

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Quarterly Meeting – April 15, 2011**

STATE OF NEVADA    )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA   )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law for their quarterly meeting on April 15, 2011, at the Crescent Valley Town Center. Present were Chairman Leonard Fiorenzi, Vice Chairman Mike Page, Member Jim Ithurralde, and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was in attendance via the interactive video conferencing link from Eureka. Present for the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board were Chairwoman Dawn Gann and Member/Clerk Bryan Mason. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Fiorenzi called for public comments; there were none.

**JOINT MEETING WITH CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

FY2011-2012 Budget Planning/Crescent Valley Town Park Project: CVTAB Chairwoman, Dawn Gann, stated that the CVTAB reviewed the project costs related to the Crescent Valley Town Park Project for the purpose of reducing overall costs. Ms Gann and CVTAB Member, Bryan Mason, gave a detailed report on how the project estimate of \$1.2 million could be reduced to \$678,000.00 or less. They recommended that the project be phased over several years which would reduce the impact of trying to fund the park in one budget year. They believed a good basic park could be constructed in the first year for \$400,000.00 or less. The initial phase would include the basic park layout, the septic tank, paved walkway, paved handicap accesses, and initial landscaping. Other items could be added in subsequent years when park usage shows they are justified.

Recommendations for reducing costs were: using volunteers and donated equipment for demolition of the existing restrooms and fencing (with the County paying fuel costs); using existing materials and amenities when possible; graveling parking and other areas rather than paving; building a bully barn and postponing construction of a concession building; further reducing the grass area by incorporating desert landscaping; using above ground shelters and benches instead of underground dugouts for the ball field; and utilizing a portable net on the basketball court instead of constructing a separate tennis court. Ms. Gann added that Barrick Gold has committed to some financial help, but can't move forward until the project is approved by the County and costs are finalized.

After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed they would like to see a drawing of what the CVTAB has in mind to be sure that the estimates coincide with the plans. They noted that \$48,000.00 has already been expended on an architect for the plans to date. Everyone agreed that Commissioner Page would meet with the CVTAB members to work on the park plan and to show it phased out by budget years, preferably identified on a map or drawn out. It was noted that there is no guarantee of approval for future budget years. The Commissioners also recommended that Public Works be included in the discussions as needed.

Encourage Growth in Crescent Valley Area: Ms. Gann stated the CVTAB would really like everyone to work cooperatively on ideas and projects to encourage growth in the Crescent Valley area. They have put together a brochure showing what might be available to rent in the area and are planning to distribute it to the local mines. They want to contact absentee property owners to see if they might be willing to sell their property and would make this information available also.

Commissioner Page invited several economic development professionals to the meeting, and Chairman Fiorenzi invited them to speak at this time.

Matt Hanson, with Hanson Architects (Reno), stated they have worked with governmental agencies to meet workforce housing needs and other similar projects. He stated the first step is to identify the need, find what opportunities might already exist, and then work on strategies to make the cost and availability of housing meet the need and financial status of the consumer. Mr. Hanson detailed several of these strategies and added that starting with a study of the area may be a good first step.

Daniel Herr, with The Clean Energy Center (Reno), talked about renewable energy and how it can be used to lower the monthly expense of living in a rural area, how it can increase salability of property without increasing property taxes, and what tax credits and other incentives are available to defray costs of installing renewable energy.

Rod Davis, with the Cooperative Extension in Lander County, stated he has been involved in the Lander County Sustainable Development Committee since its inception. This committee has worked on the FIND Project (utilizing infrastructure from closed mine sites for businesses and economic development), and the REDs Project (renewable energy development on public lands). The Sustainability Development Committee has also done extensive data collection related to planning for business, industry, and community growth, and they would be willing to share their knowledge with Eureka County and the Crescent Valley community.

North End Road Shop: The Board would like a recommendation from Crescent Valley regarding location of the future Road Shop and Chairman Fiorenzi directed the CVTAB to hold public meetings to receive community input regarding this. The current proposed location is in the vicinity of the Crescent Valley Fairgrounds.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Crescent Valley Projects: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on current projects in the Crescent Valley area. The interior wall modification at the Community Center is progressing; framing and fiber glass reinforced sheet rock are being installed and everything should be complete in about three weeks. The Crescent Valley Well test pumping is complete and the well tested at 375 gpm; the next phase of the project will be installation of the new pump. The Arsenic Plant pre-purchase was held up at the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water longer than expected and the notice to proceed with construction was just received. Construction is estimated at 45 to 60 days. Bids will be opened on May 6<sup>th</sup> for the Crescent Valley Water Transmission & Arsenic Treatment Project.

Newsletter on Clean-Up and Recycling Programs: Mr. Damele explained that four versions of the same newsletter were prepared depending on what was available in each area of the County. Thursdays in May will be clean-up for yard waste (organic only) and furniture; there will be free dump days in May for these same articles (Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Lay-Down Yard in Crescent Valley, and Saturday during normal business hours at the Landfill in Eureka). The Green-Up Program will end on July 1, 2011, so the County will begin charging for tires, but will continue to accept white goods, scrap metal, car bodies, and batteries under the recycling program at no charge. The newsletter also outlined the recycling program that was recently implemented in Eureka for cardboard, aluminum, newspapers, and magazines. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve sending the County-wide newsletter

with information on the Green-Up Program, May Clean-Up for the townsites, and the recycling program; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Site Plan for North End Road Shop: The Board agreed to table any action on this agenda item until comments were received from the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board regarding citizen input on location of the new Road Shop.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Page attended an emergency meeting of Nevada Works on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Fiorenzi met with the Housing Core Group and Nevada Rural Housing Authority on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Quarterly Breakdown of Costs Related to Mt. Hope EIS: Eureka County Natural Resources provided a written report on expenses related to the Mt. Hope EIS over the last quarter (\$141,251.25), expenses to-date (\$2,637,876.63), and funds obligated but not yet expended (\$356,008.38). The to-date totals are itemized as follows:

CONTRACTED EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS:	\$961,785.01
COUNTY STAFF & RESOURCES:	\$691,575.00
<u>WATER MONITORING &amp; STUDIES:</u>	<u>\$984,516.62</u>
<b>TOTAL TO-DATE:</b>	<b>\$2,637,876.63</b>

## **NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Security Agreement for 50 Townhome Units: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained that when the County extended the repayable grant for purchase of the 50 townhome units, the only agreement between NRHA and the County was the Promissory Note. Now that NRHA has taken ownership of the units, it is prudent for the County to enter into a Security Agreement with the townhomes as collateral. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve the Security Agreement between Nevada Rural Housing Authority and Eureka County and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement outside of the meeting; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

2011 Legislature: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported that he traveled to Carson City on April 11<sup>th</sup> and met Senators McGinnis and Lee, along with Lobbyist, Bjorn Selinder, and Lander County Commissioner Gene Etcheverry, regarding SB138. Mr. Sullivan also participated in the work session on the bill with the Senate Health & Human Services Committee, and was pleased to report that most of the language that raised concerns with Eureka County has been revised or removed.

Letter of Support for Cooperative Extension: Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to submit a letter of support to the Nevada Legislature regarding Cooperative Extension, if it was still timely to do so, and that the Chairman be authorized to sign it outside of the meeting; Chairman Ithurrealde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Recorder/Auditor, Mike Rebaleati; Public Works Director, Ron Damele; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts; Eureka County Economic Development Program; Eureka County Television District; Eureka County Fair Board; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (4): Cooperative Extension, Gary McCuin; Beowawe Power, LLC; Elko Echo (BLM) newsletter; Home Health Services of Nevada; Nevada Rural Housing Authority (3); Nevada Rock Art Foundation; Nevada State Demographer, Jeff Hardcastle; Nevada Tax Commission; Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Nevada Economy in Brief newsletter; Western Counties Alliance; US Fish & Wildlife Service, Nevada Office.

