

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 6, 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 May 6, 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; Vice Chairman Mike Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel (via telephone); and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Per request of the District Attorney, one of his agenda items was removed (hiring freeze waiver) and will be placed on a future agenda. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with that change; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

Meetings: The Chairman announced that this will be the final meeting with the call-in option. Eureka County is returning to in-person meetings as outlined in Open Meeting Law (the video link to Crescent Valley will remain). On May 1st, COVID-19 mitigation transitioned to local governments allowing each county to determine if its jurisdiction will continue with telephonic meetings or resume in-person meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 6, 2021: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the April 6, 2021, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTRROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$266,937.11 for accounts payable, 727,947.88 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$100,991.52 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$9,458.02 for a pass-through to the State Controller, \$360.32 for a pass-through to Nevada Department of Taxation, \$80.00 for a pass-through to Nevada Division of Minerals, \$147.00 for a pass-through to Washoe County Crime Lab, and \$14.64 for a pass-through to White Pine County, for a grand total of \$1,105,936.49. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Genesis Home Health: The County contracts with Genesis Home Health to provide hospice and home health care for people without health insurance who meet low-income requirements. The current contract provides up to \$30,000.00 for home health services (with \$2,567.15 remaining) and \$10,000.00 for hospice (with \$4,554.00 remaining).

County staff was concerned that the allocation for home health services would be exhausted before the end of the fiscal year and sought permission to use the hospice funds for all services.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned that the remaining \$4,554.00, allocated for hospice care in the contract with Genesis Home Health Services, can be used to pay for all contract services once the home health care funds are depleted. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution – Independent Contractors: In January, POOL/PACT Human Resources conducted an assessment audit that resulted in several recommendations, including certain documentation that must be provided by the County’s independent contractors.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution outlining required documentation that must be supplied by independent contractors prior to processing County payments related to those contracts. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

May 6, 2021

RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO ANY COUNTY PAYMENTS BEING PROCESSED TO INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners will from time to time engage independent contractors with specialized ability, knowledge or expertise to provide services which support different County functions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners are committed to the proper processing of payments made to these independent contractors; and

WHEREAS, the County is committed to abiding by common sense audit processes that require a signed contract listing the not to exceed annual contract amount, in order to better budget and prepare for future payments to independent contractors and the County’s financial obligations; and

WHEREAS, in order to properly process payments to independent contractors, the County requires an approved signed contract to be filed with both the Clerk of the Commissioners and the County Comptroller prior to any payments being processed; and

WHEREAS, if the contract requires the independent contractor to provide proof of liability insurance coverage naming Eureka County as an additional insured, this document must also accompany the independent contractor contract when submitted to the Clerk and the Comptroller; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners hereby adopts the common-sense requirement that all independent contractors have a signed and approved contract along with liability insurance documentation on file (if required by the contract) prior to any payments being processed or distributed to the independent contractor.

ADOPTED this 6th day of May, 2021.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
Chair of the Board
Eureka County Commission

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Commissioner Admin. Asst. II

Nevada Legislative Session: Jake Tibbitts explained that some of the bills Eureka County has been tracking have been amended significantly and will affect the County’s position.

Eureka County originally opposed **AB146**, concerning nonpoint source pollution in water, because of potential impacts to agriculture and mining. But it was substantially amended, adding protections for the agricultural industry, and Mr. Tibbitts recommended that the County change its position to neutral.

AB211 proposed a requirement to submit tentative subdivision maps to the Nevada Department of Wildlife with a \$5,000.00 fee. These maps are already sent to the Nevada Division of Water Resources and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for review. The County originally opposed this, but language has been amended and the fee removed, so Mr. Tibbitts recommended a neutral stance on this bill.

The County was originally neutral on **AB333**, concerning large detention basins in building developments in relationship to water rights. The County opposed it after an amendment placed enforcement responsibility for the water right on counties. The bill is undergoing further amendment to clarify it is the State Engineer's responsibility. Once the amendment is submitted, Mr. Tibbitts recommended returning to a neutral position on this bill.

AJR3, known as the "30 by 30" initiative to "protect 30 percent of the lands and waters... by 2030," is concerning because it doesn't define what 'protect' means. It has garnered a lot of opposition from various groups and other counties, but Eureka County is the only county that has been engaged and provided testimony (in writing and verbally at both hearings).

SB77 passed the Senate unanimously, and work is now being done to provide further clarity. This was proposed by Eureka County to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, and will provide accommodations under Open Meeting Law for Cooperating Agencies.

Cooperating Agencies have jurisdiction or special expertise that allows participation in the confidential pre-public portion of the NEPA process. As a three-member Commission, only one Commissioner can attend Cooperating Agency meetings (attendance by two creates a quorum). During this confidential pre-public phase, details cannot yet be discussed in an open meeting either, so communication between two Commissioners is completely thwarted.

SB77 would provide an exemption to the quorum rule for Cooperating Agency meetings, thus allowing for more judicial participation and more transparency in the process.

SB94's original intent was to clarify that a private landowner can place a fence or gate on their private property, but jurisdiction of a public road remains with the local county. The County supports the intent of this bill, but the language was confusing and didn't consider issues surrounding RS2477 roads. Recent amendments have weakened the language and proponents continue working on clarifications but, as currently drafted, the County should remain opposed.

SB287 would designate Desert Research Institute and University of Nevada Las Vegas as land grant universities, thus channeling funding from rural communities at the detriment of extension programs and agricultural research. Eureka County will continue working with NACO leadership on a legislative amendment.

SCR10 would direct the Legislative Committee on Energy to conduct an interim study for development of hydrogen and lithium in the State as part of the renewable energy solution. Mr. Tibbitts has been advocating for inclusion of vanadium in this bill. There are currently no active vanadium mines in the continental United States, but the Gibellini Vanadium Project is in the permitting process. If permitted, it would meet 50% of the nation's vanadium needs.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to declare Eureka County's position on the discussed amended legislation as follows: AB146/neutral, AB211/neutral, SB94/opposed, SB77/support, AB333/neutral, AJR3/opposed, SB287/opposed, and SCR10/support. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG CORONAVIRUS FUND GRANT

Notice: Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners would hold a public hearing to invite comments on potential projects to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Fund (CDBG-CV) Round 2, with an estimated \$28,858.00 available to Eureka County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Projects must meet certain criteria and monies must be spent to prepare, prevent, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline to submit the grant application was originally April 27th, but has been extended for two weeks.

Public Hearing: Chairman Goicoechea opened the hearing and invited input on potential projects. Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg gave a brief update on the process, noting she is working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, but is having difficulty obtaining eligibility on the proposed projects.

Jeb Rowley commented that the pandemic has directly created a need for more storage, and he is currently working with both Senior Centers to address this need. As a possible qualifying project, he suggested construction of a storage room at the Eureka Senior Center.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed this might be a viable project. Ms. Berg will gather information, with assistance from Mr. Rowley and Millie Oram, and attempt to gain eligibility for construction of a storage room at the Eureka Senior Center.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In April, Eureka served 661 meals and Crescent Valley served 807 meals. Home-delivered meals are now limited to the homebound effective April 1st in Eureka and April 12th in Crescent Valley. The seniors are excited that travel services have resumed and are planning seasonal trips. A total of \$8,312.00 was deposited for the month.

Golden Grocery Program: Ms. Oram recently attended the Agency Conference for Food Bank of Northern Nevada and learned of a new Food Bank program called the Golden Grocery Program. Its purpose is to address the rising number of seniors in Nevada suffering with malnutrition. A variety of nutritional food will be offered, and items will be different each month. There are no income restrictions and anyone 60 or older may participate. The program will begin in Eureka on May 11th, and in Crescent Valley once the new storage unit is complete.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. She is working on setting up the Incident Response Plan, doing the bulk of the work herself to save money on contractors. Ms. Rowley set up the Tyler Connect software module, a component of the new agenda management program from Tyler Technologies.

Quest Media installed cabinets at the 3rd Street well and Diamond Valley Fire Station for the wireless point-to-point connection in Diamond Valley. In the coming week, Syber Networks will deliver the new server for the Sheriff's Office, and RIMS will install software and complete data migration. Ms. Rowley has been working to install two-factor identification on the Sheriff's Office mobile devices.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Journal Technologies, Inc: District Attorney Ted Beutel asked the Board to approve a one-year software service agreement with Journal Technologies, Inc. He negotiated the price to \$25,000.00, but that is the lowest the company is willing to go. The one-year timeframe will give his office time to seek a less expensive alternative.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the one-year software service agreement with Journal Technologies, Inc., for the amount of \$25,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Delinquent Tax Notices: Ms. Johnson provided the Affidavit of Mailing of delinquent tax notices for real property parcels. A total of 227 first-year, 75 second-year, and 43 third-year notices were sent.

Tax Delinquent Properties Auction: The Tax Delinquent Properties Auction was held on April 29th, with 17 properties offered for sale. Properties sold for a combined total of \$116,976.12.

After deduction of taxes and fees, \$94,571.64 in excess proceeds will be held for the statutory one-year period. Funds not claimed after a year will revert to the General Fund.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the Treasurer's Verified Return of Sale & Reconciliation of Trust Property for the Tax Delinquent Properties Auction on April 29, 2021. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quitclaim Deeds Resolution: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution directing the County Treasurer to execute and file Quitclaim Deeds with the County Recorder and to deliver said Quitclaim Deeds to purchasers of the properties sold at the April 29, 2021, auction; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SUMMARY: Return of Sale of Trust Property

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, on the 6th day of January, 2020, duly ordered the sale at public auction of the hereinafter described real property held by Pernecia Johnson, as County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust; and

WHEREAS, after due and legal notice of the place and manner of said sale was duly given in the manner required by NRS 361.595, by publication in the *Eureka Sentinel*, a newspaper published within the County of Eureka, State of Nevada, and posted as required by NRS 361.595 and the 2019 Order of the Board of Commissioners Directing the County Treasurer to Offer All Tax Delinquent Properties for Sale, said property was sold by sealed bid on the 20th day of August, 2020, of said day in the Treasurer's office of the Eureka County Courthouse, Eureka County Nevada, in pursuance of said Order of Sale; and

WHEREAS, at said sale the property described in the Reconciliation of Tax Auction Held August 20, 2020, attached hereto was sold to the persons or entities listed for the total sum of Ninety-Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars and Three Cents (\$93,650.03), which were the highest and best bids for the same and the whole amount bid and paid for said property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, as follows:

1. That the Eureka County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust, execute and file Quit Claim Deeds for record with the County Recorder of Eureka County, Nevada, and deliver said Quit Claim Deeds for properties sold to said purchasers on the attached list.

ADOPTED the 8th day of September, 2020, by the Board of County Commissioners, Eureka County, Nevada.

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

ATTEST: /s/ Pernecia Johnson
Pernecia Johnson, Eureka County Treasurer

HUMAN RESOURCES

NEOGOV Software: HR Director Heidi Whimple asked that monies be added to the Human Resources budget for the upcoming fiscal year to purchase Human Resources software. NEOGOV was developed specifically for public sector employers and offers valuable tools for managers and directors. It will ensure equal opportunity in the hiring process and compliance with labor laws.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to add \$7,500.00 to the Human Resources budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for purchase of NEOGOV software. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League Sponsorship: Mikayla Kersey, Chair of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board, explained that the Town Board recommended a donation of \$500.00 to sponsor the Crescent Valley Little League. This will help with equipment costs and other needs.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to donate \$500.00 from the North End Activity Fund to sponsor Crescent Valley Little League; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Little League Uniforms: June Adkins, representing Crescent Valley Little League, explained the cost of uniforms for three teams was \$1,100.00. The Commissioners indicated they were willing to cover the full cost of uniforms this initial year to help the League get back up and running.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to donate \$1,100.00 from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. A check totaling \$1,600.00 will be issued to the Crescent Valley Little League.

TELEVISION DISTRICT

Request Budget Increase: The Television District met recently to discuss its budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The District forwarded its modifications to the Comptroller, and Ms. Todd gave an overview of the requested changes. If approved, this would increase the budget by \$61,000.00 for a total budgeted amount of \$319,650.00.

The Board discussed the proposed amounts. Chairman Goicoechea noted that an additional \$40,000.00 was projected for Argenta Ridge, but there was no explanation why this was needed. Commissioner McKay wondered why the District was budgeting for new microwave equipment, after indicating it was migrating to digital signals.

Jeb Rowley asked about District plans concerning maintenance and repairs on Prospect Peak and Tank Hill. It was stated at a recent Television District Board meeting that the tower on Prospect Peak was in need of repairs. His concern was related to the County equipment installed on those sites.

After more discussion, the Board felt adequate justification was not provided for such a substantial increase, especially with the deadline to submit final budget numbers to the State fast approaching.

Commissioner McKay motioned to deny the budget requests and to leave the Television District's budget at \$258,000.00 (the original tentative budget submitted) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Goicoechea concluded by stating the Television District must work closely with Public Works, so the County has assurance that towers are maintained properly, both for safety reasons and to avoid damage to County equipment installed on the District's towers.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Jayme Halpin, Road Equipment Operator III, reported on Road Department projects and activities. The northern crew bladed the Cortez Road, Dean Dann Road, Spa Road, and did extensive work around Frenchie Flat and on the Gold Springs Point Road. They have now moved on to Maggie Creek.

The southern crew bladed and did repairs on East Antelope Road, Spring Valley Road, 3 Bars Road, Ferguson Road, and Santa Fe Road. The gravel haul to 15th Street in Diamond Valley is complete and the crew is working its way south on that project. The mini excavator was used on Whistler Road and Mount Hope Road, trimming trees and repairing bad spots. Pavement edges in Diamond Valley and Crescent Valley have been sprayed with herbicide. JD Ranch Road maintenance has resumed under a Memorandum of Understanding with Nevada Gold Mines, and the mine is supplying water trucks. The contractor is blading Roberts Creek Road since the MOU with McEwen Mining has expired.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

SERC Grant: Mr. Rowley serves as Chair to the Local Emergency Planning Committee and asked for ratification of a grant submitted to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The total grant award will be \$29,000.00, with \$4,000.00 for operations (meeting, travel,

training costs) and \$25,000.00 for equipment (Outdoor Mass Community Notification System) to replace the Eureka town siren, which has been in service over 26 years.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 grant application to the State Emergency Response Commission for a total grant amount of \$29,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

COVID Vaccines: Mr. Rowley continues working with EMS on the vaccine program. Weekly vaccine PODs (point of dispensing) continue weekly in Eureka, and EMS will administer vaccines in Crescent Valley on May 10th. Mr. Rowley was notified that the FDA is soon expected to authorize emergency use of the Pfizer vaccine for adolescents (ages 12 to 15).

County Transition Plan: The plan to transition COVID management to the County, effective May 1st, was endorsed by the Nevada COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force. OSHA contacted the County in late April and requested a point of contact during the transition and was given contact information for Emergency Management.

Crescent Valley Town Park: Work on the Crescent Valley Town Park is progressing nicely, and crews poured 20 yards of concrete for the pavilion the previous week. They will now spend a week in Eureka addressing building and maintenance issues, and turning on water systems and completing other seasonal work related to the parks.

Free Dump Days: Free Dump Days are scheduled each Saturday in May from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Eureka Landfill and the Crescent Valley Laydown Yard.

Pre-Fire Meeting: Mr. Rowley attended the pre-season fire meeting with Nevada Division of Forestry and Bureau of Land Management. The agencies work cooperatively under the Wildland Fire Protection Program, and the County recently signed a new two-year agreement. The federal agencies are making some changes within their organizations, and are currently working on a new procedure for billing and reimbursements under the agreement.

Radio Reprogramming: All radios, except law enforcement, will be reprogrammed on April 29th. Volunteers should turn in handheld radios to their respective departments by that date, and two teams will travel throughout the County to complete all reprogramming.

Water Quality Reports: Public Works staff has been gathering data regarding drinking water quality (Consumer Confidence Reports) in response to a public records request.

Mr. Rowley, Lester Porter, and Jake Tibbitts will meet with the Division of Water Resources in the next week to review new criteria for pumping reports and water quality testing.

Water Service in Crescent Valley: Public Works received an application for a 3/4-inch residential water service in Crescent Valley. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service in the Town of Crescent Valley to service APN 002-027-19. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COVID-10 Grant Award: Public Works received notification of grant award from Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health, and presented it to the Board for signature. The grant will be used for personnel and travel expenses related to the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept and sign Nevada State Immunization Grant Award #SG 25167 in the amount of \$14,725.56. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Donation of Fire Engine: The Battle Mountain District BLM has offered transfer of a Type IV Wildland Fire Engine to the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department. This will be a great addition to Eureka County's fleet, and will continue to benefit the BLM since the County responds to fires on BLM managed land.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept donation of a Type IV Wildland Fire Engine from Battle Mountain District BLM. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

Background: Marcie Ryba, Director of the Department of Indigent Defense Services, was in attendance to provide information about the Department, resources and assistance available, and to inform of current and future reporting requirements. The Department was created by the Nevada Legislature in response to 2018 litigation challenging the constitutionality of Nevada's indigent defense practices. It was formed in October of 2019, and within a few short months was navigating the COVID pandemic, which made it challenging to meet with the counties.

The purpose of the Department is to assist counties in developing and maintaining quality, cost-effective indigent defense service systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the US Constitution and State law. The focus is on the ten rural counties in Nevada who utilize independent contractors for indigent defense services.

The Department consists of seven staff members overseen by the 13-member Board of Indigent Defense Services. The Board adopted regulations in March 2021, which provide direction related to county plans, financial requirements, determining indigency, attorney qualifications, reporting requirements, audits, investigations, data collection, and uniformity of contracts.

Reporting Requirements: Annual reports due to the Department by May 1st each year include the public defender's report (already submitted), a financial report from the Commissioners showing the past year's indigent defense costs, and a plan for provision of indigent defense services in the coming year ("County Plan"). Deadline for the County Plan has been extended this first year to September 3rd, due to the lateness of the regulations. Ms. Ryba has been communicating with the County's public defender, Kelly Brown, Esq., and Judge Dorothy Rowley concerning the County Plan, which Mr. Brown has agreed to draft.

Quarterly financial reports will be required at some point. The Department is still creating those reports, which should be similar to the annual financial report. Ms. Ryba encouraged creating separate accounts within the County's budget to facilitate tracking these costs.

Maximum Contribution: A maximum contribution will be determined annually for each county based on the previous year's financial report. The Nevada Legislature set aside \$1.2 million in the Interim Finance Committee's contingency account for the ten rural counties. Processes are still being created, so it is not yet clear if counties exceeding the maximum contribution amount will seek funding through Interim Finance or the Department.

Annual Fiscal Report for Indigent Defense: The Board's Administrative Assistant has gathered the financial data necessary to complete the report and will work with the Comptroller to finalize it and forward to Ms. Ryba.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to direct staff to complete the Annual Fiscal Report for Indigent Defense and authorized the Chairman to sign it outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities, noting he has spent a lot of time on legislative issues.

Gold Bar South EA: Mr. Tibbitts reported the Administrative Draft Environmental Assessment for McEwen Mining's Gold Bar South Project was sent to Cooperating Agencies. This project will tie another ore deposit into the mine, extending operations for several months. The mine is working with Public Works to coordinate road issues and mitigate impacts to County roads.

Goldrush Project: The public phase of the NEPA process on Nevada Gold Mine's Goldrush Project will be starting very soon. The mine involved the County very early in review of this project, so the public process should be fairly straightforward. The County will now work with Nevada Gold

to document verbal commitments in a Memorandum of Understanding. Staff is working to create an overall Memorandum of Understanding rather than having separate MOUs for each issue (e.g. road maintenance, emergency services, law enforcement, fire). At some point, the main access road to the project (Horse Canyon Road) will be closed to public access, but the mine has committed to building a public access road that will avoid the mill area.

Ormat Geothermal Project: Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Rowley met with a representative of Ormat, Scott Nichols, concerning the company's interest in building a geothermal power plant near Crescent Valley. Mr. Nichols said the company is in the preliminary phase on this project but, as formal plans are developed, Ormat would be willing to discuss the project with the Board.

Meetings: The County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife met on April 29th and took action related to hunting quotas for the upcoming year.

Upcoming meetings include the Irrigators' Workshop on May 11th sponsored by Eureka Conservation District; a Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting on May 14th; and a Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on May 19th.

Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month: Mr. Tibbitts presented a resolution in support of wildfire awareness, explaining May is typically recognized as Wildfire Awareness Month, but it is becoming a year-round concern. The Firewise Community Days, typically celebrated in May, were postponed until September due to the pandemic. For these reasons, the resolution was changed to promote awareness from May through October.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution supporting the 2021 Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign, from May through October. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION
BEFORE THE EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN SUPPORT OF
NEVADA WILDFIRE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
MAY – OCTOBER, 2021**

WHEREAS, wildfire significantly impacts Nevada's environmental, economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, residents of Nevada's fire-prone communities need to accept responsibility for living in high fire-hazard areas; and

WHEREAS, residents can save precious time in an evacuation by preparing a go-bag and family evacuation plan ahead of time; and

WHEREAS, residents must prepare to survive wildfire by ensuring proper management of vegetation surrounding the home and appropriate home construction and maintenance to resist ignition; and

WHEREAS, residents need to work together to prepare their homes and communities to survive wildfire and commit to become fire adapted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners supports the period of May – October 2021 as the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign as a means for education and a call for residents of Eureka County to act now to reduce the wildfire threat, prepare for wildfire and become and remain fire adapted.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Eureka County Board of Commissioner supports Firewise Days, to promote community fire safe practices, wildfire awareness and wildfire readiness in Eureka County, to be held during the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign in Eureka and Crescent Valley during the month of September.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 6th day of May, 2021.

BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Mike Sharkozy

Mike Sharkozy, Vice Chairman

/s/ Rich McKay

Rich McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Administrative Asst.

Navy Air Station FRTC Intergovernmental Executive Committee: In recent years, Eureka County participated as a Cooperating Agency in the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization EIS process. This was the Navy's attempt to expand range, airspace, and make other changes, but the expansion was ultimately denied by Congress (the existing public land withdrawal was renewed).

The National Defense Authorization Act directs the Navy to instate an Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC) for the purpose of exchanging views, information, and advice relating to management of natural and cultural resources of the land described in the withdrawal. A Commissioner from each affected county is to participate on the IEC, but the Navy didn't invite Eureka County and Lander County as they are only affected by the expansion.

Mr. Tibbitts explained that, even among the legislators, there was some confusion whether the IEC was to be concerned with the current withdrawal or the proposed expansion. The two versions of the Act (House and Senate) went to Conference Committee, and the Conference Committee report clarifies that the expansion is to be vetted by stating:

"...The conferees note that this renewal maintains the status quo of the FRTC; however, the conferees also note the increasing deployment of the fifth-generation fighters. Finding a way to expand the Fallon Range Training Complex in a manner that is responsive to the needs of all stakeholders is essential. The conferees direct the Department of the Navy to work with the committees of jurisdiction, the Nevada congressional delegation, state, and tribal stakeholders to secure a mutually agreed upon expansion of the FRTC."

Mr. Tibbitts recommended that Eureka County send a formal request for inclusion on the IEC. Commissioner McKay motioned to direct Mr. Tibbitts to prepare a letter to the US Department of the Navy requesting formal participation in the Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee, authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting, and to send copies of the letter to Congressman Amodei, Senator Cortez Masto, and Senator Rosen. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Health Insurance Advisory Committee; Eureka Conservation Dist.; Eureka County Television District (2); Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Kelly Brown, Esq.; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (3); Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Alejandro "AJ" (3rd grader from Gardnerville); Northern Nevada Development Authority; Lander County; Walker & Assoc.; Allison MacKenzie Ltd.; Nevada Dept. of Health & Human Services; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry (SCAT); Nevada Bureau of Mining; Nevada Governor's COVID-19 Response Director (local delegation of authority letter); Nevada Dept. of Transportation; US Senator Jacky Rosen; US Dept. of Homeland Security; Governing electronic newsletters (multiple); National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); US Dept. of Interior, BLM (Ely Dist.); and US Dept. of Interior, BLM (State office).

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea and Jake Tibbitts met with Senator Cortez Masto's staff to discuss potential legislation to assist counties in obtaining clear title to RS2477 roads. The Chairman plans to reach out to Congressman Amodei as well.

Chairman Goicoechea sits on a National Assoc. of Counties steering committee for agriculture and rural affairs. The committee's last meeting included discussion with Biden officials, White House representatives, US Department of Agriculture representatives, etc., on how to leverage American Recovery Act monies for installation of broadband in rural communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved by vote of the Board this 7th day of June, 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 May 6, 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