

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2020

STATE OF NEVADA            )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA        )

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 6, 2020. Present were Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel; and Commissioner Clerk Jackie Berg. Chairman Goicoechea was absent due to a family obligation. 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 sage grouse item was removed from the Natural Resources section of the agenda. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Sharkozy opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 21, 2020: Chairman Goicoechea was able to review the draft minutes remotely and provided some minor additions. With those changes, Commissioner McKay motioned to approve minutes of the January 21, 2020, meeting; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

## **COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Kim Todd. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$628,587.11 for accounts payable; \$372,175.43 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); \$1,519,582.67 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District; \$5,405.81 for a pass-through to the State Controller; \$319.50 for a pass-through to the Department of Taxation; \$180.00 for a pass through to the Washoe County crime lab; and \$178.71 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$2,526,429.23. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed a report of all current fund balances.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In January, Eureka served 743 meals and Crescent Valley served 650 meals. A total of \$10,017.71 was deposited for the month.

## **AMBULANCE & EMS**

Assistant EMS Director Job Description: EMS Director Kenny Sanders presented a new job description for approval, explaining there is a need for an Assistant who has authority to act in the Director's absence.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Assistant Emergency Medical Services Director job description with the corresponding range 128 on the Eureka County salary scale; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Skid Unit:** Sheriff Jesse Watts, Chair of the Local Emergency Planning Commission, requested authorization to purchase a skid unit that will fasten to a side-by-side ATV for purposes of transporting a patient from areas that are difficult or impossible to reach by ambulance.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a quote from Kimtek Corporation for a MEDLITE Transport Deluxe MTD-103 Skid Unit, for an amount not to exceed \$4,200.00, utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay in the LEPC budget. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

**Basket Stretcher:** The skid unit will remain attached to the ATV and a removable basket stretcher will be utilized to transport the patient.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchase of an 86-inch Basket Stretcher from Grainger, for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00, to be paid with monies budgeted for capital outlay in the LEPC budget. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

**Report on Activities:** Raymond Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. Although the season has been fairly dry, there was some snow removal over the past month. The dry weather has allowed the gravel haul on the JD Ranch Road and Grass Valley Road to continue, and 13 miles have been covered since Thanksgiving (about 100 feet per load). Both northern and southern crews are working on this project, which involves a long haul to reach the areas being worked on. Both brush mowers are operating as time allows, with one currently in Grass Valley and the other in Crescent Valley. Crews have been working on straightening and replacing road signs in Eureka and Diamond Valley.

## **JUVENILE PROBATION**

**Out-of-State Travel:** Steve Zimmerman, Juvenile Probation Officer, and Irma Davila, Senior Department Assistant, requested authorization to attend a conference out of state that will cover five of the eight continuing education credits required annually (per recent legislation). Mr. Zimmerman explained that the conference was selected by the Judges because of the required elements and not because it will take place in Hawaii. Staff is only attending the conference and will not be staying extra days! Costs for the conference, excluding per diem, will be paid from the Community Corrections Partnership Block Grant for the Seventh Judicial District Court.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> for Steve Zimmerman and Irma Davila to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing & Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**Public Works Update:** Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities. Olcese Waste Services will attend the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to give a quarterly report on residential and commercial waste services under the franchise agreement.

Interviews will be conducted the following week to replace the Utility Worker position that is vacant due to Kathy Kinkade's retirement after 22 years of service.

**Utilities & Facilities:** All utility systems are in good working order. Utility crews are finishing work on the new Landfill building, and are converting fluorescent lights in the building to LED as time allows. Mr. Damele is working with the County Engineer on a couple of projects, including plans for addressing the sewer pond issue.

**Water Conservation Plan:** Mr. Damele is working with contractor, Abby Johnson, to update the Eureka County Water Conservation Plan.

Road Work MOUs: Raymond Hodson is negotiating an updated Memorandum of Understanding with McEwen Mining that will outline the funding and road maintenance agreement for the 3 Bars and Roberts Creek Roads. It should be finalized in a couple of weeks.

Kobeh Valley Test Well Project: Before reviewing the Change Order on the Kobeh Valley Test Well Project, Mr. Damele invited Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, to give a report on progress of the test well.

Mr. Bugenig explained that in 2014 the County recognized the need to locate a community water supply outside of the Diamond Valley hydrographic area, with the goal of developing a 600 gallon per minute water source capable of meeting drinking water standards. Mr. Bugenig detailed the favorable conditions that led the County to select the area in Kobeh Valley for this test well and then to develop a conceptual model that dictated the drilling plan.

Drilling began with a dual rotary method, which allowed the crew to deal with drilling conditions specific to the area. After bedrock was hit at 320 feet (almost exactly matching Mr. Bugenig's estimate of 300 feet), drilling was changed to a dual tube air rotary method more conducive to drilling through hard rock. The alluvium was cased to a depth of 365 feet with 10-inch casing and then graveled (which took several days because of the amount needed to fill in the rock formations). The hole was drilled to a total depth of 740 feet to allow for proper anchoring of the casing in carbonate rock and to avoid instability beyond that depth that could compromise the bore hole, cause loss of drilling equipment and materials at the County's expense, and ultimately cause the well to be abandoned.

At 470 feet the hole was producing 100 gallons per minute, and at the total depth of 740 feet the well was producing 350 gallons per minute with no apparent drawdown over time. Water samples were taken at both depths and field tests revealed that the water met and exceeded standards for drinking water. Twin samples were sent to a Nevada certified laboratory for official comprehensive results.

Mr. Bugenig stated the yield and water quality are very encouraging and he is cautiously optimistic, although long-term reliable yield must still be proven.

A wellhead was placed on the well and because the test hole was exhibiting artesian conditions, Public Works installed a concrete manhole over the top of the well to prevent freezing. Mr. Bugenig stated that a datalogger will be installed to track water level trends. If laboratory analyses show that the water chemistry is as good as field tests predict, the next step will be to run a formal aquifer stress test, or pumping test. During the test, 250 gallons per minute will be pumped for three consecutive days, followed by another water quality analysis.

If yields and water quality meet expectations, the County will move forward with finalizing the water permit originally filed in 2014 with the Nevada Division of Water Resources. After this, the well will be cased below 365 feet, a pumping plan will be created, rights-of-way will be secured, and infrastructure will be installed to bring the well online with the County municipal water system.

Change Order: Mr. Damele and Mr. Bugenig explained that the Change Order addressed the need to switch to an alternate drilling method to address artesian conditions and to bore further to reach the stable carbonate layer. The men conferred and agreed it was in the best interest of the County to move forward with the Change Order, rather than paying expensive standby costs until it could be preapproved at a formal meeting. The budget for this project was \$350,000.00, with an original bid of \$263,000.00. After funding the \$31,717.29 Change Order, the remaining budget of \$54,000.00 for the current fiscal year will be used to fund the pumping test. Remaining steps (additional casing, permitting, etc.) will be funded in subsequent fiscal years.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Kobeh Valley Test Well Project, in the amount of \$31,717.29 payable to Boart Longyear Drilling Services, related to extra work as directed by the Engineer, Hydrogeologist, and Public Works Director. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Purchase of GMC Sierra Pickup: Mr. Damele provided a quote for a replacement vehicle budgeted for the Landfill. The quote was for a reduced rate under the State of Nevada Fleet Contract #8475.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the quote from Reno GMC for a new 2020 GMC Sierra 3500 regular cab pickup, for an amount not to exceed \$45,056.45, utilizing capital outlay monies budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Begin Process for Lease of Property: SkyFiber Video currently has equipment temporarily placed on the County's communication tower in Crescent Valley, but is interested in a more permanent option for its equipment. The County has a small area of land (approximately 50 ft. by 50 ft.) suitable for SkyFiber to install a tower. Nevada Revised Statutes and Eureka County Code require the County to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution prior to leasing certain property.

Commissioner McKay motioned to set a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup> during the regular meeting of the Board to hear comments and consider a resolution for lease of real property to SkyFiber Video, LLC. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities, meetings, and upcoming events.

White Pine County Meetings: On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Tibbitts attended a joint meeting of two White Pine County committees, the Water Advisory Committee and the Public Land Users Advisory Committee. The following day, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, he attended the White Pine County Commission meeting. White Pine County is exploring the possibility of funding a Natural Resources position, and Mr. Tibbitts was invited to the meetings to speak about Eureka County's Natural Resources program and his position as Natural Resources Manager. Mr. Tibbitts did not advocate for or against a position in White Pine County, but simply attended the meetings to provide information on the functions of Eureka County's Natural Resources Department.

Goldrush Project NEPA Process: On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Tibbitts met with representatives of Nevada Gold Mines regarding the Goldrush Project in northern Eureka County. The permitting process has begun and the BLM's NEPA process is now underway on a rapid schedule. This is the first large project in Eureka County that will operate under Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3355, which streamlines the EIS process by limiting the document to 150 pages and dictating an accelerated timeframe of no more than one year for completion of the NEPA process.

The Goldrush Project is a 40-year project with an anticipated 25-plus years of active mining. Mr. Tibbitts commended Nevada Gold Mines for being open with the County, noting the mine is already working to provide information on specific issues related to water, air quality, etc.

Upcoming Meetings: Mr. Tibbitts will attend the February 7<sup>th</sup> NACO Workshop, "*How & Why to Write a County Water Resources Plan*," and will serve as a panelist to provide a rural perspective. With passage of SB150 in the 2019 Legislative Session, Nevada counties are now required to have a water resources plan in place within 10 years. Eureka County already has a plan and Mr. Damele is currently working with consultant, Abby Johnson, to update the plan.

Mr. Tibbitts will travel to Las Vegas to attend the National Association of Conservation District's annual meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. He chairs NACD's Public Lands Subcommittee, which will meet on the morning of February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Eureka Conservation District will meet on the afternoon of February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Natural Resources Advisory Commission will meet the evening of February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Crescent Valley Firewise Committee has rescheduled its meeting to February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Mr. Tibbitts to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, & Teaching (CARET) meeting in Washington, DC, March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Mr. Tibbitts is appointed as a Nevada CARET delegate by the Dean of University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, & Natural Resources (CABNR). Full expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and per diem will be paid by CABNR.

Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the primary impacts to Eureka County in relation to the Navy's expansion of the Fallon Range Training Complex are related to airspace configurations. The County has been involved in the entire EIS process as a Cooperating Agency, including the State process of submitting the Nevada Consolidated Request from the Governor's office, which was signed by affected State agencies, counties, and tribes.

This expansion involves withdrawing an additional 650,000 acres of BLM land from multiple use to be used for the Navy's training purposes. This includes changing airspace from an ATCA designation (the FAA's Air Traffic Controlled Airspace) to a MOA designation (Military Operations Area), which will affect Eureka County with increased military air maneuvers.

The FRTC Modernization Final EIS was issued on January 10<sup>th</sup> and there is a 30-day period before the Record of Decision can be signed. Mr. Tibbitts said there have been a lot of positive changes from the Draft EIS to the Final EIS, which he attributes to Eureka County's involvement and involvement of other affected parties. State meetings with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Todd Mellon, have helped implement positive changes, including expanded buffer zones around the towns of Crescent Valley, Eureka, and the airports.

The 30-day period before the Record of Decision is not an official comment period, so the Navy is not obligated to consider additional changes, but Mr. Tibbitts did prepare a letter to the Navy's FRTC Modernization Team with final comments from the County.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send the letter to the US Navy concerning the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization process, Final EIS, and State of Nevada Consolidated Request. Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET**

Child Advocacy Center: Tyler Ingram, Elko County District Attorney, visited the Commissioners at an earlier meeting about plans to build a Child Advocacy Center in Elko to serve Elko and surrounding counties. A team of professionals is in place, but there is a need for a one-stop center to conduct all necessary elements involved in responding to allegations of child sexual or physical abuse.

Mr. Ingram explained that a 501(c)(3) organization has been established and funds can be accepted through the PACE Coalition or Elko County offices to ensure proper tracking and auditing. In addition to the PACE Coalition, Elko County and the City of Elko are supporting this project and the team hopes to add Eureka County, White Pine County, Lander County, and West Wendover to the list of supporters willing to pledge either a one-time financial gift or continued financial support for the Center. Any partnerships will include a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the mutual benefits of the involved entities.

Mr. Ingram explained that he is not a fundraiser, but the team has considered asking for a pledge from each partner of up to \$150,000.00, or other number most feasible for each respective city or county. This pledge can be paid in a lump sum or spread over years. Initial funds will be used to build and establish the facility. Once the facility is operational, the team hopes the partners are willing to commit another pledge towards annual operating expenses.

Commissioner McKay and Vice Chairman Sharkozy stated their support for the Child Advocacy Center, but felt Chairman Goicoechea should be involved in the decision establishing a pledge amount, so the Commissioners agreed to address this at the next meeting. Mr. Ingram thanked the Board and agreed to return on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Allocation to Eureka Landfill: Comptroller Kim Todd consulted the Department of Taxation regarding the Board's interest in allocating a portion of consolidated tax revenues (primarily made

up of sales tax) to the Landfill Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The Department informed her that no resolution is required and the Board simply needs to take formal action.

Commissioner McKay motioned to allocate \$1 million in consolidated tax revenues from the General Fund to the Landfill Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Data Process Conversion: Ms. Todd requested direction from the Board on continued budgeting for software conversion. Most County departments have successfully completed migration from the AS400 system to new software programs, but Assessor Michael Mears recently explained the deficiencies the Nevada Assessors are experiencing with the Devnet CAMA (computer aided mass assessment) software. No decisions have been made, but the Assessor's office may need to consider an alternate CAMA vendor, and costs are not yet known.

Commissioner McKay motioned to budget \$100,000.00 for data process conversion in the Capital Projects Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Human Resources Support: During earlier budget talks, the Board added funds to contract services in the Commissioners' budget to provide the ability to engage an HR Analyst to assist the Comptroller with HR duties. The Commissioners discussed budgeting additional funds in the Comptroller's budget but hadn't yet determined an amount.

Commissioner McKay asked that an additional \$30,000.00 be added to contract services in the Comptroller's budget and Vice Chair Sharkozy concurred.

Sheriff's Office Staffing & Statistics: Earlier in the week, Sheriff Watts emailed the Board a report supporting his staffing requests. Commissioner McKay responded by email requesting more detail and the Sheriff wanted to provide the requested information during the meeting and answer any other questions the Board may have. His responses are detailed below:

- For a breakdown in calls for service in 2019, there were 4,658 in Crescent Valley and 10,368 in Eureka (including 3,325 jail related calls for service).
- The Sheriff is working on a breakdown of calls by type, but this requires manual review of statistics since reporting criteria in the RIMS system has changed.
- The Sheriff confirmed there is potential for another vacancy in Eureka patrol because an officer is seeking employment closer to his family. But based on the latest round of interviews, pending background checks, there will be more viable candidates than current open positions. Two candidates are POST certified and two are CAT 3 certified.
- In response to the inquiry about having a 'roving' patrol officer able to cover both ends of the County to backfill for vacations, sick days, etc., Sheriff Watts explained that this is his intent for the two traffic safety deputies he has requested for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Sergeants work 12-hour shifts, with the exception of the Sergeant in detentions, who is temporarily covering 8-hour and 10-hour shifts until one deputy completes training and another deputy receives medical clearance.
- The Sheriff stated the applicant pool would be greatly impacted if the County required all sworn staff to be POST certified before hire.
- POST certification is a great expense for Eureka County, but in response to whether the County could require reimbursement if an employee leaves within two years of hire, Sheriff Watts stated this is problematic and he has seen similar policies fail in other organizations. He added that the Sheriff's Office has changed the recruitment and interview process to help identify candidates who may simply be using Eureka County to become POST certified and then jump to another agency.
- In addition to the emailed questions, Commissioner McKay added that Eureka businesses have voiced an interest in having 24/7 patrol, and he asked what level of staffing would be required to meet this need. Sheriff Watts responded that current approved positions, when fully staffed, are adequate to provide 24/7 patrol, with the exception of time off for training and paid leave.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

After a budget meeting only two days earlier, there was limited correspondence and most were associated with an agenda item. Correspondence, not related to a specific agenda item, was received from: Connie Hicks; Seventh Judicial District Court (two summonses in Case No. WM2001-03); University Center for Economic Development, Frederick Steinmann, DPPD; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection, and US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (Tonopah Field Office).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Sharkozy called for public comments; there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner McKay motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.; Vice Chair Sharkozy seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.*

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

*I, Jackie Berg, Deputy Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 6, 2020, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Deputy Commissioner Clerk

*I, Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Deputy Commissioner Clerk.*

/s/ Lisa Hoehne  
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder