

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 5, 2021

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on March 5, 2021. The meeting was conducted telephonically pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, which was extended by subsequent Directives through duration of the current State of Emergency. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel (via telephone); and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy was absent. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chairman noted that items on the agenda may be taken out of order to accommodate other business that staff must attend to. He also noted that Principal Jeff Evans would present the scholarship request, and the February 22nd minutes were tabled.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with the noted changes; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Remembrance of Sonni Sharkozy: Before calling for public comment, Chairman Goicoechea recognized and remembered Sonni Sharkozy, Commissioner Sharkozy’s wife, who passed away on February 24th. He said he knew many people were thinking of Sonni and asked, “...*please keep Mike in your thoughts and prayers; they were married just shy of 56 years, so he’s obviously left with a big hole in his life.*”

Eureka Swimming Pool: Dana Freund, Darlene Moody, and Robin Hicks were in attendance to voice a request that the swimming pool hours be increased to accommodate the community, kids, and visitors to the area.

Additionally, Ms. Freund said there are plans to film a video of Eureka in May, which will be posted online, and she asked if pool employees could do some work around town prior to the filming.

Chairman Goicoechea asked if they were aware the pool was closed and recently opened with restrictive hours in response to the pandemic, and further asked if their requests had been presented to Public Works.

The ladies responded that they were aware that the change in the pool schedule was in response to COVID, but had not spoken to Public Works.

Chairman Goicoechea explained that requests related to the swimming pool should be made to Public Works Director Jeb Rowley and Assistant Public Works Director-Administration Joyce Jeppesen before being presented to the Commissioners.

Ms. Freund, Ms. Moody, and Ms. Hicks thanked the Board for their consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2021: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve minutes of the February 4, 2021, budget meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. One invoice exceeded the six-month limit and required individual approval. It was

discovered that the original invoice was left on site at the Fannie Komp Senior Center and one was never mailed. The vendor will mail all future invoices directly to Public Works.

Commissioner McKay motioned to pay Lonewolf HVAC-R in the amount of \$1,685.18 for services and parts on August 3, 2020; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$580,537.57 for accounts payable (including the late invoice), \$345,516.51 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$562,879.95 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$6,456.56 for a pass-through to the Nevada State Controller, \$7,070.00 for a pass-through to the Nevada Division of Minerals, \$381.67 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, \$285.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab, and \$17,274.05 for a pass-through to pay range improvement vouchers for the N1 Grazing District, for a grand total of \$1,520,401.31. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the report showing current fund balances.

PUBLIC HEARING – EUREKA COUNTY ROAD MAP

Notice: Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners would hold a public hearing to invite public comments and consider adopting an updated Eureka County Road Map. Copies of the updated map were available upon request and posted on the County website for public review.

Open Public Hearing: Chairman Goicoechea opened the hearing and invited comments on the updated road map. No comments were forthcoming.

The Chairman said it was important to note that there are roads within Eureka County on, or accessing, public lands that do not appear on the updated version, or previous versions, of the Eureka County Road Map, stating the following for the record.

“These are RS 2477 roads that were constructed prior to 1976 under provisions of the 1866 Mining Law. These roads are classified as “public roads” under NRS 405.191 and are to “remain open for public use,” and that “public use alone has been and is sufficient to evidence an acceptance of the grant of a public user right-of-way” under RS 2477. NRS 405.193 clarifies that “no public agency is required to maintain any public road which is so designated...nor is any agency required to accept any public road as a main, general or minor county road,” and “no action may be brought against the county, its officers or employees for damage suffered by a person solely as a result of the unmaintained condition” of one of these RS 2477 roads.

“County Code, Title 9, Chapter 50 makes clear that “failure of a highway or road to appear on such a map or series of maps shall not constitute a waiver of such highway or road, nor shall it be used as evidence of such road’s or highway’s non-existence.”

“I believe it is important that this be noted whenever we do County Road Map updates as to not ever allow assertions by others that Eureka County does not claim each and every road and way that exists across public lands within our County. We are merely going through this process to bring new roads that have met the requirements and have been built to the specifications of Eureka County onto the map. But again, there are many roads that cross public land that grant access that were put in prior to FLPMA, and we in no way, shape, or form are relinquishing our claim to those roads that are RS 2477 by adoption of this map.”

Following his statement, the Chairman made a final call for public comments on the updated road map. Being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Adoption of Updated County Road Map: Commissioner McKay motioned to adopt the updated Eureka County Road Map, as presented, pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 9, Chapter 50, Section .030. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET - REVENUES

Preliminary Revenue Projections: Ms. Todd provided preliminary revenue projections for the upcoming fiscal year in comparison to the current year's budgeted revenues, as follows.

	FY 2020-2021 (budgeted revenues)	FY 2021-2022 (preliminary estimates)	Difference
Secured/Unsecured	782,015,871*	840,625,402*	+58,609,531*
Net Proceeds	426,133,593*	750,168,022*	+324,034,429*
Fuel Tax	840,634	843,273	+2,639
CTAX	5,805,474	5,880,651	+75,177

* Note: Amounts with an asterisk (*) are assessed valuations.

The State bases these preliminary estimates, in part, on the proforma report calculated by the County Treasurer and the segregation report calculated by the County Assessor.

County Assessor Michael Mears explained that the State wanted a higher assessed valuation (on all secured and unsecured property within the County), but he studied trends over the past ten years and was comfortable with an assessed valuation of \$840 million. The Comptroller and Assessor consistently recommend budgeting conservative revenue amounts.

Mr. Mears added that mining is strong in the County, with continued expansions, so he felt the State's projected increase in net proceeds of minerals tax was accurate.

Ms. Todd said the State is predicting a drop in CTAX (consolidated tax) for most counties, but Eureka County hasn't been hit as hard since its primary industries, mining and agriculture, are essential services and have been able to continue to operate during the pandemic. Eureka County is on trend to earn \$6 million in CTAX in the current fiscal year, so she felt an estimate of \$5.8 million for Fiscal Year 2022 was a good conservative number.

Ms. Todd clarified that, of the combined general County tax rate of \$1.8743 (per \$100.00 of assessed valuation), the School District receives \$0.75, the State receives \$0.17, and amounts are also apportioned to Eureka Town, Crescent Valley Town, Diamond Valley Rodent and Weed Districts, and the Television District. The entire allocation of fuel tax is apportioned to the Road Fund and RTC Fund (Regional Transportation Commission).

Since tax revenues in the current fiscal year are on track to be slightly higher than the budgeted amounts, Ms. Todd was comfortable with the State's projected revenues for FY2022. Final revenue projections will be received later in the month.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET - PERSONNEL

Personnel / COLAs: After seeing the revenue projections, the Board was comfortable with the previously proposed cost of living allowance. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve a cost of living allowance of \$0.62 for hourly employees and a corresponding rate of 4.33% for salaried employees, effective July 11, 2021, which is the first full pay period in the new fiscal year. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Position Request / Clerk Recorder: A total of eight new full-time and one new casual position were requested for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Clerk Recorder requested 300 casual hours to hire a casual election worker and the Board agreed to include this in the budget.

Position Requests / Sheriff: The Sheriff requested five new deputy positions, two for Crescent Valley, two for Eureka, and another stationed in the south that would roam as a traffic enforcement.

Chairman Goicoechea felt the Sheriff's Office had made strides in filling vacant positions, but he still preferred to see the department fully staffed and operating post-COVID before evaluating true personnel needs. He noted that once the Sheriff's budget request hit social media, he received numerous calls and texts that the public was not in favor of any added positions. The

Chairman offered to support one more deputy in Crescent Valley, but said this position must stay in Crescent Valley and not be transferred elsewhere.

Commissioner McKay said he also got a lot of calls and texts and was surprised that the majority of people felt no more deputies were needed. He did some calculations and noted that in two years there has been a 70% turnover in personnel at the Sheriff's Office. Additionally, the Sheriff's budget grew by \$1.1 million dollars from his first year in office to the third year. Originally in favor of adding two deputies, he said he would agree with the Chairman and support one for Crescent Valley.

Position Request / Public Works: Public Works requested an administrative assistant position. Joyce Jeppesen, Assistant Director-Administration, described the day-to-day tasks and the coverage this person could provide, which would free her up to more effectively address her responsibilities. Director Jeb Rowley indicated there are plans to move some permitting and reporting duties from the State to the local level, which will increase workload in his office.

Chairman Goicoechea said he hates adding new staff, but noted that the Public Works office has absorbed many new duties over the years, so he would support this position.

Commissioner McKay felt Public Works provided adequate justification for the need and agreed to support the position as well.

Position Request / EMS: EMS Director Ken Sanders said ambulance runs in the north have increased significantly. There is one full-time paid EMT stationed in Crescent Valley, but the volunteer staff is nearly nonexistent, with the most active volunteer soon retiring. Eureka staff has been rotating up north at least once a week to help provide coverage.

The Chairman stated the Board has worked hard to encourage volunteer recruitment, especially over the past several years, but it is challenging. He supported this position, feeling it wouldn't be responsible to leave Crescent Valley, Beowawe, Dunphy, and the freeway without an ambulance service.

Commissioner McKay agreed this position was needed because the north must be covered, but offered he is talking with MedX AirOne, who will have representatives at the next meeting to present some options to potentially supplement local emergency services.

Position Request / Natural Resources: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts said this position would primarily work as a weed technician. Since it will replace a contract position, costs are virtually a wash. Weed work is funded with grants from the BLM, and this position will be contingent upon continued grant funding.

The Board acknowledged it has been difficult to secure and retain contractors, and felt this position would be more effective in addressing the weed control needs. The Board directed Mr. Tibbitts to work with the HR Director to draft a job description by July 1st.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET – DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

The Board requested a review of all departments seeking budgetary increases, other than minimal increases such as those related to the more secure fax service.

Commissioners: The proposed Commissioners' budget had a \$319,500.00 increase, because they were advised that legal fees, particularly related to water, could be substantial.

Clerk Recorder: Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne originally requested a total increase of \$71,100.00 in the three operating budgets in her department, plus an additional \$5,000.00 in capital outlay. Ms. Hoehne told the Board she has 'sharpened her pencil' and lowered several categories. This resulted in a net increase in her operating budgets of \$41,600.00.

Recorder: Changes in the Recorder's budget resulted in a requested net increase of \$1,700.00 over the current fiscal year.

Elections: Changes in the operating budget for Elections resulted in a net decrease of \$2,000.00 over the current fiscal year.

District Court: Ms. Hoehne shaved \$8,700.00 off her original proposal for District Court, resulting in a net increase of \$41,900.00 to next year's operating budget.

Assessor: The proposed budget for the Assessor had a \$16,000.00 increase, which will cover contract services to have the new solar power plant properly appraised.

Buildings & Grounds: This proposed budget reflected a \$54,400.00 increase, mostly due to the projected rise in heating and fuel costs. Capital outlay was budgeted at \$44,500.00.

Technology Support: This operating budget had a proposed increase of \$90,200.00 and proposed capital outlay of \$1,180,000.00 to begin tackling the work and upgrades recommended in the County-wide technology survey conducted by Quest Media.

Sheriff: The Sheriff's budget had a proposed operating increase of \$9,500.00 primarily to add funds for a K9 unit. Capital outlay was increased by \$45,000.00 to upgrade the camera and security system at the Crescent Valley substation.

Fire District: There was a \$25,000.00 increase in this budget, partially due to moving fire department monies out of the Crescent Valley Town budget and into this budget.

Public Works: The Public Works budget included an increase of \$17,200.00, mainly to cover communication upgrades.

Public Parks: This budget had a proposed increase of \$23,000.00, with \$20,000.00 accounted for by transferring park monies out of the Crescent Valley Town budget.

Library: The Library budget had a proposed increase of \$13,000.00, which is reflective of the rise in contract costs.

Road Department: The Road Department had an operating increase of \$493,000.00, but the bulk of this will be offset by monies from area mines that have road maintenance agreements with the County. Capital outlay was increased by \$330,000.00 for equipment replacement.

Building Operation & Maintenance Reserve Fund: This budget was increased by \$100,000.00, the estimated cost to do an assessment of the Sheriff's Office Detention Facility.

Chairman Goicoechea informed the Sheriff and Undersheriff that there are other counties interested in a regional detention facility, which may be a worthwhile conversation to have.

Capital Projects Fund: This budget had an increase of \$5,000.00 for operating funds, but reflected a substantial decrease by \$365,500.00 in capital outlay.

Town of Eureka: A minimal increase of \$3,000.00 was proposed in this budget for fuel and maintenance.

Eureka Water/Sewer Utility Fund: This budget had a proposed net decrease of \$190,600.00 in operating capital, and a \$165,000.00 increase in capital outlay.

Crescent Valley Town: The \$37,000.00 decrease in the operating budget for Crescent Valley Town reflects monies for the park that were moved into other budgets.

Crescent Valley Water Utility Fund: This fund had a decrease to the operating budget of \$42,950.00 and an increase to capital outlay of \$105,000.00.

Diamond Valley Weed District: The Weed District budget included an increase of \$40,000.00, but this was only for contingency if the weed technician position cannot be filled.

Devil's Gate Water District: This operating budget had a minimal increase of \$2,200.00.

Tentative Budget: Chairman Goicoechea stated the Board will take one final look at the budget prior to filing the Tentative Budget with the Nevada Department of Taxation by April 15th.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities.

Ruby Hill Mine: Ruby Hill hosted its Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on February 22nd, where it was reported that the BLM has granted permission to mine beyond where the high wall failure occurred.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on March 10th, a County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting on March 11th, a mining tax forum on March 16th hosted by *The Nevada Independent*, and the BLM is hosting virtual forums to better partner with local communities – one regarding weeds on March 11th and one on road maintenance on March 15th.

Water Survey: Mr. Tibbitts provided information for an online water survey being conducted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources. He will respond on behalf of Eureka County, but encouraged the Commissioners to do the survey independently as well.

Letter Supporting Greenlink Project: Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify a letter sent to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada supporting Nevada Energy's proposal for Greenlink Nevada, a major transmission line and green energy initiative. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

4-Wheeler Quote: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve the quote from 5th Gear Power Sports for a 2021 Yamaha Grizzly EPS SE 4-Wheeler for the Weed District, in an amount not to exceed \$11,426.20, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay in the Weed District budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

NDOT: In January, Ross Baker with Nevada Department of Transportation told of plans for NDOT to acquire BLM land in Diamond Valley for the site of a new maintenance station.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter to NDOT supporting this acquisition, but asking that the station be placed where there will be the least impacts to grazing allotments and limited impacts to nearby residential properties and future residential lots.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve sending the letter to Nevada Department of Transportation regarding a new highway maintenance station in Diamond Valley. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

EUREKA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Scholarship Drive: Jeff Evans, Eureka County High School Principal, was in attendance to request a donation to the annual scholarship drive, explaining there were 12 graduating Seniors in the Class of 2021.

The previous year, Eureka County donated \$1,500.00 in scholarship monies. Chairman Goicoechea proposed increasing the amount, in part to recognize local school officials who have been committed to keeping local schools open during the pandemic. Commissioner McKay agreed wholeheartedly with the sentiment.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to contribute \$2,000.00 to Eureka County High School's annual scholarship drive for the Class of 2021, to be paid from the miscellaneous grants account in the Commissioners' budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

OLCESE WASTE SERVICES

Update on Waste Services: Rick Lake, Operations Manager for Olcese Waste Services, gave an update on residential and commercial waste collection in Eureka County over the past quarter. In October, two new 96-gallon residential and two 3-yard commercial services were added to the route. Two more residential services were added in November, with six more residential services added in December. There have been no cancellations, and Olcese is pleased to see a steady gain in customers.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In February, Eureka served 905 meals and Crescent Valley served 1,004 meals. The availability of home-delivered meals during the pandemic has definitely increased meal count in comparison to previous years. Staff at both centers are working towards the minimal capacity openings on March 15th, and the seniors are excited about this first step back to normalcy. A total of \$3,112.49 was deposited for the month.

Mileage Limit for Home-Delivered Meals: Ms. Oram spoke with staff and they recommend that Eureka meal deliveries go as far as 12th Street in Diamond Valley and that Crescent Valley continue delivering in town, as the outlying areas are too far out. They will inform clientele that meals will not be delivered when roads or impassable due to weather or lack of maintenance.

Commissioner McKay motioned to keep the existing five-mile meal delivery limit in Crescent Valley and to designate 12th Street in Diamond Valley as the mileage limit for meal delivery from Eureka, contingent upon safe and passable road conditions. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ASSESSOR

Uncollectible Accounts: Assessor Michael Mears explained that the BLM no longer provides local Assessors with information on oil and gas lease properties, causing the Assessors to expend a lot of time researching where to send tax bills, often with minimal receipts. Assessors are working with the Department of Taxation, and it looks like oil and gas lease accounts will not be billed in the future. But for the current fiscal year, the Assessor sought approval to write-off the uncollectible accounts.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned, pursuant to NRS 361.5607, to designate the following accounts uncollectible and to allow write-offs of the remaining balances in the total amount of \$3,352.41: OG000340 Black River Exploration LLC, OG000343 Liberty Petroleum, OG000347 Nevada Leasing Services, and OG000353 Shibah Oil & Gas LLC. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley reported on projects and activities.

COVID Vaccines: Mr. Rowley reported that second-round Moderna vaccines are scheduled at the local clinic on March 9th and 11th. Emergency Management and EMS will facilitate a vaccination POD (point of dispensing) at the Opera House on March 19th. EMS will travel to Pine Valley and Crescent Valley on March 12th to administer vaccines. Going forward, the Janssen vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's COVID vaccine), which is now available, will be administered because it is a single dose vaccine and doesn't require a booster.

Radio Network: The proof of concept testing with Galena Group and Western States Enterprises has been delayed until March 15th and 16th. The testing is to prove effectiveness of the LTE coverage and connection points for P25 radio coverage.

Flood Plain: Mr. Rowley and Assistant Director Raymond Hodson participated in a call with the Nevada Floodplain Management Program on January 7th. The call was to discuss NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) and the County's compliance with newly identified flood hazard areas and enforcement of local flood ordinances. The last call with the Program was 17 years ago, and the management team was very pleased to hear about flood control improvements the County has constructed and installed since that time. This involvement by the County allows residents to take advantage of lower flood insurance premiums through NFIP.

Town Siren: There are still complaints about the volume of the daily 9:00 p.m. siren in Eureka. After Public Works consulted with the Fire Chief, the building and maintenance crew made an adjustment to the volume earlier in the week. But there is no way to independently adjust the volume, so it must remain loud enough to be effective in an emergency.

Fire Training: Red Card wildland firefighter refresher trainings have been scheduled for Public Works staff and volunteer firefighters. Additional trainings for the outlying fire departments will also be scheduled.

Eureka Airport: On March 4th, Mr. Rowley, Assistant Director-Administration Joyce Jeppesen, and engineers from Lumos & Associates met with the FAA to review the Eureka Airport Capital Improvement Plan. This is a five-year plan, and upcoming projects include design phase for a maintenance building to house the snow plow and windsocks on each end of the runway. Cultural surveys will be done before any ground disturbance, and there are talks about doing a cultural survey for the entire Airport property. These projects and cultural surveys will be funded by an FAA grant that covers 95% of costs.

Public Works also had an on-site visit at the Airport with LA Perks to better identify what needs to be done to repair or replace the jet a fuel skid system. LA Perks will create a plan and cost estimate, which should be forwarded in about a week.

Residential Water Service: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service to serve APN 002-026-04 in the Crescent Valley Townsite; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Mr. Rowley explained that a John Deere grader uses proprietary software and problems can only be analyzed and diagnosed by the company. He requested authorization for out-of-state travel for road department employees to deliver the grader, as well as authorization for a return trip once the machine is repaired.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to authorize out-of-state travel for two road department employees to make up to two trips to Salt Lake City, Utah, in March related to equipment repairs; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

FBO Contract Renewal: Mr. Rowley explained that the FBO (Fixed Base Operator) contract is due for a two-year renewal, and John Walzl has submitted a letter of intent to renew. Mr. Rowley said he is aware there is some interest in utilizing the hangar for other purposes, but the current arrangement authorizes the contractor use of the hangar.

Commissioner McKay acknowledged that he is talking with MedX AirOne about more presence in the area and there may be some interest in stationing crew members locally and housing an aircraft at the Airport. Representatives from MedX plan to attend the next meeting to propose some options.

Joyce Jeppesen noted that requirements concerning insurance may change if the hangar is identified as a medical service hangar. She is researching the criteria to see if it would apply in this instance.

Chairman Goicoechea added that Nevada POOL PACT recently evaluated the County's contracts and may have some recommendations concerning independent contractors that could also alter the contract. With several unknowns, Chairman Goicoechea suggested extending the contract, under existing terms and conditions, for 90 days.

John Walzl, who was in attendance, indicated he was agreeable with a 90-day extension, so this will be placed on the next agenda for the Board to take formal action.

COMMISSIONERS

Nevada Legislative Session: Chairman Goicoechea reported that hearings are being scheduled, but there is not a lot of movement on bills. Later in the day, he will attend the NACO Legislative Committee meeting, and will participate in a conference call with proponents of AJR3 (concerning land and water protections). He noted that Mr. Tibbitts was dismissed from the meeting early to attend the hearing on SB94 (concerning roads and gates across public roads).

The Chairman reported that the most concerning bill draft would allow creation of Innovation Zones. This would allow technology companies to occupy large blocks of land and basically have the same authorities as a local county government. Chairman Goicoechea attended a lengthy meeting the previous week concerning this proposed legislation. At that meeting, proponents of the bill draft said they wanted all 17 counties on board and would make the necessary changes to accomplish this.

During that meeting, Chairman Goicoechea made it clear that Eureka County will never support a bill that, in one or two future Legislative Sessions, could be amended resulting in devastating consequences to the local economy. He added that companies already have the opportunity to approach counties directly, and Eureka County would willingly cooperate with a company that wants to add valuable infrastructure.

This concept is getting a lot of opposition from rural counties, and Chairman Goicoechea plans to propose a resolution against this as soon as it is formally introduced in the Legislature.

Other bills to watch include one that would allow more local input when appointing State Board of Wildlife Commissioners. One bill, of some concern, would strip the requirement to have representation from “range or semirange” livestock. There hasn’t been a lot of movement on legislation proposing changes to net proceeds of minerals tax, but it is worthy of tracking.

NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Special Assessments for FY21-22: Each year the Nevada Division of Water Resources provides budgets for special assessments to be billed to water rights holders in Eureka County. These are billed on real property tax statements and in turn paid to the Division. Chairman Goicoechea said that the County Commissioners are asked to approve the budgets each year and the County Treasurer collects the assessments, but it is a State tax that the local government has no authority over.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Division of Water Resources budgets for special assessments for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to be collected by Eureka County on behalf of the Division for expenses related to supervision over the following waters in Eureka County: Maggie Creek Groundwater Basin, Boulder Flat Groundwater Basin, Humboldt River Distribution, Whirlwind Valley Groundwater Basin, Lower Reese River Valley Groundwater Basin, Crescent Valley Groundwater Basin, Pine Valley Groundwater Basin, Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin, and Kobeh Valley Groundwater Basin. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Update Report: Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson gave an update on Road Department projects and activities. The screening plant has been running steadily this winter in the Green Pit. Much of the past month was spent on a gravel haul to 7th Street and Gold Street in Diamond Valley. Those are nearly done and the crew will move on to County Road 101 and will haul gravel out towards 15th Street.

The northern crew has been hauling gravel to the Spa Road, as well as building up the shoulders and removing oversized rocks. The rocks are being hauled to Gold Springs Point Road to the area that was causing problems last summer.

Crews spent a couple of days plowing snow. While the roads were too muddy to work, crews changed out old street signs and replaced them with new signs. The new employee in Crescent Valley started a couple of weeks earlier and is working out well.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. The fingerprint machine at the Sheriff’s Office was moved and connectivity with the State was reestablished.

The phone system was down for a couple of days. Parts were immediately ordered and installed upon arrival, and the system was reprogrammed.

Ms. Rowley worked with Business Continuity Technologies to install a security patch on the mail server. She is working to set up two workstations for the new employees in the Clerk Recorder’s office. She is researching costs and benefits of various security and two-factor authentication software solutions.

Work continues on updating each computer in the County to switch from the stand-alone antivirus to an integrated version. Ms. Rowley continues responding to public records requests.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Comptroller Kim Todd; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Eureka County High School; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; UNR University Center for

Economic Development; Nevada Rail Auxiliary Team; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (2); National NACo (6); US Senator Jacky Rosen; US Dept. of Homeland Security; and Governing electronic newsletter (2).

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner McKay stated there is a need in the community for a day care and a petition is being circulated by local parents. Eureka Business Network is collaborating with area mines and had a meeting on March 3rd. If property can be located for a day care facility, Nevada Gold Mines is open to providing funding. McEwen Mining is open to funding as well, having recognized that some of its turnover is due to lack of childcare. Local parents who initiated the petition are not asking for County funding, but would like County support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Eureka resident, Lloyd Seamen, said he is a local representative for a motor oil product that could save Eureka County up to 50% on lubrication products. Chairman Goicoechea asked him to speak with Public Works or the lead mechanic at the Road Shop.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McKay motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of April, 2021.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the March 5, 2021, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

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 Commissioner Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, Clerk