

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**November 17, 2016**

STATE OF NEVADA        )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA     )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on November 17, 2016. 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 10:10 a.m. (due to an unexpected delay) 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 Health Insurance Advisory Committee and IT/Network items were removed from the agenda. With those changes, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Assessor, Michael Mears, who serves as IT/Network Supervisor, thanked all departments for their patience during the recent internet outage over the past week. He explained this caused a delay in implementation of the new phone system. The webinar phone training has been rescheduled to November 30<sup>th</sup> and transition to the new phone system will occur on the afternoon of December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 7, 2016: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve minutes of the November 7, 2016, Commission meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Tina Hubbard. Ms. Hubbard explained that one advertising invoice was nearing the six-month deadline because the vendor experienced some billing issues. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve a voucher payable to Battle Born Media in the amount of \$72.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$161,010.90 for accounts payable, \$259,014.77 for payroll, and \$79.95 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a total of \$420,105.62 (the grand total including the voucher approved separately was \$420,177.62); Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Review of Litigation Costs: At the last meeting, Chairman Goicoechea requested a review of the budget in relation to litigation costs. The Comptroller’s office provided print-outs and discussed available balances in the Water Legal Fees Fund, Miscellaneous Legal Fees Fund, and the Water Mitigation Fund (this fund has a tax rate assigned to it, so will continue to generate revenue).

The Comptroller’s office spoke with Eide Bailly, LLP, and the auditor felt there were no immediate concerns regarding fund balances and recommended waiting later in the fiscal year before taking formal action. If balances become stressed, an augmentation can be made from

the Contingency Fund. The Board agreed to postpone action and await future recommendations from the Comptroller's office and the external auditors.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Etchegaray traveled to Fallon on November 9<sup>th</sup> to meet with the US Navy, Naval Air Station Fallon regarding the proposed Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization. This meeting was for the benefit of cattlemen and grazing permittees.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>; participated in a Search & Rescue meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>; attended the Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Fannie Komp Senior Center on November 15<sup>th</sup>; and traveled to Elko for the Newmont Community Breakfast meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Goicoechea attended the Navy's livestock stakeholder's meeting in Fallon on November 9<sup>th</sup>; chaired a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting in Carson City on November 10<sup>th</sup>; participated in a webinar hosted by the Western Governors' Association related to wild horses on November 10<sup>th</sup>; attended the annual meeting of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation on November 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>; and participated in a Public Lands Council teleconference on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Goicoechea shared that the Farm Bureau adopted policy in relation to the Groundwater Management Plan and Critical Management Areas, which is a positive step for Eureka County and Diamond Valley in moving towards the next Legislative Session.

Alleged Nuisance in Town of Eureka: A formal written complaint was filed with the County Clerk on November 4<sup>th</sup> by a Eureka resident alleging existence of a nuisance as defined by NRS 40.140, due to trash accumulating on property along Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka.

District Attorney, Ted Beutel, investigated and responded on November 16<sup>th</sup> with a written complaint to the Clerk alleging existence of a public nuisance at 361 Ruby Hill Avenue and 61 Vandal Way in Eureka, created by the presence of refuse and rubbish deposited on said real properties. The District Attorney's letter outlined steps, pursuant to NRS 244.360, including the option for the County Commissioners to schedule a public hearing to determine whether a nuisance exists and, if so, to take administrative action ordering abatement.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to schedule a public hearing at 11:15 a.m. on December 20, 2016, pursuant to NRS 244.360, in order to determine whether a public nuisance exists, to determine if action is warranted, and also that appropriate notification be provided to the property owners. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: The last meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council was November 10<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Goicoechea reported he is working with Kelly McGowan, Program Manager of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team, and Jim Lawrence, Deputy Director of Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, on issues with the Conservation Credit System in preparation for the January SEC meeting.

## **CLERK & TREASURER**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for October was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Ending General Fund balance for the month was \$15,370,600.08. Overall ending balance, including encumbered funds, was \$61,510,583.01.

Canvass Returns of the 2016 General Election: The Abstract of the 2016 General Election was presented by Ms. Conley and Elections Administrator, Vera Baumann. Voter turnout statewide was exceptional and Eureka County experienced a turnout of nearly 89%.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the canvass and abstract of the vote for the 2016 General Election held November 8, 2016; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**CANVASS and ABSTRACT  
OF THE VOTE FOR EUREKA COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA  
2016 GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS	971
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST	860
NUMBER OF VOTERS AT POLLS ON ELECTION DAY	164
NUMBER OF VOTERS FROM MAILING PRECINCTS	269
NUMBER OF ABSENTEE VOTERS	63
NUMBER OF EARLY VOTERS	364
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	88.57%

**EUREKA COUNTY SUMMARY REPORT**

<b><u>Registration &amp; Turnout</u></b>	<b>971</b>	<b>Voters</b>
Election Day Reporting Turnout	164	16.89%
Absentee Reporting Turnout	63	6.49%
Early Vote Reporting Turnout	364	37.49%
Mail-In Reporting Turnout	269	27.70%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>88.57%</b>

<b><u>Pres/Vice Pres of the US</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 2		
Over Votes: 4		
IAP – CASTLE, DARRELL	8	0.94%
DEM – CLINTON, HILLARY	74	8.67%
NPP – DE LA FUENTE, ROQUE “ROCKY”	1	0.12%
LPN – JOHNSON, GARY	19	2.22%
REP – TRUMP, DONALD J.	723	84.66%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	29	3.40%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>U.S. Senator</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 11		
Over Votes: 0		
DEM – CORTEZ MASTO, CATHERINE	88	10.37%
NPP – GUMINA, TONY	5	0.59%
REP – HECK, JOE	692	81.51%
IAP – JONES, TOM	16	1.88%
NPP – SAWYER, THOMAS “TOM”	16	1.88%
NPP – WILLIAMS, JARROD M.	3	0.35%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	29	3.42%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>Rep in Congress, Dist 2</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 27		
Over Votes: 0		
REP – AMODEI MARK E.	699	83.91%
DEM – EVANS, H.D. “CHIP”	85	10.20%
IAP – EVERHART, JOHN H.	33	3.96%
NPP – KNIGHT, DREW	16	1.92%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>State Senate 19, Senatorial Dist.</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 26		
Over Votes: 0		
REP – GOICOECHEA, PETE	679	81.41%
IAP – HANSEN, JANINE	155	18.59%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>Court of Appeals, Dept. 1</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 110		
Over Votes: 0		
NP – TAO, JERRY	527	70.27%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	223	29.73%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>Court of Appeals, Dept. 2</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 102		
Over Votes: 1		
NP – GIBBONS, MICHAEL	559	73.84%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	196	26.16%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>Court of Appeals, Dept. 3</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 114		
Over Votes: 0		
NP – SILVER, ABBI	532	71.31%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	214	28.69%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>Member State Bd. Of Ed., Dist. 2</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 190		
Over Votes: 0		
NP – CARTER, DAVID W.	367	54.78%
NP – HICKEY, PAT	303	45.22%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>STATE QUESTION NO. 1</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 6		
Over Votes: 0		
YES	83	9.72%
NO	771	90.28%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>STATE QUESTION NO. 2</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 9		
Over Votes: 2		
YES	314	36.98%
NO	535	63.02%
<b>Total...</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b><u>STATE QUESTION NO. 3</u></b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Under Votes: 25		
Over Votes: 1		
YES	469	56.24%

<b>State Assembly, Dist. 33</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	NO	365	43.76%
Under Votes: 138			<b>Total...</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Over Votes: 0			<b>STATE QUESTION NO. 4</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
REP – ELLISON, JOHN	722	100.00%	Under Votes: 21		
<b>Total...</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Over Votes: 0		
<b>County Commissioner Dist. 1</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	YES	567	67.58%
Under Votes: 167			NO	272	32.42%
Over Votes: 0			<b>Total...</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
REP – GOICOECHEA, J.J.	693	100.00%	<b>EU CO BALLOT QUESTION 1</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total...</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Under Votes: 14		
<b>County Commissioner Dist. 3</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Over Votes: 1		
Under Votes: 159			YES	275	32.54%
Over Votes: 0			NO	570	67.46%
REP – SHARKOZY, MICHAEL L.	701	100.00%	<b>Total...</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total...</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>EU CO ADVISORY QUESTION 1</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Supreme Court Justice, Seat A</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Under Votes: 27		
Under Votes: 108			Over Votes: 0		
Over Votes: 0			YES	485	58.22%
NP – HARDESTY, JIM	562	74.73%	NO	348	41.78%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	190	25.27%	<b>Total...</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total...</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>EU CO ADVISORY QUESTION 2</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Supreme Court Justice, Seat E</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Under Votes: 30		
Under Votes: 104			Over Votes: 0		
Over Votes: 0			YES	510	61.45%
NP – PARRAGUIRRE, RON D.	537	71.03%	NO	320	38.55%
NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	219	28.97%	<b>Total...</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total...</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>100.00%</b>			
			***** END OF REPORT *****		

## **RESOLUTION HONORING VERA BAUMANN**

**Forty-One Commendable Years:** Commissioners and County staff honored Vera Baumann with a resolution recognizing 41 years of dedicated service with Eureka County. Family and friends were in attendance and offered sentiments and personal congratulations.

Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, will miss the expertise that Vera has brought to her office throughout the years. Former Assessor, Jim Ithurralde, recalled how they began in the Assessor's office in 1975. Vera was a valued employee who served as his Chief Deputy. The Commissioners offered personal thanks and Commissioner Etchegaray and Chairman Goicoechea shared some of their fond memories.

Katie Damele, Vera's granddaughter, added special sentiment to the occasion by reading the resolution honoring her grandmother. Vera received a heartfelt standing ovation from the many friends, family, and County employees present.

With his personal thanks, Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt the resolution honoring Vera Baumann for her many years of service to Eureka County; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

*Eureka, Nevada*

*November 17, 2016*

**RESOLUTION HONORING  
VERA BAUMANN  
FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNTY**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor Vera Baumann, for her decorous and dedicated service and contributions throughout the last forty-one years; and*

*WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Vera was born in Winnemucca, Nevada, and graduated from Battle Mountain High School in 1966. She grew up on the Schwin Ranch, south of Battle Mountain. In 1973, Vera and her husband, Jim moved from the Baumann Ranch at McCluskey Creek, and purchased the old Hunter Ranch, known now as Simpson Creek Ranch. In 1975, Vera and Jim purchased a farm in Diamond Valley. Vera is known to have driven every piece of equipment farming in Diamond Valley with her family. She irrigated fields, rode horses, trapped gophers, milked cows and she was and is known to be an exceptional cook. Vera and Jim are proud parents to their two children Amy and Bill, and Vera is beloved “Nana” to her six grandchildren: Emily, Deanna, Beth, Katie, Jake and Sam.*

*WHEREAS, Vera served Eureka County in the Assessor’s Office from January of 1975, earning the position of Deputy Assessor in 1978, as well as beginning her forty-one year contribution to the Elections Board.*

*Vera then took time off from serving the County to raise her children. During this time, she was an integral part of Eureka County’s farming and ranching community in Diamond Valley. She also supplied many families in the community with fresh eggs and milk from her ranch.*

*Vera also volunteered her time and effort during this decade to serve as a School Board Trustee and a bus driver for the Eureka County School District.*

*In December of 1989, Vera rejoined the Eureka County workforce as a part-time Secretary for Public Works.*

*Then, Vera served as Project Director for Economic Development. Vera’s work during her tenure at this position, from July of 1990 until August of 1998, transformed Main Street. Her tireless efforts toward improvement endure; including beautiful street lights, sidewalks, signage and banisters that mark the businesses and light the walkways of Eureka’s downtown area along Highway 50.*

*Vera then transferred to serve in the office of the Clerk and Treasurer, where she worked diligently in the position of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Vera remained in the Clerk and Treasurer’s office until her retirement on May 12, 2006.*

*Not one to idle, despite her continued responsibilities on her own farm and in the Diamond Valley agricultural community, Vera served part-time in the Clerk and Treasurer’s office from December 2006 until February 2007.*

*Vera then joined the Planning Board Commission as Secretary and served there until September of 2012.*

*Because of her vast knowledge and expertise with the Election Board, Vera was asked (beseched!) once again, to join the Clerk and Treasurer’s office in April, 2012. Vera advised on election procedures in the capacity of Deputy Clerk Elections Administrator through the General Election of 2016.*

*WHEREAS, Vera’s skillful and gracious contributions to the community through the offices from which she served will endure. Throughout her years serving Eureka County, Vera exemplified outstanding character and work ethic.*

*WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Vera, who has been a significant member of the Eureka County workforce.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes and honors Vera Baumann for her commitment to public service; her lasting contributions to the residents of Eureka County; her gracious character; her accomplishments, and further, commends her for her outstanding service to Eureka County.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be published in the minutes of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners to remain a part of the permanent and historical records of Eureka County.*

*ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.*

*BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF EUREKA, STATE OF NEVADA*

/s/ J.J. GOICOECHEA, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chairman

/s/ Fred Etchegaray

Fred Etchegaray, Member

ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley

Beverly Conley, Eureka County Clerk

## **MEDICAL CLINICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**NVHC Quarterly Performance Audit:** The Medical Clinics Advisory Committee met early on the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup> to conduct the quarterly performance audit of Nevada Health Centers, Inc., for the period covering July, August, and September. This was review of the first quarter under the new contract for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

In addition to a letter from the Committee, MCAC Chair, Garney Damele, and Vice Chair, Maureen Torres, explained the penalty findings for the quarter, as follows: lack of a physician in Eureka for 23 days (23 x \$600.00 = \$13,800.00); no second provider in Eureka for nine days (9 x \$300.00 = \$2,700.00); no accessibility to the clinics for one day in Eureka and for 10 days in Crescent Valley (11 x \$1,500.00 = \$16,500.00); no on-call provider in Eureka for two days (2 x \$300.00 = \$600.00); and one instance of failure to report equipment breakdown or unavailability (1 x \$1,500.00 = \$1,500.00).

Recommended penalty for the quarter would normally be \$35,100.00, the total of all nonperformance issues listed; but due to the current contract's maximum penalty amount of \$20,000.00 for the year, the Committee recommended a penalty of \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to assess a nonperformance penalty of \$20,000.00 to Nevada Health Centers for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016-2017; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**Direction to MCAC:** The primary scope of duties for the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee is to review contract compliance by Nevada Health Centers on a quarterly basis and make recommendations to the Commission. With the maximum penalty being reached in the first quarter, the Committee asked for direction regarding continued duties.

Chairman Goicoechea felt it was important for the Committee to continue assessing the contractor's performance and reporting their findings. He invited the Committee members to remain in the meeting for the Board's subsequent discussion with Nevada Health Centers.

## **NEVADA HEALTH CENTERS, INC.**

**Introduction of CMO:** Karl Sundberg, Chief Operations Officer for Nevada Health Centers, was in attendance and introduced new Chief Medical Officer, Randy Christianson. Mr. Christianson has a background of 20 years in health care, mostly in Arizona, until being recruited by NVHC approximately six months earlier.

**Staffing & Recruitment:** Mr. Sundberg addressed the recent staffing changes at the clinics. One mid-level provider chose to leave Eureka in August. Around that same time, the contract between NVHC and the physician was terminated. Mr. Sundberg assured the Board that this decision was not taken lightly. He spoke of the challenges in recruiting health care professionals, especially physicians, due to the nationwide shortage.

NVHC has had a temporary agreement with a mid-level provider to staff the Crescent Valley Clinic, but she recently entered into a contract with another organization, so her availability is reduced. A locum tenens replacement will be in Crescent Valley shortly. Mr.

Sundberg assured the Board they are actively working to secure a locum tenens provider as quickly as possible for the Eureka Clinic as well.

Contract Noncompliance: The Commissioners voiced extreme disappointment in NVHC's failure to comply with the agreement. The County is again in a position of paying substantial tax dollars for services, while citizens are not benefiting from the level of health care contractually guaranteed.

Upon execution of the contract just a few short months before, the Commissioners stated that contract termination would be seriously considered if NVHC exceeded the maximum nonperformance penalty. Chairman Goicoechea gave two reasons why this is not immediately being implemented: (1) the Board does not want to leave the communities with no health care at all; and (2) the quality and excellence of Laurel Kleinman, APN, the remaining health care provider at the Eureka Clinic.

Request for Proposals: The Board believes that beginning the process of drafting an RFP (request for proposals) for a clinical services provider is imminent. NVHC, of course, would be invited to submit a proposal along with other potential companies.

Future Options: The Board and District Attorney discussed current options. In lieu of immediately advertising an RFP, there are basically two options. The first option would be to give 30-day notice of contract termination and begin the process of negotiating a new contract. The second option would be to examine actual costs and determine if it is justifiable to continue under the existing contract for a period of time.

Mr. Beutel pointed out that with no penalty deductions, NVHC will receive full payments, of approximately \$60,000.00 per month, which includes salary allocations for staff no longer employed. In past discussions, NVHC has alluded that these monies would be committed towards aggressive recruitment efforts.

It was requested that NVHC report the following to the Commissioners: actual costs – specifically actual costs for current personnel and amount being spent on recruitment. Data should include details of recruitment methods and associated costs. In the meantime, temporary providers need to be staffed at the clinics.

Report to Commissioners: Mr. Sundberg agreed that the requested figures could be provided to the Commissioners in 30 days, allowing the Board a few days for review prior to the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that time the Board will review the figures and determine whether to continue with the existing contract, terminate and renegotiate the contract, or begin the process of advertising for proposals.

## **SENIOR CENTERS ADVISORY BOARD**

Resignations: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the resignations of Margie Thomson and Nona Kellerman from the Senior Centers Advisory Board; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Appointments: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to make the following appointments to the Senior Centers Advisory Board: Tressa Pitman representing northern Eureka County for the remainder of a three-year term through December 31, 2016, and George Parman representing southern Eureka County for the remainder of a three-year term through December 31, 2018. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **AMBULANCE AND EMS**

Report on Activities: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on activities since the last report on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Eureka had eight calls for service (115 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had four calls for service (54 year-to-date). Although volunteer response is very good in Crescent Valley, there have been instances where the service is unavailable due to low volunteer numbers.



Continuing education classes are scheduled in Crescent Valley on November 17<sup>th</sup> and in Eureka on November 28<sup>th</sup>. An EMT/AEMT refresher course was conducted on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> in Eureka. Lander County is conducting an EMT class in Austin and one Eureka resident will participate, with the ability to receive assistance on practicals from local staff. This individual has already signed on as a volunteer driver.

The Nevada Board of Health will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> to consider proposed changes to Nevada Administrative Code affecting EMS regulations. The Nevada EMS office inspected all County ambulances and found no remarkable issues.

EMT 2, Shealene French, discovered a way to transfer data from the 12-lead ECG machines directly to the ePCR Program (electronic patient care reporting). This has been an issue in the industry, so the method she formulated has been shared with the software contractor to benefit other users.

The Sheriff's Office transferred a surplus vehicle to EMS to replace the quick response/utility vehicle taken out of service due to last month's collision involving a calf on State Route 278.

## **US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Ongoing Cleanup: Tom Dunkelman, On-Scene Coordinator with US EPA, Region 9, provided an update on continued cleanup work in the Eureka townsite to mitigate properties contaminated with elevated levels of lead and/or arsenic. Work this past season included sampling of 70 additional properties (for around 300 to-date), cleanup of 39 additional properties (for approximately 83 total) and construction of the repository located on the south side of Ruby Hill Avenue.

Crews were here throughout the summer and at any given time there were 20 to 25 workers in town. The EPA was able to utilize a local company, Diamond Valley Sand & Gravel, for much of the truck hauling.

The repository currently holds 20,000 cubic yards of material, with plenty of capacity for more. All material stockpiled in the three temporary repositories has been relocated to the permanent site.

About \$9 million has been spent so far on the Eureka cleanup project. This has been completely funded by EPA Region 9, in respect of the community and local government's resistance in having Eureka listed as an official Superfund Site.

Future Work: Future work includes about 100 additional properties, followed by cleanup alternatives for four hillsides and the slag piles in town as identified in the EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis). Estimated timeline is 3 to 4 construction seasons, at a cost of \$3 to \$4 million per year. Continued work is dependent upon availability of funding, which is based upon a year-to-year approval process and is somewhat uncertain, particularly since the project is not listed as a Superfund Site.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Projects & Activities: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities. All utility systems and facilities are in good working order.

BLM Fire Agreement: The revised Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the BLM is under review by Public Works. There are some changes, but nothing appears problematic. It will be analyzed for consistency with the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (statewide master agreement).

Airport Entitlement Funds: Public Works staff will travel to Carson City on November 30<sup>th</sup> to attend the Federal Aviation Administration annual meeting regarding entitlement grant funds. A plan is in place to implement pavement maintenance for the runway and taxiway at the Eureka Airport for the upcoming fiscal year.



Catholic Cemetery: The draft parcel map for the buffer zone at the Catholic Cemetery will be presented to the Planning Commission on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Budgets: As the halfway point in fiscal year nears, all Public Works departments are below or on track with their budgets. Preliminary budget preparations are underway for the next fiscal year. To facilitate planning, Mr. Damele and Road Department staff will travel to Carson City to meet with the County Engineer to consider maintenance and paving needs.

## **COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Update on APN 001-102-13: In September, based on the title report and appraisal, the Board authorized purchase of APN 001-102-13, located at 11 North Main Street in Eureka, from the Caton family for \$15,000.00. Assessor, Michael Mears, was directed to facilitate the transaction with assistance from the District Attorney.

Mr. Mears reminded the Board that the property involved one estate at that time and he was directed to give the owners 90 days to accept the offer. Since then, another sister (owner) has passed away. To allow the family time to work through both estates, Mr. Mears asked the Board if they wished to extend the deadline for acceptance of the purchase offer.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to extend the timeframe of the County's offer to purchase APN 001-102-13 through the end of the fiscal year to June 30, 2017; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, representatives of The Nature Conservancy were in the area and Mr. Tibbitts spent time with them primarily discussing water issues. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, he traveled to Fallon for the Navy's meeting with the livestock industry regarding the proposed Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization. The County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife met on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Tibbitts was in Las Vegas November 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> for the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting. Utah's State Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse was a topic of discussion. Utah has been successful in increasing sage grouse numbers through implementation of their State Plan. Additionally, Utah State University has disproved much of the science in the federal Land Use Plan Amendments.

Barrick Gold Update: Mr. Tibbitts gave a quick update on management changes associated with Barrick Gold Corporation. Andy Cole, former Executive Director of Barrick USA, has been appointed as General Manager of Donlin Gold Project in Alaska. Nigel Bain will take Mr. Cole's place as Executive Director of Barrick USA, and Bob Ingersoll will serve as Deputy Executive Director. Mr. Bain and Mr. Ingersoll are interested in meeting with Chairman Goicoechea in the near future to discuss recent changes.

Sage Grouse Update: At the federal level, there are still efforts to apply short-term fixes to the federal Land Use Plan Amendments in order to allow states that have developed sage grouse plans to move forward with them. Unfortunately, language progressively gets more and more watered down. Everything will likely halt now until the new Administration is in place.

Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization: Mr. Tibbitts continues working with County consultants on comments for the proposed expansion by US Navy, Naval Air Station Fallon. The Navy did extend the public scoping period to December 12<sup>th</sup>, so the final comment letter will be presented for approval at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

McEwen Mining: Mr. Tibbitts is reviewing the McEwen Mining Gold Bar Project Preliminary Draft EIS, which was recently released to Cooperating Agencies with a comment deadline of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, is conducting a review related to water. Mr. Tibbitts will compile and submit comments, then present them on December 6<sup>th</sup> for ratification.

Battle Mountain BLM District-Wide Programmatic EA: The Battle Mountain BLM has started the scoping process on a proposed district-wide programmatic EA (environmental assessment) for projects to sustain and improve the sagebrush ecosystem. This began from a local request to streamline pinyon-juniper thinning projects, but the BLM decided to broaden the scope.

Per direction from the last meeting, Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter containing scoping comments and requesting Cooperating Agency status. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to the BLM requesting Cooperating Agency status and submitting comments on the district-wide programmatic EA for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Management Project. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Dean Day; Stuart Bloyd; Margie Thomson; Nona Kellerman; Tressa Pitman; George Parman; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Medical Clinics Advisory Committee (3); flyer for employee/volunteer County Christmas Dinner Party; flyer for Christmas Tree Lighting event; flyer for Mountain Picassos Exhibit; flyer for Eureka Elementary & High School Winter Art Exhibit; Mt. Wheeler Power; Tri-County Meeting; Allison MacKenzie, Ltd.; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Western Governors' Assoc.; and US Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. It was announced that the Seventh Judicial District Court Show Cause Hearing in the Sadler Ranch, LLC, case scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled and reset for late January, but that date may also change.

Lisa Wolf of Crescent Valley gave an update on her upcoming live radio talk program, which she announced at the last meeting. It is tentatively scheduled to take place on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.*

/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 November 17, 2016, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

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

/s/ Beverly Conley  
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer