

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 6, 2014

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on October 6, 2014. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Jim Ithurralde; Commissioner Michael Sharkozy; District Attorney Ted Beutel; and Executive 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 and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Recreation Board Resolution was tabled to the next agenda to allow review by the Recreation Board. With that change, Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Cindy Beutel informed that a group is starting in Eureka which will do fundraisers for a spay and neuter program for cats in order to remedy the overrun of feral cats in the town. The first event is a Turkey Trot on November 23rd. Ms. Beutel asked the County to think about whether there was any interest in participating in a small monetary incentive for people in the County to spay and neuter their animals. This has been done successfully in other counties.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 19, 2014, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2014, Commission meeting; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

FINANCE

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Recorder & Auditor, Mike Rebaleati. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$793,717.32 for accounts payable, \$433,393.87 for payroll, \$469,995.21 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, and \$589,383.78 for a pass-through tax allocation to the State of Nevada, for a grand total of \$2,286,490.18; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$8,677.89; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Auditor's Report: The Board reviewed the Auditor's Report showing current fund balances.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Commissioner Sharkozy attended a Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting and training on September 23rd; attended the Crescent Valley Firewise Committee meeting on September 24th; attended the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board meeting on September 25th; traveled to Reno with the Crescent Valley senior group on September 26th-28th; and attended the Great Basin Regional Development Authority meeting in Eureka on October 2nd.

Commissioner Ithurralde attended the Barrick Ruby Hill Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on September 23rd where they announced the end of mining, at least temporarily, at the Ruby Hill Mine site.

Chairman Goicoechea participated in a teleconference with Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and Barrick Gold representatives on September 23rd to discuss sage grouse mitigation, and chaired the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting on October 1st where the final State Plan was adopted (Alternative E in the Greater Sage-Grouse Draft EIS). The Chairman noted that he and Mike Rebaleati have started the process of meeting with department heads to discuss their minimal staffing plans.

Assistance for Counseling: Pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30, Eureka County must provide financial assistance, of up to \$1,000.00, for counseling of crime victims if an affidavit meeting the criteria is submitted. An affidavit was received by the District Attorney's office and the information was forwarded to the Commissioners. The name of the victim was withheld due to the age of the individual. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the application of an individual for financial assistance for counseling pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Road Department Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department projects and activities. Crews spent the majority of their time repairing areas damaged by recent floods (including replacing a 36-inch culvert that was completely washed away). Road maintenance included JD Ranch Road, Mustang Road, Railroad Pass Road, Palisade Road, Cortez Road, and several Diamond Valley roads including 9th Street and Gold Street. Preparations are also underway for winter.

PUBLIC WORKS

Application to BLM: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported that in order to support recent water applications, an application has been prepared for the BLM for drilling of test wells in Kobeh Valley and Stevens Basin. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize the Public Works Director to submit an Application of Transportation & Utility Systems & Facilities on Federal Lands to the Bureau of Land Management for two water test wells. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project: Upgrade of the airport runway lights is a \$168,350.00 project primarily funded by a Federal Aviation Administration grant. Notice to proceed for this job will be issued on October 27th and the project is expected to be completed within 30 days. The airport will remain open through duration of the project.

Swimming Pool Energy Efficiency Upgrade: The Swimming Pool is currently closed for the boiler upgrade. Work is progressing on schedule and will be complete in about two weeks.

Firefighter Training: Mr. Damele is working with Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs to schedule entry level firefighter training, extrication training, and SCBA fit tests for this fall and winter.

EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF

Securus Technologies Contract: Undersheriff Keith Logan presented a three-year contract renewal for the inmate telephone system. This contract is at no cost to Eureka County since fees are paid by the users. All equipment and upgrades are provided by the company. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the new contract with Securus Technologies, Inc., for the inmate telephone system for the period of December 2014 through December 2017; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Site Directors, Millie Oram and Adell Panning reported on their respective centers. In September, Eureka served 980 meals and Crescent Valley served 647 meals. A total of \$7,245.00 was deposited for the month. A group of 22 Crescent Valley seniors and guests traveled to Reno on September 26th-28th for a show, dinner, and shopping.

Crescent Valley Activities Program: Three applications have been received for the vacant Social Activities Coordinator position and interviews will begin the following week.

Notifications of Grant Award: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to ratify the Notifications of Grant Award from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for a congregate meals grant in the amount of \$17,043.00 with a County match of \$1,733.00 and a home-delivered meals grant in the amount of \$22,659.00 with a County match of \$3,255.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Mr. Tibbitts attended the Barrick Ruby Hill Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on September 23rd; attended the Eureka Conservation District meeting on September 24th; attended a Crescent Valley Firewise Committee meeting the evening of September 24th; attended a special Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee meeting in Round Mountain on September 25th; participated in a meeting on September 26th with the BLM and affected ranchers over the Willow Creek Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure; and participated in a teleconference with the BLM and Pat Rogers of General Moly on September 29th to discuss adjustments to the Plan of Operations for the Mount Hope Project.

During the Ruby Hill Citizen Advisory Committee meeting it was announced that due to continued decline in gold prices, they will not be moving forward with a restart plan. Over the next year much of the employees will be transferred to other sites or will be offered a severance package. A small crew will remain to continue leaching the pads to rinse the cyanide solution.

A special Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee meeting was called to address a riparian fence that was erected around Sage Hen Spring in Smoky Valley. This was originally brought before the RAC and approved in 2012. At that time it was presented as a collaborative project, but it was recently revealed that the Forest Service did not coordinate or collaborate with the permittee who has a vested right on the spring. As a RAC member, Mr. Tibbitts stipulated that he would not have supported funding for the project if this had been made clear from the beginning. It was resolved at this September 25th meeting that the Forest Service District Ranger will oversee removal of the riparian fence.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include a State Conservation Commission meeting in Carson City on October 7th; a Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting the evening of October 7th; Newmont Mining's Summer Communication Session breakfast meeting in Elko on October 8th; a Eureka Conservation District meeting on October 8th; a teleconference with the Reason Foundation regarding sage grouse issues on October 9th; the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on October 15th; and on November 6th the Eureka Conservation District will hold their annual dinner.

Willow Creek Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure: During the September 26th meeting to discuss the Willow Creek closure, the BLM Range Specialist promised a quick turnaround in providing adjustments to the closure decision. Ten days have passed since the meeting and BLM staff has not yet been briefed on anything, so the status is unchanged. The BLM indicated they are considering emergency stabilization. Keep in mind this fire occurred nearly a year and a half ago.

Frazier Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure: Notification was received regarding the Frazier Fire reopen which will reinstate grazing on portions of the JD and Roberts Mountain Allotments that were closed in December 2012 by the Frazier Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure decision. With the reopen decision, the BLM outlined objectives (such as achieving a certain number and type of plants per square meter), but these objectives are basically unachievable since the area has become dominated by cheat grass which inhibits other species. The BLM is citing drought conditions as a basis for their decisions, but with recent rains the Roberts Mountain area is experiencing a record forage year.

The BLM's notification letter of this latest decision, dated September 24th but received September 29th, has a seven day deadline for submitting comments and the County will prepare a response. Mr. Tibbitts spoke with Doug Furtado, Battle Mountain District Manager, regarding concerns and issues as well as the short timeframe for comments. Mr. Furtado committed that the BLM will work on addressing the County's concerns when issuing a final decision. Chairman Goicoechea noted that the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Nevada Land Action Association cooperatively submitted comments on the decision. The grazing permittee, Diamond Cattle Company, has also commented. The BLM set up a meeting with the permittee to work towards a resolution in order to avoid an appeal, but once they found out the permittee's attorney would participate, the BLM cancelled the meeting.

Diamond Cattle Company has worked voluntarily with the BLM and grazed in areas that wouldn't typically be used this time of year. They approached the BLM for assistance in attaining fall and winter grazing for their cattle. The BLM is viewing this as an application for use outside of the permit and responded with this Full Force & Effect decision.

Mr. Tibbitts commented that these drought decisions, comparable to action taken on the Argenta Allotment, are now hitting very close to home.

Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan: Steve Walker, Walker & Associates, was contracted by the Eureka Conservation District to complete the scoping process for a groundwater management plan for Diamond Valley. In addition to several public workshops, Mr. Walker visited with individuals, irrigators, businesses, mining interests, etc. Mr. Walker then compiled this information into a report. The Conservation District is sending out a letter to all water rights holders in Diamond Valley providing information from this scoping study along with a survey asking if there is support for asking the Nevada State Engineer to designate Diamond Valley as a critical management area. The ultimate goal is to find a management solution that best fits the users. Attendees of the workshops were in favor of a designation, but the survey will help identify if this support is universal.

As Eureka County representative on the Conservation District, Mr. Tibbitts has been involved in this process. The Commissioners concurred that they agreed with sending this letter and survey to Diamond Valley water rights holders.

CONTINUED REVIEW OF STAFFING LEVELS

Minimum Staffing Levels: County department heads were in attendance to continue discussion of minimum staffing goals. The need to identify minimum staffing levels was outlined in the Board's resolution of June 20, 2014. Each department head provided a written report on the minimum staff it would take to complete the required duties for their respective departments. Mr. Rebaleati compiled these statistics into a worksheet showing that full-time staff could be reduced from 96 to 87.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that some department heads did a very good job with their plans, while others needed more work. The Commissioners had asked the department heads to provide bare minimum estimates and they weren't sure that all of the reports reflected that accurately. Individual meetings with department heads, the Budget Officer, and Chairman Goicoechea have begun and will continue; these meetings will include very candid

conversations on where these numbers should realistically be. Chairman Goicoechea reiterated that there are no immediate plans to implement minimum staffing numbers. These preparations are being made in order to have a plan in place to apply in the event of severe revenue downturns and also to serve as a current guide for reducing staff through attrition. This topic will continue to be an active discussion through budget sessions after the first of the year.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to accept the reports from the department heads, including the compilation prepared by Mr. Rebaleati, and to continue working closely with the departments to fine tune the minimum staffing numbers in accordance with the Board's resolution declaring revenue shortfalls, instituting budget constraints through a hiring freeze, and promoting a reduction in the labor force through attrition. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Temporary Street Closures for Harvest Festival: Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, and Economic Development Department Assistant, Cindy Beutel, presented a plan to close portions of streets around the Eureka Town Park to accommodate the Harvest Festival on October 18th. The Community Church will sell food, the 8th Grade class will sell drinks, and the Lion's Club will sell pumpkins. The Clydesdales will return to provide old-fashioned hay rides for young and old alike. Other attractions include a bounce house and face painting.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to allow the temporary closure of portions of Clark Street, Spring Street, East Bateman Street, and Buel Street in the Town of Eureka on October 18th from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Harvest Festival at the Eureka Town Park. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADVISORY GROUP TO REVIEW EPA DOCUMENTS

Creation of Advisory Group: Jeff Collins, with the Bureau of Corrective Actions for Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, joined the meeting by telephone. As part of the lead and arsenic cleanup in the Town of Eureka being conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, an Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis (EE/CA) will be prepared and will include a Community Relations Plan (CRP). It was suggested that an advisory group of citizens be formed to review these documents.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to form an advisory group with Public Works Director, Ron Damele as a member and Chairman Goicoechea as liaison, and for these two to bring forward at the next Commission meeting the names of four Eureka Town residents to participate in the group. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. It was determined that a name will be assigned to this group at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel (10); Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (3); Eureka County Planning Commission; Eureka County Economic Development Program; Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Retirement Party flyer, Vicki Drenon; Eureka Business Network (2); Seventh Judicial Dist. Court (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Crescent Valley Meet the Candidates Night; Newmont Mining Corp.; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; White Pine County Commission; White Pine County Community & Economic Development (2); University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Nevada Div. of Forestry; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div. (2); Nevada Pool PACT (3); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; The Business Advocate newsletter; and US Senator Dean Heller, Ashley Carrigan, State Director (2).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. Lisa Wolf commented on the condition of the road off of State Route 278 leading to the Pony Express kiosk in Diamond Valley. The Road Department and Public Works will look into it and see what can be done. The Pony Express medallions on the posts leading to the kiosk are habitually stolen. She will get those replaced soon and hopes to find a more secure way to install them.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of November, 2014.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant to the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the October 6th, 2014, 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 Executive Assistant of the Board.

/s/ Beverly Conley
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer