, 2022**

STATE OF NEVADA        )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA     )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on April 6, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative Assistant 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 between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Changes made on the agenda included: removal of IT Department #2 as it was a duplicate; Public Works #5 was corrected to read APN 002-037-12; and Public Works #11 was tabled pending receipt of the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with those changes; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Beowawe resident, Tracey Mellard said upon reviewing the day’s agenda, she found she was not included per her request. During the last meeting, she asked to have an item to discuss the cost of renting County buildings. Instead, an item to review facility rental fees was placed under the Public Works’ portion of the agenda. She felt the current rates didn’t encourage use by the citizens who, as taxpayers, helped fund the buildings. She concluded by saying, *“I understand consolidating issues in order to save everyone’s time, but was left completely out of a request that I made, not Public Works. I’d like to request at this time that I have a voice at the table when my Commissioners decide to address this issue on the agenda labeled Public Works line item 10. Thank you.”*

Sheriff Watts thanked all the agencies that assisted his department the previous week during an investigation. This included agencies from neighboring jurisdictions and the State. He thanked his staff as well, noting that some worked regular shifts consecutively with the investigation, accruing up to 37 hours. In a separate comment, the Sheriff said he agreed with Ms. Mellard’s concerns over the agenda and felt a formal process was needed for placing items on the Board’s agenda.

There were no further comments from the public. Chairman Goicoechea addressed Ms. Mellard’s concern about not being listed on the agenda. As an action item, he said she would be given the opportunity to speak, as has been his consistent practice during his years on the Commission. But he noted that the meeting transcript clearly shows that he confirmed her item would be placed on the next agenda, *“...but will go through Public Works.”* And her response was, *“Sounds good; thank you so much.”*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 7, 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the February 7, 2022, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$537,557.18 for accounts payable, \$733,348.21 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), and the following pass-through tax allocations: \$376,460.14 in State taxes and \$26,911.90 in school taxes to the Nevada State Controller, \$6,660.00 to the Nevada Division of

Minerals, \$400.55 to the Nevada Department of Taxation, and \$150.00 to the Washoe Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$1,681,487.98. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the current fund balance report.

Comptroller Administrative Assistant I/II/III: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the updated Comptroller Administrative Assistant I/II/III job description as approved on April 20, 2021. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification: Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Comptroller to fill the vacant position of Comptroller Administrative Assistant I/II/III, including approval to concurrently post the position notice internally and externally. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET**

Tentative Budget Review: Comptroller Kim Todd gave a brief overview of all budgets under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Budgeted revenues are based on projections from the State Department of Taxation.

Television District: The Television District joined this portion of the meeting represented by Board members Bill Leppala (President), Randy Klatt, Joe Whimple, and Tracy Moylan. Expenditures of \$381,400.00 and revenues of \$222,598.00 were budgeted for the District. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Television District budget for Fiscal Year 2023; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County (General): Expenditures of \$43,972,000.00 and revenues of \$26,453,000.00 were budgeted for Eureka County. Depreciation of the County's overall assessed valuation accounted for the \$1 million decrease in revenues compared to the previous year. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Eureka County (General) tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka Town: Expenditures of \$136,000.00 and revenues of \$111,000.00 were budgeted for Eureka Town. The \$1 million deficit in the Town's proprietary water fund has a huge impact on this budget. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Eureka Town's tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Crescent Valley Town: Expenditures of \$82,000.00 and revenues of \$33,000.00 were budgeted for Crescent Valley Town. The proprietary water fund for Crescent Valley has a deficit of \$326,000.00 for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Todd cautioned that this will be the last year Crescent Valley Town can operate without a grant, due to its dwindling ending fund balance. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 tentative budget for Crescent Valley Town; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Devil's Gate GID: Expenditures of \$250,000.00 and revenues of \$57,000.00 were budgeted for Devil's Gate GID. There was a brief discussion about the special tax assessment paid by each property owner in Devil's Gate. Once the County takes steps to consolidate the water systems, this special assessment will go away. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the tentative budget for Devil's Gate GID; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Rodent Control District: Expenditures of \$47,000.00 and revenues of \$15,000.00 were budgeted for the Rodent District. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 tentative budget for the Diamond Valley Rodent Control District; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Weed Control District: Expenditures of \$160,000.00 and revenues of \$118,000.00 were budgeted for the Weed District. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the tentative budget for the Diamond Valley Weed Control District; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Set Public Hearing: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to schedule a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on May 20<sup>th</sup> to adopt tax rates and consider final changes to the budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Fiscal Accountability Workgroup: A workgroup was being formed to examine local codes and policies in order to make recommendations to the Board to achieve improved fiscal responsibility and accountability. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to appoint District Attorney Ted Beutel, Comptroller Kim Todd, and Treasurer Pernecia Johnson to this workgroup; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Request Independent Evaluation of County Jail: In order to determine current fitness of the County Jail in Eureka and the temporary holding facility in Crescent Valley, an independent evaluation was needed. This will conclude whether the facilities are suitable to house or process any persons in custody, including interrogating, booking, housing, and otherwise handling inmates.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to contact the County's insurance and risk management providers to request an independent evaluation and audit of the County Jail/Detention Facility in Eureka and the temporary holding facility in Crescent Valley. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Requests for Written Quotes: This item was placed on the agenda after Sheriff Watts failed to provide quotes, despite written requests, to support purchase of three vehicles in August and October 2021, as well as documentation to support any additional vehicles that he may have made arrangements to pre-order or procure. At meeting time, Comptroller Kim Todd confirmed that her office had not yet received the mandatory documentation from the Sheriff.

Sheriff Watts informed the Board that he had the quotes with him. He acknowledged that he received written requests in October 2021 and March 2022, but could not locate a written request from August 2021, although he remembered a verbal request at that time. He said the requests "*got buried*" because they came when he was "*in DC*" and when he was "*on the two investigations.*"

State law and County policy require a minimum of two quotes for vehicle purchases. Chairman Goicoechea asked the Sheriff if he had the proper number of quotes to support each vehicle purchased – three in 2021 and two pending delivery. The Sheriff indicated that he did, and he was asked to give the documentation to the Comptroller to be audited. The Board will review the results at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next agenda item, to consider any remedial action to avoid further audit findings related to purchasing violations, was tabled pending review of the documentation from Sheriff Watts and results of the audit.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In March, Eureka served 759 meals and Crescent Valley served 800 meals. A total of \$9,456.17 was deposited for the month. Ms. Oram reported that the monthly Golden Groceries Program was offered in Crescent Valley for the first time in March and 40 seniors received nutritious food items at no cost.

## **JUVENILE PROBATION**

Grad Night 2022: Juvenile Probation Officer Steve Zimmerman requested a donation for the annual Grad Night celebration, explaining this has proven to be a safe alternative to alcohol or drug related parties for graduation. He requested a larger donation this year because the number of students has increased. There are 25 graduating seniors and he expects 70 students at the event.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to donate \$1,000.00 to the 2022 Eureka County High School Grad Night event scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>, to be paid from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **SHERIFF**

Request to Ratify Out-of-State Travel: Sheriff Watts explained that on March 24<sup>th</sup> a Deputy extradited an inmate to Twin Falls, Idaho, and he asked the Board to ratify the travel so the per diem could be paid.

Chairman Goicoechea said the Board received correspondence from the District Attorney informing that this travel violated a Court Order and was not consistent with the process used for rendition following extradition. The Chairman reviewed the Court Order, which stated the defendant was to be remanded to the custody of the Sheriff to be held for authorities from the State of Idaho to conduct the transport.

Sheriff Watts replied that he was not physically in Eureka County when this occurred and it was handled by Undersheriff Tyler Thomas.

Justice Court staff, Amy Jensen and Lindsay Stith, were in attendance. Ms. Jensen said that Judge Rowley wanted to ensure that the Board was aware that the Order remanded the defendant to the Sheriff's custody and did not authorize transport by Eureka County. Ms. Jensen further stated that a defendant was being held in Elko County on a Eureka County warrant, ready to be picked up on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, but the Sheriff's Office didn't have staff available. Yet, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, a deputy was available to transport the Idaho defendant to Twin Falls while Justice Court waited days for transport of its defendant from Elko.

Chairman Goicoechea commented that the Sheriff had just witnessed the Board approving deficit budgets as a direct result of rising costs and the current state of the economy. He said the Sheriff's Office needs to be more diligent in avoiding needless costs, such as this trip to Idaho. The Chairman then asked for a motion to either deny or ratify the travel.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to deny ratifying out-of-state travel on March 24<sup>th</sup> for a Deputy Sheriff to transport an inmate to Twin Falls, Idaho, due to the trip being unnecessary and in violation of a Court Order. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES**

Special Assessments for FY22-23: Each year the Nevada Division of Water Resources provides budgets for special assessments to be collected from water rights holders in Eureka County. These are billed on real property tax statements and in turn paid to the Division. County Commissions are asked to approve the budgets each year, but it is a State tax that the local government has no authority over.

Jake Tibbitts felt the record should reflect that during the last Legislative Session, the State Legislature swept all remaining balances in the groundwater basin accounts in order to balance the State budget. There was a commitment to repay these amounts, but the State continues collecting annual assessments on these basins.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Division of Water Resources budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 special assessments to be collected by Eureka County on behalf of the Division for expenses related to supervision over the following waters in Eureka County: Maggie Creek Groundwater Basin, Boulder Flat Groundwater Basin, Humboldt River Distribution, Whirlwind Valley Groundwater Basin, Lower Reese River Valley Groundwater Basin, Crescent Valley Groundwater Basin, Pine Valley Groundwater Basin, Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin, and Kobeh Valley Groundwater Basin. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **IT DEPARTMENT**

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities.

Monday.com: Ms. Rowley finished setting up the IT project management system through Monday Mouse, part of the Monday.com solutions.

New Workstations: Workstations were set up for new hires for the Clerk Recorder and the Sheriff, and two new laptops were configured for the Assessor.

Troubleshooting: Ms. Rowley worked with Quest to troubleshoot the audio interference between the Commission Chambers and the Crescent Valley site. She is troubleshooting the connection between Tank Hill and the Airport, which is affecting radio communications. LV.net has been scheduled to troubleshoot the transmission speeds.

JAVS Installation: Ms. Rowley assisted Justice AV Solutions on the networking side during the JAVS upgrade and installation for Justice Court.

Crescent Valley Projects: A Starlink satellite internet service was ordered for Crescent Valley facilities. An initial test showed favorable uplink speeds needed for the Sheriff's bodycams.

Grant Work: Ms. Rowley continues meeting with the grant writer and Lumos & Associates to plan grant management and project management. Lumos suggested budgeting \$150,000.00 for the NEPA studies and technical assistance on the grant application. Additional funding related to grant procurement will be formally requested at the next meeting.

Security & Other Testing: Ms. Rowley worked with the Department of Homeland Security to conduct additional penetration testing (for election security). She will work with Quest engineers to set up a trial for the Cisco VOIP phones. If this option proves viable, it will save the County a lot of money.

E-Rate Projects: The E-rate grant application for the Crescent Valley Library fiber project was submitted to the Universal Service Administrative Company for review. A project conference call is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hyperconverged Server: Syber Networks will be in Eureka the following week to complete set up of the hyperconverged server.

Project Quotes: Ms. Rowley submitted several quotes for Board approval, explaining that shipping costs aren't included in the quotes, so contingency was added to ensure those costs are covered.

Quest Quote – UPS at Road Shop: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #015986v1 from Quest for a UPS (uninterruptable power supply) at the Eureka Road Shop for a not to exceed amount of \$1,751.00 (\$1,459.12 plus 20% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BCT Quote – HA Firewall: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #030512v1 from Business Continuity Technologies to upgrade the current HA (high availability) firewall in Eureka for a not to exceed amount of \$10,434.92 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

AT&T Quote – Antenna for 4G Failover: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Quote #80661 from AT&T for a Fixed Wireless Access antenna at the Courthouse for a not to exceed amount of \$2,090.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quest Quote – IP Camera: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #015987v1 from Quest for an IP (internet protocol) camera in the Crescent Valley Town Center for a not to exceed amount of \$2,079.96 (\$1,733.30 plus 20% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quest Quote – Extron eLink: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #016040v1 from Quest for an Extron eLink 100T for a not to exceed amt of \$1,045.00 (\$871.00 plus 20% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quest Quote – Courthouse Antenna & Router: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Quote #015985 from Quest for installation of an antenna on the Courthouse roof and a Cradlepoint router in the NOC (network operations center) room for a not to exceed amount of \$12,974.10 (\$10,811.75 plus 20% contingency) using monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quest Quote – Fiber Ports: Ms. Rowley explained that installing additional fiber ports at the Sheriff's Office will eliminate additional equipment needed by the State, and purchased by the

County, to redesign connections. In addition to saving costs, this will provide fiber redundancy between the Sheriff's Office and County Courthouse.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Quote #016051v1 from Quest to splice existing fibers to provide six additional fiber ports at the Sheriff's Office in Eureka for a not to exceed amount of \$6,280.50 (\$5,233.75 plus 20% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for fiber optic and network upgrades (042-140-55010-203) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CDW Quote – Lenovo Computers: The IT Department tries to keep spare workstations on hand for new employees or failed computers and it is time to restock. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #MRNB368 from CDW for three (3) Lenovo computers for a not to exceed amount of \$3,814.59 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EM3 Networks Contract Renewal: As more files and data move to the Tyler Cloud, additional bandwidth may be needed, so Ms. Rowley negotiated a new contract with EM3 Networks for a 250 Mbps broadband internet connection at the Eureka County Courthouse for a 12-month term (June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023) at a monthly cost of \$1,125.00, with authorization to upgrade (if needed) to a 1 Gbps connection at a monthly cost of \$1,495.00.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve renewing the contract with EM3 Networks with the options stated, and authorized the IT Director to sign the contract outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: This travel was previously authorized, but Ms. Rowley explained that the training conference was rescheduled to a different date. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel for the IT Director to attend the Black Hat Spring Training Conference scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Virginia; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **KINROSS GOLD – BALD MOUNTAIN MINE**

Introductions: Matthew Miller, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist for Kinross Bald Mountain, introduced Chris Jim, Environmental Manager; Dale Thompson, Operations Manager; and Stephanie Hallinan, Environmental Superintendent, who were in attendance to give an update on the proposed Juniper Project at Bald Mountain Mine.

Kinross Nevada: Mr. Miller explained that a new name had been assigned to the Nevada properties – Kinross Nevada – in order to foster better resource management and collaboration between the Round Mountain and Bald Mountain operations.

Corporate Responsibility: Mr. Miller briefly described Kinross's corporate responsibility with five key areas of focus: putting people first, managing the environmental footprint, empowering local communities, generating socioeconomic value, and engaging the workforce. With these core values in mind, Kinross strives to keep its money close to home, with over 50% directly benefiting local communities in the form of wages/benefits, taxes, donations, and use of local vendors and suppliers.

Permitting Process: Notice of Intent for the Juniper Project was published in the Federal Register on March 31<sup>st</sup>, officially starting the NEPA process. Mr. Jim said that Kinross is committed to being proactive and transparent throughout the permitting process, and will keep stakeholders informed by consulting with the community, communicating with local government, and encouraging input and feedback.

Juniper Project Overview: Mr. Jim stated the Juniper Project has the potential to extend the mine life into 2040. The project will increase the mine footprint by approximately 3,900 acres, a 27% increase over the current authorized area. The mine will use existing facilities for processing. Any infrastructure additions will be in the form of dirt work – leach pads, dumps, pit expansions, underground mine development, and road development or modification.

On the environmental side, the mine will maintain the mule deer corridors, work to minimize effects on wildlife and habitat, and consider visual aspects of the project. Concurrent reclamation is planned and will be ongoing in multiple areas of the project. Initial plans for the Juniper Project

contemplated dewatering; but by planning a shallower pit depth, that aspect was removed from the project plan.

Bald Mountain Mine currently has 605 employees and utilized 1,100 contractors over the last year. There is no plan to increase the workforce; the expansion will extend the mine life rather than increase operations.

Conclusion: The presentation ended with the gentlemen answering several questions and sharing contact information for the public and the Board.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Report on Activities: Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. March began with a storm that kept crews busy with snow removal for several days. The Barth Road gravel project was suspended a few days due to rain. During that time, Eureka and Crescent Valley crews worked on cattle guards, wings, and signs.

A blade operator from Eureka has been working on dirt roads in Crescent Valley, establishing ditches and putting crowns on the roads. The buildings and grounds crew in Crescent Valley is working to identify and mark water valves, which is a time-consuming effort. This work is preparation for the planned asphalt treatment next year. Lumos & Associates will conduct a drone flight to gather data needed to identify GPS coordinates for each valve, create a topographic map, and update the water meter map (Crescent Valley has 289 water meters but 69 are inactive).

The buildings and grounds crew completed work at the ball field in Crescent Valley. The dugouts and shed have been painted, and the field has new bases.

Mr. Hodson informed that he is considering a one-day-per-week schedule at the Crescent Valley Town Center. An employee is currently there two days per week from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but for the entire month of March, there were only nine customers. A sign is posted on the door with contact information if a resident needs assistance, and staff is very responsive when called.

Updated Job Description: Mr. Hodson worked with Human Resources to update the Operator series job description, which he presented for approval. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the updated position description for Equipment Operator I, II, III, & Senior class series; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification: Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize recruitment of a Casual Equipment Operator I; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Update: Assistant Public Works Director Joyce Jeppesen reported on projects and activities.

Senior Center Addition: The addition at the Eureka Senior Center (enclosure of the patio area) has been completed.

Road/Utility Project: 30% design plans for the County-wide Road Rehabilitation & Utility Improvement Project have been received. Lumos & Associates will meet with Public Works staff on April 14<sup>th</sup> to review the plans.

Vehicle Purchases / Disposals: Ms. Jeppesen relayed that, until recent years, Public Works has facilitated all vehicle purchases for the County. Public Works Director Jeb Rowley, Ms. Jeppesen, and Senior Mechanic David Jones met recently to discuss how vehicle procurement could be realigned with the County's practices and policies.

Public Works is putting together a vehicle procurement packet. Mr. Jones will construct a form, a checklist of sorts, to ensure that any vehicle purchased is appropriate and safe for its intended use, and to ensure that required accessories or additional features are accounted for. He will meet with any departments that utilize specialty vehicles, such as EMS and the Sheriff's Office, to identify and incorporate those specific needs.

A separate form will ensure that quotes are obtained, purchase orders are completed, and insurance and licensing are in place. The form/packet will go to the Comptroller's office for confirmation that the budget supports the purchase, and will ultimately be brought forward to the Commissioners by the Public Works Director.

A similar form will be created for disposal of vehicles or equipment, to ensure all steps required by County Code and State law are followed, and to confirm all necessary administrative steps are done (such as removing an item from the County's insurance). These efforts will streamline fleet inventory and reduce unnecessary maintenance and administrative costs.

Commissioner McKay motioned to require that all vehicle purchases and disposals be managed by the Department of Public Works in accordance with applicable policies and laws. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Disposal of HP Plotter Printer: Years ago, the Assessor's office gave a plotter/printer to Public Works. It has been kept in service with repairs and parts replacement, but the IT Department said it is end-of-life and not worth expending any more funds. Next year's budget supports purchase of a replacement and, in the meantime, the Assessor's office has offered to do any needed map printing.

Commissioner McKay motioned to declare the HP Plotter Printer, serial number MY1CA59029, surplus property to be disposed of by Public Works; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Water Account Write-Offs: Public Works requested approval to write-off two water accounts, noting that the balances are minimal and the individuals are deceased. Commissioner McKay motioned to write-off two Crescent Valley water accounts, #02-00278-00 and #02-00052-00, in the total amount of \$138.14; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Water Service Application: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service for APN 002-037-12 in the Town of Crescent Valley; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Updated Job Description: Ms. Jeppesen presented an updated job description for a casual position whose primary duties will be maintenance of the parks. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the updated position description for the Public Works Casual Worker; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to recruit for the position of Public Works Casual Worker; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The Swimming Pool will be losing four casual employees through the summer as students move on to college or return to high school. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize recruitment of Casual Attendants and Casual Lifeguards; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Monsen Engineering Quote: Public Works received a quote for a global navigation satellite system, which will be used in locating underground valves in Crescent Valley. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the quote from Monsen Engineering LLC for a new Trimble R2 GNSS Receiver, in an amount not to exceed \$7,894.13, to be paid with funds budgeted for capital outlay (025-110-55010-000) in the RTC Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Facility Rental Fees: Copies of current rental fee schedules for County facilities (approved in 2018) were provided to the Board. Ms. Jeppesen requested that the Board add a \$25.00 rental fee for the Crescent Valley Town Center due to recent interest in renting that facility. She told the Commissioners that she and Jeb Rowley spoke with Tracey Mellard (who referenced this agenda item during public comment) the previous week and invited her to participate in this discussion. Ms. Jeppesen noted that individuals or groups can request that the Board waive rental fees, but Public Works recommends collecting a security deposit whether fees are waived or not.

Ms. Jeppesen researched facility utility costs and rental receipts over the past 3.5 years. Utility costs totaled \$338,000.00 and rental receipts totaled \$38,767.00. These statistics do not include the

Swimming Pool, although it is rented for birthday parties, because those costs are massive and aren't a fair comparison with other facilities.

Chairman Goicoechea invited public comment, offering Ms. Mellard the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Mellard read a statement describing the interest in fostering community and the need for Beowawe residents to have a place to meet on a monthly basis to discuss community interests, such as a produce market or 4-H Club. She recognized that the high cost of materials in the current economy make it impractical to ask that a building be constructed. She and her husband plan to build a small community center on their property, but also must wait for costs to recede. In the interim, she is willing to pay a security deposit and asked that rental fees for the Town Center be waived for a certain period of time. She would like Public Works to compile a list of actual costs so residents can determine whether it's reasonable to ask for a reduction in rental rates, and she thanked the Board for its consideration.

Chairman Goicoechea asked Ms. Mellard to coordinate with Public Works on scheduling facility use, and suggested contacting Nevada Gold Mines about the possibility of using the meeting room at the Horseshoe Ranch, which is much closer. He also suggested working with Cooperative Extension if the community decides to pursue a produce market or 4-H activities.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to set a fee of \$25.00 for rental of the Crescent Valley Town Center, and motioned to waive the facility fees for Ms. Mellard to coordinate community meetings for Beowawe residents at the Town Center upon deposit of a security fee. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities.

Adjudication Hearings: Testimony has concluded concerning the BLM's Public Water Reserve claims in the Diamond Valley Adjudication hearings in District Court.

Mormon Cricket Meeting: Several people from the US Department of Agriculture and Nevada Department of Agriculture were in Eureka on March 31<sup>st</sup> for a Mormon cricket and grasshopper management meeting. The treatment plan is on schedule this year and two treatment blocks have been identified on BLM lands – one in Diamond Valley and one in Newark Valley.

Mr. Tibbitts said the Nevada Department of Agriculture should be notified when people observe hatches or cricket migration, and he offered to work with people on reporting. He noted that landowners are not restricted from treating on private lands, and products are available for sale to the general public. He advised that it is often better to let the crickets migrate through an area, because baiting tends to keep them in an area.

Mining Projects: Two mining projects are very close to releasing public Draft Environmental Impact Statements. Notice of Availability of the public Draft EIS for Nevada Gold Mine's Goldrush Project is expected any day.

The public Draft EIS for Nevada Vanadium's Gibellini Mine Project is complete, but must move through the approval processes within the Department of Interior and BLM before Notice of Availability can be published.

BLM Letter: Mr. Tibbitts said the BLM copied him on a letter dated March 4<sup>th</sup> to Kelly & Al Hoekenga. There have been some ongoing issues with wild horses getting onto private meadows and lands on both sides of Highway 50. There are fencing issues, and the BLM recently identified a section of fence removed along Highway 50 near the new gravel pit at Devil's Gate. Mr. Tibbitts is looking into the possibility of gaining some assistance for fence improvements from the Eureka Conservation District or the N6 Grazing District.

The Roberts Mountain Herd Management Area has been identified by the BLM as a gather priority. If the gather moves forward this year, it will alleviate some of the drift on the north side of the highway.

Conservation Credits/Debits: It has been determined that construction of the new NDOT maintenance yard in Diamond Valley will create one conservation debit for sage grouse under the

Conservation Credit System. Later in the day, Mr. Tibbitts will participate in a call between Nevada Department of Transportation and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Team concerning the debit and potential solutions. The Conservation District is writing a grant proposal for sage grouse work, and it may be possible for NDOT to partner on a project to offset the debit.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Navy's Intergovernmental Executive Committee on April 11<sup>th</sup>; a US Fish & Wildlife Service webinar on April 12<sup>th</sup>; the Eureka Conservation District on April 13<sup>th</sup>; the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on April 13<sup>th</sup>; and the Subcommittee on Public Lands on April 15<sup>th</sup> in Ely.

Grazing Issues: The Elko District BLM sent a letter to all permittees advising them to prepare for adjustments related to drought. The Battle Mountain District sent a similar letter in December. There are two public consultation letters concerning operations in Eureka County involving Sadler Ranch and grazing on the north Diamond Range, and Fitzwater's 3F Ranch and grazing on the Monitor Range. The proposed grazing adjustments are not BLM driven, but have been offered by the permittees.

Mr. Tibbitts cautioned permittees about undertaking a DRA (drought response action) under the 2012 Drought Environmental Assessment. Permittees should be aware that they are not making an adjustment for one season, but are tied to the DRA for the duration of the drought. Despite the ongoing drought, Mr. Tibbitts observed that Eureka County has experienced some well-timed rains that have averted a vegetative drought, and the rangelands are actually in better condition than many areas of the State.

Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources: Mr. Tibbitts prepared Eureka County's formal updates and requests for submission to the Subcommittee on Public Lands for its meeting in Ely on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tibbitts said the requests are similar to those sent in previous years, but he did ask for the Board's latitude to allow addition of two items.

The first is related to the Biden Administration 30x30 Initiative (calling for conservation of 30% of land and waters by the year 2030) and also Nevada's Assembly Joint Resolution 3 (calling for protection of 50% of the lands by 2030). He would like the Subcommittee to address the difference between 'protection' versus 'conservation' in the 30x30 Initiative.

The second addition is a recommendation that the Legislature rely on counties and Conservation Districts in working with landowners and getting projects on the ground. These local groups can often build partnerships with ranch owners that the federal and State agencies can't.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve submitting Eureka County's Update and Requests, with the additions described, to the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources for their meeting in Ely on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER**

Update on Cooperative Efforts: Chairman Goicoechea, appointed County Health Officer, is working closely with Churchill County to provide supplemental health care services in Eureka County. The group is working on an amendment to legislation that would allow non-adjacent counties to form a health district. The group will meet with the Legislative Interim Committee in May or June. If the legislative change doesn't gain momentum, an Interlocal Agreement could be considered. The next 'health district' stakeholder meeting is scheduled in Mineral County later in the month.

Churchill County is considering policy changes to bring some of the health and human services, currently provided by the State, back to the local level. As this moves forward, Eureka County may need to consider similar policy changes. The Department of Health & Human Services was initially receptive to the idea, but is now questioning how it might impact funding.

In his role as County Health Officer and as a rural voice, the Chairman will attend the Governor sponsored Nevada Healthcare Provider Summit in Las Vegas on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the Summit is to seek meaningful solutions to health care challenges and provider shortages in the State.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel; Sheriff Jesse Watts; Television District (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada Dept. of Public Safety; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Project Real; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (2); US Senator Jacky Rosen; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); and Governing E-news (multiple).

**Commissioner Reports:** On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Goicoechea is scheduled to participate in a White House briefing call with county leadership regarding the Bipartisan Innovation Act. In two weeks, he will meet with House and Senate Appropriations staff seeking additional funding to keep efforts moving forward related to management of wild horse.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.*

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

*I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the April 6, 2022, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

*I, Kathy Bacon Bowling, 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 Administrative Assistant.*

/s/ Kathy Bowling

Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk