

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 18, 2015

STATE OF NEVADA            )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA        )

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on May 18, 2015. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; and Commissioner Clerk, 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 and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the May 18<sup>th</sup> agenda; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Eureka Activities Coordinator, Cindy Beutel, reported that despite the rainy weather, the annual *Show What Ya Brung Car Show* was a success with 84 cars participating. She thanked the many donors for the raffle prizes and noted that the addition of a carnival was made possible with contributions from JD Disposal, Jacobs Construction, and Midway Gold. She thanked students, Jake Jensen and Josh Garcia, who helped with the event; recognized Commissioner Sharkozy for announcing; and thanked Public Works and the Sheriff's Office for their assistance.

The next big event is a circus with two shows on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The drag races, typically held in conjunction with the car show, were cancelled due to weather but are rescheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>. Artists in the Park is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Beutel has submitted a grant application to Nevada Arts Council. McEwen Mining has generously donated \$5,000.00 towards the event. Lastly, the Eureka County phone book has been published and is being distributed.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 6, 2015: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve minutes of the April 6, 2015, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

April 13, 2015: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve minutes of the April 13, 2015, budget meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

April 20, 2015: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve minutes of the April 20, 2015, meeting with minor edits provided by staff; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **FINANCE**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Acting Recorder & Auditor, Tina Hubbard. The Board reviewed a voucher presented by Sheriff Keith Logan who explained that this was a request for a replacement payment for an indigent medical bill for services incurred on behalf of an inmate on August 24, 2013. The original check was processed in September 2013, erroneously cashed, later reimbursed to the County, but never replaced. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve payment of \$360.00 to Advanced Radiology, Ltd., for the 2013 bill; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. (This amount was included in the total expenditures presented for approval).

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$224,578.17 for accounts payable and \$30.74 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$224,608.91; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. It was noted that \$4,502.72 was included in the total, but was a pass-through donation for the Western Heritage Days. Payroll, which will be issued on May 20<sup>th</sup>, was not included in the total and will be added to the next meeting's expenditures.

Auditor's Report: The Board reviewed ending fund balances as presented on the Auditor's Report.

Medicaid Payments: During the last meeting, the Board discussed information provided by NACO that counties could petition the Board of the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons to utilize Indigent Accident Funds to offset payments to the State for the Medicaid Match Program. Further research showed the County does make monthly payments to the State under the Medicaid Match Program, but since the typical funding sources are not exhausted, there is no need to petition for use of alternate funds for these payments.

Credit Card Audit: The Board reviewed information provided by Ms. Hubbard related to the audit conducted on all County credit cards. The audit showed which employees held bank cards and/or fuel cards and limits for each account.

## **COUNTY ASSESSOR & RECORDER/AUDITOR**

Shared Employee: County Assessor, Michael Mears, presented a revised job description for the Deputy Assessor I/Deputy Recorder Auditor I position. The main change in the job description was assignment of the Assessor as the primary supervisor to better meet the needs in the County Assessor's office. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the amended job description for the Deputy Assessor I/Deputy Recorder Auditor I, contingent upon review by the Human Resources specialists contracted through Nevada POOL/PACT. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>; participated in the car show in Eureka on May 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>; and attended a Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting and training on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Etchegaray traveled to Reno on May 12<sup>th</sup> for Desert Research Institute's Biochar Field Day, and attended the Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting on the evening of May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Goicoechea traveled to Carson City on May 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> to testify at the Nevada Legislature; chaired the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>; and attended the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting in Winnemucca on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Contract Extension: A request was received from Abigail C. Johnson Consulting to extend the contract which provides consulting services to Natural Resources, Public Works, and the County Commission. The current two-year contract expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, but \$40,000.00 in funding still remains under this \$63,000.00 time and materials contract. Services provided under this contract include environmental reviews, rural community development, project management and coordination, and writing/editing of the *Plain Talk* newsletter. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a six-month extension to the professional services contract with Abigail C. Johnson Consulting through December 31, 2015, with no net increase to the existing contract; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Addendum to Benefit Intelligence Insurance Services Contract: The Medical Clinics Advisory Committee reviews and provides recommendations on the annual clinical services contract with Nevada Health Centers, Inc., and also provides contract performance reviews. It

was suggested that a professional company review and negotiate the upcoming contract, as well as provide ongoing support in oversight and enforcement.

Benefit Intelligence Insurance Services has an existing contract with the County for insurance broker services. They proposed an addendum of up to \$30,000.00 to provide these additional services. The addendum would allow for related professional fees as approved by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Etchegaray and Commissioner Sharkozy voiced concerns over this added expense. Members of the MCAC, including Chair Garney Damele, were in attendance and joined the conversation. Several points were highlighted during the lengthy discussion. NVHC has paid a substantial amount in nonperformance penalties, which will supplement the cost of this contract. Since inception of the MCAC in 2012, NVHC has only provided a physician (required by contract) for a short period. The Committee feels that some of the issues needing to be addressed are beyond their scope of duties. Chairman Goicoechea reassured everyone that the intent is not to replace NVHC with another provider, but simply to bring the services more in line with the contract, which is costing Eureka County \$778,500.00 annually.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve a one-year contract addendum, beginning June 1, 2015, with Benefit Intelligence Insurance Services to provide review, oversight, enforcement, and ongoing support related to Eureka County's contract for clinical services at the Eureka and Crescent Valley Medical Clinics, at a cost of up to \$30,000.00 plus additional professional fees as approved. There was an amendment to the motion that, once the contract addendum is in place, a letter in this regard will be sent to Nevada Health Centers. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Amendment to Eureka County Code: A letter of resignation (effective June 30<sup>th</sup>) was received from Susan Fye, elected Justice of the Peace for the Beowawe Township, in which she thanked the citizens of Eureka County for the opportunity to serve and explained that other circumstances were driving this resignation.

District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained that each township is required to have at least one Justice of the Peace. The Commissioners have the authority to determine the township boundaries and would do so by ordinance. Chairman Goicoechea noted that it may be time to combine the two townships into one, adding that this concept has been debated in recent years. Justice of the Peace, John Schweble, indicated he would be willing to accept the added responsibilities.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to propose an amendment to Eureka County Code, Title 16, Eureka County Justice Courts, to amend Section .020 of Chapter 10, Establishment of Township Boundaries, to consolidate the two existing judicial townships into one, consistent with NRS 257.010. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Residents were assured that court will still continue in the Crescent Valley area.

Justice Court Manager, Cindy Garcia, commented that she worked with Judge Fye for many years and Judge Fye deserves a tremendous amount of credit for the honorable job she has done for the County, the court system, and the Beowawe Township.

Proposal to Abandon Street: A proposal was received from Carrie Schweble that Eureka County abandon a portion of Mineral Street located between 300 South Spring Street and 290 South Spring Street, with half incorporated into 300 South Spring Street. She felt this portion of the street no longer served a purpose and incorporation into private property would increase tax revenue.

Public Works Director, Ron Damele, informed the Board that a main water line is located under the street and the area of interest also contains an inactive well with a certificated water right that will likely serve a future use for the County. Additionally, transfer of the property to a private party may require an appraisal under State law, at unnecessary expense to the County.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to deny the request to abandon a portion of Mineral Street in the Town of Eureka; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: The Sagebrush Ecosystem Council met on May 14<sup>th</sup> and worked on changes in the State Plan (Alternative E) in the Greater Sage-Grouse Draft EIS in order to tighten up language dealing with habitat objectives. The comment period (being called a protest period) for the Final EIS will open within the next couple of weeks.

Legislative Updates: Chairman Goicoechea and Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, provided testimony at the Nevada Legislature on **SB456**, which revises provisions concerning control and preservation of certain accessory roads; this passed the floor of the Senate and is now before the Assembly. They provided testimony on **SJR5**, legislation supporting the Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan developed by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and encouraging the US Fish & Wildlife Service not to list the bird as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Sheriff Logan provided a brief update on legislation that would require law enforcement officers to be fitted with body cameras. Assessor Mears stated that **SB95** is moving forward and would reduce the publication requirements for the tax assessment roll.

Chairman Goicoechea encouraged those in the agriculture industry to provide feedback on **SB495**, which would place restrictions on commercial animal feed. Similarly, **SB488** will place restrictions on biologicals and pharmaceuticals for animals.

Later in the day it was reported that **SB157**, to enact the State & Local Government Cooperation Act, had passed the Assembly and was headed to the Governor's office for signature.

## **AMBULANCE & EMS**

Activity Report: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on activities since his last report on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Eureka had 10 calls for service (52 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had zero calls for service (20 year-to-date). Volunteer staffing level remains fairly stable, although one volunteer resigned in Eureka due to being transferred out of the area. Continuing education training was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> in Eureka, and April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> in Crescent Valley. Training is scheduled in Eureka on May 18<sup>th</sup> and in Crescent Valley on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Summit Air Ambulance was bought by Reach Air Medical Services, a large California based air medical provider. Nevada Regional Manager at Summit Air, Jeff Antonicelli, says there will be no name change and the only operational change will be greater access to fixed wing transport and a greater network for subscription services.

Mr. Sullivan traveled to Carson City on May 7<sup>th</sup> to submit the annual operating permit for the ambulance service to the Nevada State EMS Office. The State has combined the Eureka and Crescent Valley services into one, so only one license is required. This will provide a nominal savings to the County, with no operational changes.

The State EMS Office has requested that the MPTV (multi-patient transport vehicle) be showcased at two events. First is the Rural Preparedness Summit in Fallon on June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and the second is the Nevada State Firefighter's Association Conference in Virginia City June 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Update on Public Works Projects: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, provided an update on recent activities. SLAG Working Group: The next meeting of the SLAG Working Group has been scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Extrication Training: Extrication training will be offered in Eureka on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Crescent Valley Town Park: Mr. Damele met with Dawn Gann, Chair of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board, to review water conservation ideas for the Crescent Valley Town Park. Fire Chiefs Meeting: A Fire Chiefs meeting was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Radio

Repeater Annual Inspections: The radio repeater annual inspections and tower certifications were delayed due to rainy weather, but will commence shortly. Water Systems: Water meter upgrades were completed in District 1 of Devil's Gate GID. The water conservation notices will be sent in the next round of billings for each respective water system. May Cleanup: May Cleanup is progressing successfully. Eureka Swimming Pool: Pool Supervisor, Clint Tognotti, is attending American Red Cross training in Las Vegas.

Stevens Basin & Kobeh Valley Exploratory Well Drilling Project: With the Diamond Valley water situation, staff feels it is timely to move forward with exploratory groundwater wells. Mr. Damele explained that a balance remains from the Robins Street Project that would cover the cost of this well drilling project. Mr. Damele has been working with Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, and Marty Ugalde, of Day Engineering, on specifications for the proposed Stevens Basin & Kobeh Valley Exploratory Well Drilling Project. A June 5<sup>th</sup> bid opening is planned, with a mandatory pre-bid meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bugenig provided details on the technical aspects of the project. He explained the goal is to determine the water quality and quantity that could be attained by developing wells in two different areas. These will be very deep wells that will begin as exploratory bore holes and will hopefully transition into production wells. Projected cost is \$200,000.00 per well (if they advance to the production phase) with the initial \$120,000.00-\$140,000.00 for the exploratory phase. Budget Director, Michael Mears, confirmed that funding remains in the current year's budget due to reserves from the Robins Street Project.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize staff to bid the Stevens Basin & Kobeh Valley Groundwater Exploratory Well Drilling, Construction, & Test Pumping Project, PWP No. EU-2015-188. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mount Hope Project General Manager, Mike Iannacchione, asked if there was a possibility for the wells to be used as monitoring wells should the water quality not test satisfactorily. Mr. Bugenig confirmed that this possibility is being considered, especially in Kobeh Valley.

BLM Annual Operating Plan: Mr. Damele presented the Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District Office, Elko District Office, and Eureka County. The only changes from the previous year were to list the new Diamond Valley and Beowawe Fire Chiefs. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the 2015 Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between Bureau of Land Management and Eureka County; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Resolution to Provide Payments to VFDs: Mr. Damele presented a resolution authorizing payments to the local Volunteer Fire Departments when responding to wildland fires and all-risk incidents. Nevada Division of Forestry will reimburse the wildland payments on a quarterly basis. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt a resolution to provide payment for fire engines directly to the Volunteer Fire Departments within the Eureka Fire Protection District when responding to wildland fires and all-risk incidents. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

May 18, 2015

## **RESOLUTION**

### **TO PROVIDE PAYMENT FOR FIRE ENGINES DIRECTLY TO THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE EUREKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WHEN RESPONDING TO WILDLAND FIRE AND ALL RISK INCIDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to compensate each volunteer fire department for responding engines reporting to and working wildland fires and all-risk incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the following departments included in the Eureka County Fire Protection District: Eureka Volunteer Fire Department, Diamond Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Pine Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Dunphy Volunteer Fire Department, and Beowawe Volunteer fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is dedicated to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the county and protecting watershed areas and lands having an inflammable cover within the District; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer fire departments respond to wildfires and all-risk incidents as capabilities of the department allow and when they are dispatched by the Eureka County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County will reimburse each department for the time each Eureka County engine spends on a wildfire, or all-risk incident; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners will compensate each volunteer department for operating County supplied equipment based on the following criteria:

1. Each volunteer department engine shall be dispatched to the incident by the Eureka County Sheriff's Office and each responding engine shall include a minimum staffing level that is sufficient to operate the engine effectively.
2. The rate will be \$40.00/\$20.00 (\$40.00 minimum / \$20.00 an hour after the first two hours). Fire engines, rescue trucks and tenders are eligible to receive payments. Fire engines, rescue trucks and tender training and maintenance hours are exempt from payment.
3. Volunteer Fire Chiefs will be required to submit run sheets to the Public Works Department for approval, no later than ten calendar days following the date of the incident in order to receive the reimbursement and in all instances the decision of the Public Works department shall be final.
4. This resolution is contingent on financial funding available from the Board of County Commissioners and can be terminated at any time for any cause with or without notice.
5. This resolution will be effective beginning July 1, 2015.

ADOPTED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

Eureka County Commissioners

/s/ JJ Goicoechea

JJ Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Mike Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chair

/s/ Fred Etchegaray

Fred Etchegaray, Member

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

## **CLERK & TREASURER**

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for April was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Ending General Fund balance for the month was \$10,087,511.94. Overall balance, including encumbered funds was \$51,447,080.56.

## **COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Update Report:** Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, reported on activities for the Opera House, Sentinel Museum, and Economic Development. An application was submitted to Nevada Commission on Tourism for a marketing grant in the

amount of \$2,500.00. Ms. Rossman will participate on the Territory Advisory Committee to consider these grant requests.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Program Board is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Sentinel Museum is busy with tourists and ongoing work with museum collections. The Opera House meeting schedule was provided for the Board's perusal.

### **CRESCENT VALLEY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

Request for Funding: Crescent Valley resident, Angie Black, presented a proposal requesting funds for upcoming events at the Crescent Valley Arena & Rodeo Grounds. She began with an update on a recent gymkhana series, which wrapped up the previous weekend. Ms. Black obtained a multitude of donations of cash and prizes and she thanked each contributor by name. She thanked Public Works and the Road Department for their assistance.

Ms. Black is planning a fall gymkhana series and requested \$2,000.00 to cover awards. She will continue to obtain donations and will hold raffles at each gymkhana to help fund the events. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Angie Black's request to grant \$2,000.00 in Crescent Valley Activity Program funds towards the next gymkhana series in Crescent Valley; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Mr. Tibbitts traveled to Carson City on May 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> where he testified at the Nevada State Legislature on various legislation; attended a follow-up meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> related to the Groundwater Management Plan Workshop held in April; traveled to Reno on May 12<sup>th</sup> for the Biochar Field Day sponsored by Desert Research Institute; attended the Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>; and traveled to Winnemucca on May 15<sup>th</sup> for the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Eureka Conservation District meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>; a State Conservation Commission teleconference on May 20<sup>th</sup>; a Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting the evening of May 20<sup>th</sup>; and a Fallon Naval Air Station Joint Land Use Study luncheon on June 1<sup>st</sup> in Fallon;

Biochar Process: Amaron Energy will return on May 26<sup>th</sup> to begin processing biochar and will be here for about two weeks.

State Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Draft EIS: Mr. Tibbitts explained there is a push in Congress to instate a ten year delay restricting the Fish & Wildlife Service from moving forward with any rule writing or determination of whether the sage grouse should be listed under the Endangered Species Act in instances where a state has adopted their own plan. The ten year delay would allow the state to implement their plan. This passed the House as part of the National Defense Authorization Act and will now go on to the Senate.

BLM Fish Creek Herd Management Area: There still has been no agency response to the Statement of Reasons, which was filed for the Notice of Appeal on the BLM Fish Creek Herd Management Area wild horse gather and fertility control treatment.

The agreement from attorney, Mark Pollot, was received and was presented for approval. The amount of \$7,500.00 (a match of the rancher's contribution) was approved at an earlier meeting. The agreement incorporates this amount plus outside printing/copying costs, if needed, but which aren't anticipated. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the formal agreement with Mark Pollot, Esq., for legal representation related to the BLM Fish Creek Herd Management Area wild horse gather and fertility control treatment for the previously approved match of \$7,500.00; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Final EIS: Mr. Tibbitts finalized the letter to John Ruhs, Acting State Director of Nevada BLM, submitting comments on the nearly

2,000 page Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Final EIS. Comments were due by May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners authorized this letter during their May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to ratify the comment letter to Nevada BLM Acting State Director, John Ruhs, on the Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Final EIS. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BLM State Director Review on Mount Hope Decision: The Board took action at their last meeting to respond to the Final Decision for the Mount Hope Project Plan of Operations Amendment by submitting a letter to the BLM State Director requesting a formal review. The letter outlined several points – primarily related to the NEPA process and lack of coordination – and indicated that this was not adversarial to the proponent or the project. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve sending the letter requesting that the BLM State Director review the Final Decision for the Mount Hope Project Plan of Operations Amendment. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Amendment to Personnel Policy: Notice was given that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners would hold a hearing to invite public and employee comments on a proposed amendment to the Eureka County Personnel Policy. The proposed change would modify percentages paid by employees for dependent health insurance premiums for those hired after July 1, 2015. Current employees hired before July 1, 2009, pay 30% (a 70/30 split with the County) and employees hired after July 1, 2009, pay 40% (a 60/40 split with the County). Employee premiums are paid 100% by Eureka County.

The proposal was for employees hired after July 1, 2015, to pay 50% (a 50/50 split) for dependent health insurance premiums. Chairman Goicoechea opened the public hearing. Road Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, submitted a statement signed by 18 employees. The statement noted that although this will not affect current employees, they felt it would hinder new employees and affect take-home pay. It encouraged the Commissioners not to approve this change for new employees.

Other employees in attendance that spoke in opposition to the change were: Kim Todd (on behalf of the Health Insurance Committee), Keith Logan, Marcial Evertsen, Todd Hubbard, Jayme Halpin, and Michael Mears. Most cited their main reason as difficulty in attracting quality new hires to Eureka County due to the resulting reduction in take-home wages. Many stated they understood the hard decisions the Commissioners had to face, but felt this would hurt the employees. It was mentioned that some employees feel there is some level of inequity since elected officials and department heads pay nothing for dependent coverage.

Chairman Goicoechea responded to several concerns. He stated he is worried about the current employees and wants to protect them. He also wants to attract quality people as new hires. The County is losing revenues at a rate of \$4 million per year (this doesn't include the loss of net proceeds) and it is necessary to reduce spending everywhere possible. If the revenue loss continues at this rate, layoffs could become a very real possibility. The Commissioners plan on looking at several other areas to reduce costs, including coverage for retirees. They hope the steps they must take are temporary and can be revised when the economy turns around. The Chairman asked for input from his fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner Etchegaray agreed that they should stick with the plan and can always take action to change it once the economy improves. Commissioner Sharkozy agreed. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt a resolution amending Eureka County Personnel Policy, Section 3.A.500, to modify language related to the percentages paid by employees for

dependent health insurance coverage, specifically that employees hired after July 1, 2015, will pay 50% of dependent health insurance premiums. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

May 18, 2015

**RESOLUTION  
REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY ON  
EMPLOYEE COSTS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE OF DEPENDANTS**

WHEREAS, the Eureka County Personnel Policy in Section 3.A.500 provides for a percentage breakdown of health insurance premiums for dependants based on date of hire through July 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners have determined a need to reduce the dependant subsidy for employees hired in the future to help contain employer insurance costs over time; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 3.A.500 of the Eureka County Personnel Policy is amended pursuant to the procedure contained in the Eureka County Code, Title 2, Chapter 50, to read as follows in reference to the subsidy of dependant health insurance for employees hired on or after July 1, 2015:

Employees hired before July 1, 2009 will pay thirty percent (30%) of the health insurance premium for dependants. Employees hired after July 1, 2009 will pay forty percent (40%) of the health insurance premium for dependants. Employees hired after July 1, 2015 will pay fifty percent (50%) of the health insurance premium for dependants.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this change to the policy was proposed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015, and was circulated to the Commissioners for their review and modification that same day; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that at the direction of the Commissioners, the Commissioner Clerk circulated this Resolution for review to all departments for distribution to County employees, requesting comment; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED a public hearing was conducted the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015, following publication in the Eureka Sentinel at least ten (10) days before the hearing; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED at the public hearing, the Commissioners may adopt, reject, or adopt with revisions or amendments this proposed change to the Personnel Policy.

ADOPTED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

/s/ JJ Goicoechea  
Chair of the Board  
Eureka County Commissioners

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Commissioner Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET**

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Tax Rates: Budget Director, Michael Mears, presented the tax rate breakdown for the upcoming fiscal year. No tax increases were proposed, but there were slight changes to allocation of the overall rate. Mr. Mears provided the Board with the comparison shown below. Public comments were invited; there were none. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 tax rate as presented; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**Eureka County Tax Rates**

<b>TAX RATES</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>
GENERAL FUND	0.6110	0.5435
FUTURE RESERVE FUND	0.000	0.0100
ROAD FUND	0.1250	0.1100
RTC FUND	0.0050	0.0300
AGRICULTURE EXTENSION	0.0100	0.0100
AG DISTRICT #15	0.0020	0.0040
BUILDING MAINTENANCE & RESERVE FUND	0.0050	0.0300
LANDFILL FUND	0.0000	0.0000
WATER PLANNING FUND	0.0100	0.0050
NATURAL RESOURCES MULTIPLE USE FUND	0.0000	0.0250
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	0.0500	0.0500
ACCIDENT INDIGENT FUND	0.0150	0.0150
COUNTY INDIGENT FUND	0.0028	0.0033
HOSPITAL INDIGENT FUND	0.0100	0.0100
TELEVISION DISTRICT	0.0085	0.0085
CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN	0.2153	0.2153
EUREKA TOWN	0.2153	0.2153
DIAMOND VALLEY WEED DISTRICT	0.0781	0.0781
DIAMOND VALLEY RODENT DISTRICT	0.0400	0.0400
SCHOOL DISTRICT	0.7500	0.7500
STATE OF NEVADA	0.1700	0.1700
<b>COMBINED OVERALL RATES</b>		
EUREKA TOWN	1.9896	1.9896
CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN	1.9896	1.9896
DIAMOND VALLEY WEED & RODENT	1.8924	1.8924
GENERAL COUNTY	1.7743	1.7743

**Budget Augmentation Resolution:** Mr. Mears briefly explained the budget augmentation necessary for the Assessor’s Technology Fund, which pays for the broadband connection, software service and support contracts, Assessor photography, GIS enhancements, etc. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt the Budget Augmentation Resolution for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget transfer outlined by the Budget Director; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**BUDGET AUGMENTATION RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION FOR AUGMENTATION OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET OF EUREKA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the revenues of the ASSESSOR’S TECHNOLOGY FUND were budgeted to be \$802,468; and

WHEREAS, said ASSESSOR’S TECHNOLOGY FUND sources are as follows:

<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Available YTD</u>	<u>Excess Revenues</u>	<u>Augment Amount</u>
Beginning Fund Balance .....	\$802,468 .....	\$1,007,113 .....		
Totals	\$802,468	\$1,007,113	\$204,645	\$204,645

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these unanticipated proceeds in the Assessor’s Technology Fund to fund acquisition of additional broadband connectivity and updates to the County’s GIS parcel database; and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Eureka County shall augment the FY 2015 expenditure budget for the Assessor’s Technology Fund; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget Director shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

AYES: Chairman Goicoechea  
Vice Chairman Sharkozy  
Commissioner Etchegaray  
NAYS: None  
By: /s/ Julian J. Goicoechea  
Julian J. Goicoechea, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley  
Beverly Conley, Clerk

Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016: Mr. Mears provided a copy of the compliance letter from Nevada Department of Taxation related to the Tentative Budget. Only one item was noted – a negative balance in the Statement of Cash Flows for the Eureka Water & Sewer Fund. This was due to an intended augmentation that will occur before the end of the fiscal year, but did not occur prior to filing of the Tentative Budget. This is a minor compliance issue that will be resolved before filing of the Final Budget.

Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016: Mr. Mears reviewed items that may need to change from the Tentative Budget to the Final Budget. Revenues will not change. The IT/Network Analyst position was not budgeted in the Tentative; rather monies were placed into contract services. It was agreed that monies for salaries/wages and benefits should be returned to the budget for this position to allow flexibility in addressing the County's IT needs.

Funding will be added to the Recorder/Auditor's budget to cover an outside audit; that office is short-handed and the Acting Recorder/Auditor will not have time to conduct the audit internally. Court audits are mandated for the upcoming fiscal year for both District Court and Justice Court and funding will be added based on a quote from Eide Bailly, LLP. A contingency amount will be added for contract services. There will be some minor adjustments for salaries and benefits due to several structural changes.

Justice Court Budget: With unification of the Justice Court system in Eureka County, there was a lengthy discussion on how this will affect the upcoming year's budget. Justice of the Peace, John Schweble, and Justice Court Manager, Cindy Garcia, joined the conversation.

Ms. Garcia explained how she is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts on the merger and detailed multiple issues that will have to be addressed. She outlined the plan for providing continued service to the Crescent Valley area. Eureka staff will travel to Crescent Valley each Thursday, and additional days as necessary, to hold court. There are currently no plans to fill the casual position in Crescent Valley for several reasons, mainly due to the high-risk nature of having a single court employee in one location. Also, all files will be relocated to Eureka. The Eureka Justice Court has a part-time benefited employee who will add one day per week to help cover the extra duties. There will likely be some overtime for other employees during the transition period.

It was recommended that a vehicle will be purchased from the Administrative Assessment Fund for court travel. Public Works will facilitate this through State purchasing in the current budget year. Vehicle maintenance and fuel will be added to the Justice Court budget for the upcoming year. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize Justice Court to move forward in the current fiscal year with a vehicle purchase to be paid from the Administrative Assessment Fund; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The counter in the existing Eureka Justice Court office will be moved to make room to accommodate additional files. An architect will be engaged in the current fiscal year and the office modifications can be paid, in part, from the Facilities Fees Fund. Additional monies will be budgeted to cover the balance for these office modifications.

Eureka has Pro Tem Justice of the Peace who will be used in Judge Schweble's absence, and may occasionally travel to Crescent Valley as well. Judge Schweble asked about

adjusting salaries for the added responsibilities and proposed that he absorb the Beowawe Justice of the Peace salary, less benefits, since his hours will be increasing substantially. The Commissioners asked that salaries/wages for the affected employees be placed on the next agenda.

Budget Top Sheets for Fiscal Year 2015-2016: There were no further budget issues. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the Final Budget with the noted changes for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and to sign the departmental budget top sheets; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Carrie Schwebble; Justice of the Peace, Susan Fye; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (3); Clerk/Treasurer, Beverly Conley (3); Acting Recorder/Auditor, Tina Hubbard; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts; Eureka County Economic Development Program; Medical Clinics Advisory Committee (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board Secretary, Nona Kellerman; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (5); White Pine County (5); Nevada Div. of Public & Behavioral Health; Nevada Deferred Compensation; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; RKG Law Offices; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; and American Lands Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. District Attorney, Ted Beutel, and Budget Director, Michael Mears, relayed that they had a conversation regarding the next budget cycle and proposed that the Commissioners compile a list and set a timeframe for addressing budget issues during their regularly scheduled meetings. The Board agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.*

/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 May 18, 2015, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant

*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