

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2017

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on September 20, 2017 Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; and Deputy Clerk, Amanda Pearce. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Chairman Goicoechea requested the October 6th agenda include an item clarifying Eureka County’s regular 40-hours per week employee work schedule.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 6, 2017: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the September 6, 2017, Commission meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Maureen Torres. Expenditures included an invoice payable to USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services from Nevada Grazing Board, District 6 (N-6) funds. Payment required formal action. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to release the payment; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$1,265,843.37 for accounts payable, \$228,557.86 for payroll, with two pass through payments to the Eureka County School District of \$513,517.96 and \$97,234.22, respectively, a pass through to Nevada State Controller for \$20,216.80 and \$79.00 for Yucca Mountain expenditures, for a grand total of \$1,494,481.18. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balances Report: The Board reviewed a print-out of current fund balances.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Commissioner Sharkozy attended a Search and Rescue meeting in Crescent Valley on September 11th; a Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority meeting on the same day; a Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on September 12th that was cut short due to the onset of the Cottonwood Fire; a Crescent Valley Community Firewise Committee meeting on September 19th and a Eureka County Liquor Board meeting on September 20th.

Chairman Etchegaray attended a Eureka County Recreation Board meeting on September 13th; a Fallon Range Training Complex meeting on September 15th and a Eureka County Liquor Board meeting on September 20th.

Chairman Goicoechea reported that he received an email from Mike Baughman of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority indicating that he is terminating his role as Executive Director on December 31, 2017.

Intrastate Interlocal Contract-Nevada Department of Health & Human Services: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve signing the updated and corrected two-year Intrastate Interlocal Contract between Eureka County and Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Community Health Services, for provision of public health services, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Internet Service Improvements: A discussion ensued with regard to Eureka citizen Jerome Hicks' request to improve internet service in Eureka. Chairman Goicoechea and IT/Network Supervisor, Michael Mears explained that Eureka County is not an internet service provider and therefore not in a position to assist.

Hearing on Resolution Proposal: Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd inquired if the Board had reviewed the Resolution. Chairman Goicoechea reported that federal and state legislature changes required amendments to the Eureka County Personnel Policy. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to conduct a hearing on a Resolution to adopt changes to the Eureka County Personnel Policy on October 6, 2017; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; Chairman Goicoechea instructed the Comptroller's office to circulate the proposed amendments and Resolution to all employees and to post on the County Website; motion carried 3-0.

Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC: Chairman Goicoechea commended Mr. Bugenig for both his expertise and his frugality with regard to his consulting services for Eureka County. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve a one year contract extension with Mr. Bugenig in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, with payment tied to time and materials expended; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on activities since his written report on August 21, 2017. Eureka had ten calls for service (91 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had five calls for service (61 year-to-date). A mandatory continuing education training is scheduled in Eureka on September 25th and in Crescent Valley on October 12th.

Mr. Sullivan reported that there were no calls for services related to the solar eclipse event on August 21st.

Mr. Sullivan met with Chris Baird, Elko base manager for Reach Air Medical Services to discuss recent events and training opportunities on August 30th.

Reach Air Medical Services conducted landing zone and aircraft familiarization with a new helicopter at the Crescent Valley Landing Zone. Mr. Sullivan reported that volunteers from the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department and ambulance attended and indicated the class was very helpful.

Mr. Sullivan reported that Eureka Ambulance has been requested to provide stand-by coverage for Eureka County Junior High School and Senior High School football games.

Mr. Sullivan reported that on September 18th, he was contacted by a citizen regarding an unusually large bill from MedXAirone. Mr. Sullivan contacted MedXAirone CEO, Joel Hochhalter, to discuss the bill. It was determined after a lengthy discussion that the bill was issued in error. Mr. Hochhalter called the citizen and resolved the issue.

SENIOR CENTERS

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve authorizing hiring a Casual Worker III at the Fannie Komp Senior Center in Crescent Valley. The position is vacant due to a resignation because of medical reasons. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities.

Utilities: All utility systems are in good working order.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Improvement Plan: Mr. Damele reported that he met with the Nevada Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Management to update the Eureka County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Improvement Plan. The program is entirely grant-funded.

Northern Nevada Regional Development Authority: Mr. Damele attended the meeting on September 11th.

Road Maintenance MOU: Mr. Damele reported that Eureka County is currently working with McEwen Mining, Inc. on a Memorandum of Understanding for road maintenance on Roberts Creek Road and Tonkin Road.

County Facilities: Opera House: Mr. Damele reported that visitors to the Eureka County Opera House have been fairly steady and announced an upcoming performance by musician, Shari Rowe on October 7th. Sentinel Museum: Mr. Damele reported that Ree Taylor is attending the upcoming Nevada Museums Association Conference in Elko the first week of October, 2017. Swimming Pool: Mr. Damele reported that attendance has been busy with six hundred swimmers in August for a year to date of approximately three thousand swimmers.

Environmental Quality Management & Environmental Protection Agency: Mr. Damele reported that the entities are wrapping up lead and arsenic contamination cleanup operations for the year and will leave Eureka September 22nd. He noted that the impacts to the town with cleanup work were minimal. He also reported that the agencies were instrumental in clearing a lot of material from the Eureka Sanitary Landfill which will ultimately save Eureka County taxpayers money. He reported that the entities will return in the summer of 2018.

Fire Marshal Inspection: Mr. Damele reported that both clinics in Eureka County were inspected; that both the County and William Bee Ririe have issues that require attention and noted that the issues will be resolved within a week to ten days.

Wildland Fires: Mr. Damele reported that the Eureka County Road Department and the Eureka County Volunteer Fire Department responded to the Cottonwood Fire and the Boulder Flat Fire.

Landfill: Mr. Damele indicated the franchise agreement for garbage collection at the Landfill is expiring on April 30, 2018, and requested researching options for renewing an agreement for garbage collection.

Crescent Valley Residential Water Service Application: Mr. Damele recommended approval of the ¾" water service application at 3013 Crescent Avenue in Crescent Valley. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded; motion carried 3-0.

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for August was prepared by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$19,457,220.34.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Recent activities included: A Conservation District meeting on September 6th when the Annual Dinner was planned for November 11, 2017, at 6:00 pm, at the Eureka County Opera House; a Natural Resources Advisory Committee meeting on September 13th with Melanie Peterson, Bureau of Land Management Elko District Field Manager in attendance; phone attendance at a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting on September 14th; and a Fallon Range Training Complex meeting on September 15th.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include: a webinar hosted by the Bureau of Land Management on September 21st to provide input from the County for the upcoming BLM submission to Secretary Zinke regarding streamlining and improving the land use planning and NEPA processes; volunteering at the FFA Soil and Range Contest on September 25th; A Central Nevada Rural Water Authority meeting on September 26th with newly appointed director, Jeff Fontaine; a Groundwater Management Advisory Board meeting on September 28th; and a Nevada Division of Forestry Advisory Committee meeting on October 3rd.

Secretary Zinke Memo: Mr. Tibbitts informed the Board of a memo published by Secretary Zinke that directs the Interior Bureaus to take aggressive action to prevent wildfires. He indicated that the media has misconstrued the content of the memo in their reporting and the public believes the Bureaus are going to increase logging activities. He also indicated that the directive involves BLM clearing fuels from public roads, however it does not incorporate a nexus of coordinating with county entities on the matter, so it is important for the County to stay attentive to how the directive moves forward.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve and sign the Joint Funding Agreement with the US Geological Survey to continue the Hydrologic Monitoring Program in the Mount Hope and Roberts Mountain Vicinity from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018, at a cost to Eureka County of \$72,415.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

BLM Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale, Ely District: Mr. Tibbitts reported that the response letter concerning the Ely District BLM 2017 Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale and associated EA approved at the September 6, 2017, Commissioner meeting was approved without changes by the Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to ratify the response; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection: Mr. Tibbitts drafted a letter to NDEP, Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation voicing approval on the part of the County of the McEwen Gold Bar Project 2 Water Pollution Control Permit, as well as expressing approval on a second well project McEwen is undertaking in the near future. He thanked hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig for his input in reviewing and providing comments on the permit. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to submit the letter expressing support for the McEwen project; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Southern Nevada Water Authority: Mr. Tibbitts recommended that the Board consider providing comment in the form of written commentary to the State Engineer regarding the SNWA water application hearings for Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar Valleys, especially related to water monitoring, management and mitigation (3M) plans. The deadline to submit commentary in written form is October 20, 2017. Mr. Tibbitts asked the Board if they would like him to draft a formal item. The Board requested Mr. Tibbitts to draft a formal comment and noted plans to revisit the subject on October 6, 2017.

SRS Title III Funds: Mr. Tibbitts reported that although the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act Title III funds spent through the Crescent Valley/Beowawe and Eureka/Diamond Valley Community Firewise Committees are not obligated until September 30, 2018, keeping a record of projects in order to indicate participation is recommended. Mr. Tibbitts supplied the board with a list of nine projects that Crescent Valley/Beowawe and Eureka/Diamond

Valley Community Firewise Committees are initiating or re-initiating in order to express interest in maintaining funding from SRS. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to affirm project initiation for Title III funds received under the SRS; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Eureka Conservation District; Connie Hicks; Eureka County Recreation Board; Natural Resources Conservation Association; Eureka Business Network; IT Manager, Misty Rowley; Eureka County Medical Clinic Advisory Committee; Eureka County TV District; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Owl Club; Tri-County; Nevada Association of Counties; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Nevada Department of Transportation; Nevada Taxpayers Association; Nevada Department of Business and Industry; Dr. Keysar, D.C.; Allison MacKenzie; McEwen Mining Inc.; Nevada Department of Environmental Protection; National Association of Counties;

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Goicoechea called for public comments.

Assessor, Michael Mears requested direction from the Board with regard to the contract with Above All Communications, aka Express Internet which is due to expire in December of 2017. A discussion ensued and Chairman Goicoechea suggested Mr. Mears schedule a meeting with the owners of Above All Communications.

Mr. Mears also reported that he was the patient that EMS Coordinator, Michael Sullivan had referred to in his report. Mr. Mears did indeed receive an incorrect bill for a MedXAirone care flight, which was immediately addressed and rectified by the CEO of the company. He urged the community to take advantage of the reduced costs offered for the use of care flights.

In response, Chairman Goicoechea suggested that Mr. Sullivan supply a list of the care flight companies that are offered in Eureka. A discussion ensued and the Board suggested the list for the next issue of the Plain Talk newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m.; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of October, 2017.

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

I, Amanda Pearce, Deputy Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the September 20th, 2017, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Amanda Pearce
Amanda Pearce, Deputy Clerk

I, Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Deputy Clerk.

/s/ Beverly Conley
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer