

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 14, 2020

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 14, 2020. The meeting was conducted telephonically pursuant to Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy (via telephone); Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel (via telephone); and Deputy Commissioner Clerk Jackie Berg. Members of the public and County staff attended the meeting via a toll-free conference call. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 9, 2020: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve minutes of the March 9, 2020, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

March 20, 2020: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve minutes of the March 20, 2020, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Pursuant to Eureka County's Declaration of a State of Emergency (issued March 26<sup>th</sup>), accounts payable and payroll were processed on schedule, subject to ratification by the Board.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$328,961.43 for accounts payable; \$628,999.54 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); \$480,623.52 for a pass through tax allocation to the School District; \$645,045.20 for a pass through to the State Controller; \$303.08 for a pass through to the Department of Taxation; \$144.00 for a pass through to Washoe County Crime Lab; and \$5,396.20 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$2,089,472.97. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Declaration of a State of Emergency: Following Governor Sisolak's Declaration of a State of Emergency in Nevada, the Eureka County Emergency Management Council and Board of Commissioners issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency in Eureka County. The Declaration was effective 5:00 p.m. on March 27<sup>th</sup> through midnight on April 16<sup>th</sup>. It directed that County offices be closed (with the exception of those providing essential services) and that employees be sent home on administrative leave with pay to perform work duties remotely through electronic means when possible, and to remain "on-call" for duties that cannot be performed remotely. The Declaration suspended regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners, but authorized signing of the Tentative Budget and continued payment of accounts payable and payroll.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the Declaration of a State of Emergency in Eureka County, which was issued on March 26, 2020. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Declaration #2: Governor Sisolak extended the State of Emergency in Nevada through April 30<sup>th</sup>, and Federal and State agencies provided guidance defining essential services and businesses.

In order to align with these directives and per recommendations by the Emergency Management Council, Chairman Goicoechea motioned to update and amend Eureka County's Declaration of a State of Emergency, identified as Declaration #2, extending the Declaration through 11:59 p.m. on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL and the  
EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY – Directive #2  
IN EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA**

*April 14, 2020*

**WHEREAS**, the Eureka County Emergency Management Council has been meeting regularly to monitor status of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in order to respond rapidly and effectively in determining the best course of action to protect the citizens of Eureka County and the employees of Eureka County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eureka County Emergency Management Council has formally recommended that the Board of County Commissioners join the Council to declare a State of Emergency in Eureka County due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is rapidly spreading, rising to the level of a pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, and causing Governor Sisolak to declare a State of Emergency in the State of Nevada on March 13, 2020, which has been followed by numerous Emergency Orders and Directives from the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to public health and safety in Eureka County;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Eureka County Emergency Management Council and the Board of Eureka County Commissioners do order and declare a State of Emergency within Eureka County, and do hereby order the following: the State of Emergency which was effective 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020, will continue through 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020, unless otherwise ordered (*subject to further restrictions if so ordered by the Governor of the State of Nevada*).

**Concerning Eureka County Offices & Employees**: All Eureka County offices, other than essential services, will continue to be closed and all Eureka County employees will remain home on administrative leave with pay. Offices and departments that provide essential services will continue to operate with work conducted through electronic means whenever possible or by on-call means if appropriate.

Each Eureka County office shall post a Notice with a phone number and an email where persons may contact the elected official, department head, or designated employee to conduct necessary and essential business, by electronic means if possible, or by appointment if the matter is urgent. All nonessential business is suspended for the designated period of time.

Eureka County employees shall remain on-call, and be subject to call, during their regularly scheduled working hours (or alternate hours assigned by a supervisor to accommodate this State of Emergency). Employees must adhere to all personnel policies applicable during regular work hours. Employees will be required to submit leave requests for scheduled time off (i.e. sick leave) when they will not be available on-call.

For necessary work that cannot be completed by remote means, an employee must obtain written pre-approval from a supervisor (by email or text) for the specified assignment with a scheduled date and time to conduct such work at the office or worksite.

**Concerning the Board of County Commissioners:** Meetings of the Eureka County Board of Commissioners are suspended during the designated time. The following business, normally approved during an open meeting of the Board, will proceed without formal Board action:

- ◆ Accounts payable and payroll will be processed as scheduled

**Designation of Essential Services:** Following is a list of essential services that will continue to operate during the designated time. This list may be expanded as deemed prudent and necessary by the Eureka County Emergency Management Council.

- ◆ Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Ambulance and EMS
- ◆ Volunteer Fire Departments
- ◆ Eureka Medical Clinic
- ◆ Crescent Valley Medical Clinic
- ◆ Senior Centers (in the current capacity of providing home-delivered meals)
- ◆ Eureka Landfill
- ◆ Public Works

**NOW, THEREFORE, if any directive of the Emergency Management Council and the Board of County Commissioners declared herein is in conflict with a directive, order, or declaration of any federal, state, or local authority, the public is ordered to undertake the more restrictive course of action directed, ordered, or declared.**

**BE IT SO ORDERED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman  
Eureka County Board of Commissioners  
Emergency Management Council

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Deputy Commissioner Clerk

**Ratify Tentative Budget:** The County's first Declaration of a State of Emergency authorized the Board to sign the Tentative Budget outside of the meeting to ensure that the Nevada Department of Taxation received a hard copy by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify signing and transmitting the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**Anticipated Budget Cuts:** Chairman Goicoechea cautioned department heads to be prepared to discuss budget cuts during the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Chairman, along with Comptroller Kim Todd, participated in a conference call on April 10<sup>th</sup>, facilitated by Nevada Association of Counties for county fiscal officers around the State.

Ms. Todd explained that NACO engaged a private firm to analyze projected tax revenues and the resulting economic downturn due to COVID-19. Most counties are planning budget cuts of up to 25% for the upcoming fiscal year, are postponing capital projects, and are implementing hiring freezes. Some counties are considering layoffs and others plan to renegotiate salary increases and cost of living allowances. The State is proposing budget cuts that could total \$687 million over the next two years. These cuts on the State level will affect various grants and numerous human services that will then be allocated to the individual counties.

NACO's contracted analysts predict it will take 3.5 to 4 years for Nevada's economy to return to its pre-Coronavirus position. Because of reliance on tourism and the gaming industry, Nevada is currently experiencing the highest unemployment rate in the nation. A special Legislative Session is planned, tentatively in July, for legislators to address the State's fiscal concerns. Chairman Goicoechea continues working with legislators and the Governor's office on a common-sense approach for resuming business in rural Nevada.

Spending Freeze / Hiring Freeze: Chairman Goicoechea asked that all departments implement a spending freeze in the current fiscal year by limiting purchases to items absolutely necessary to conduct business. He asked that any capital purchases or “big-ticket” items be presented to the Board for approval. In regards to personnel, positions already approved and currently advertised may be filled, but the Board will be reluctant to waive the hiring freeze for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The Chairman stated that capital projects will be suspended unless directly related to health and safety. The sewer pond will be addressed as a health and sanitation issue. Radio reprogramming will be completed because it relates directly to emergency services. Work will continue on the Kobeh Valley test well because of the need to supplement the municipal water supply.

Commissioner McKay and Commissioner Sharkozy agreed with minimizing spending in the current fiscal year and scrutinizing the budget for the upcoming year.

Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts asked for direction related to contracted weed spraying. The Commissioners concurred that monies collected as part of the tax rate from residents in the Weed Control District should be used for weed treatment. At a future meeting, they can determine if the County will subsidize further treatment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Treasurer Pernecia Johnson offered to invite the financial advisors to the next Commission meeting for an investment update. She asked when Public Works employees will return to work and when the office will be open to the public.

The Chairman responded that some Public Works employees have already been working. He will meet with the Director to discuss return to work details for the remaining staff and this may be done in a phased approach. Doors will likely remain locked for a period, but people may call and be granted access to conduct business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.*

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

*I, Jackie Berg, Deputy Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the April 14, 2020, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Deputy 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 Deputy Commissioner Clerk.*

/s/ Lisa Hoehne  
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder