

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 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 July 6, 2020. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Theodore Beutel, Esq.; and Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne. Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy was unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized in Eureka for the entire meeting, and in Crescent Valley for the public hearing pertaining to the Eureka County Personnel Policy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with the 9:40 a.m. agenda item removed for consideration and Chairman J. J. Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments and to public phone-in comments. The Crescent Valley Town Hall connection was not made at this time due to Vice Chairman Sharkozy's absence. The connection was established before 10:00 a.m. for the public hearing agenda item. Chairman Goicoechea requested to add a Board of Health meeting to the agenda for July 20, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes was postponed to a later date to allow more time to prepare a draft.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Kim Todd. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$1,026,469.33 for accounts payable; and \$448,033.25 for payroll and related benefits (including employee paid deductions); \$1,497.35 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District; \$148,865.80 for a pass-through to the State Controller; \$294.19 for a pass-through to Nevada Department of Taxation; \$123.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab; and \$3,250.00 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,628,532.92. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Comptroller: The reassignment of the Commissioners' Administrative Assistant position and revised job description was brought up for discussion. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the reassignment, and Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

Chairman Goicoechea requested a five-minute recess in order to connect the interactive video to the Crescent Valley Town Hall so that County employees and interested members of the public could comment during the public hearing regarding proposed Eureka County Personnel Policy changes.

Human Resources Director Job Description: An updated job description for Human Resources Director was circulated to the Board for comments. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to accept the job description, and Commissioner McKay seconded. Passed 2-0.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR EUREKA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

Comments were solicited on the proposed resolution to amend the Eureka County Personnel Policy regarding holiday pay. Seven County employees spoke on the proposed resolution, with pros and cons being voiced. Comptroller Kim Todd requested that responsibility for drug testing and background checks be moved to the Human Resources Department and out of the Comptroller's Office. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve, Commissioner McKay seconded. Passed 2-0.

With regard to changing the holiday pay Chairman Goicoechea motioned to rescind the proposed resolution, and Commissioner McKay seconded. Passed 2-0.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY BASED TESTING

The Medical Clinic Advisory Committee and William Bee Ririe Hospital will conduct drive thru COVID-19 testing at the Eureka County Fairgrounds July 21, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and on July 22, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon. All persons are invited to test.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

It was motioned by Commissioner McKay, seconded by Chairman Goicoechea to send a letter to the Secretary of State's Office indicating Eureka County's desire to have in-person voting at the upcoming November General Election and that if needed, voters could request absentee ballots consistent with current state law without a need for changes. Passed 2-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In June Eureka served 840 meals and Crescent Valley served 759 meals. A total of \$7,065.33 was deposited for the month. The number of meals served has increased with the COVID-19 pandemic. Director Oram indicated that both Senior Centers have remained closed even though she has received requests from seniors to open back up.

Transportation and Other Grants: Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Homebound Grant #07-000-04-24-20 in the amount of \$22,659.00, with a County match of \$3,399.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Congregate Grant #07-000-07-1X-20 in the amount of \$20,960.00, with a County match of \$3,144.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

Commissioner McKay motioned to extend the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Transportation Grant to October 2020. Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Nutrition Service Incentive Program Subaward Amendment #1 #07-000-57-NX-20 in the amount of \$1,060.00. This grant does not require a County match. Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

IT/NETWORK

IT Director Misty Rowley gave an update on the projects she has been working on including the Fiber Project, backup of the AS400 system in coordination with the Assessor's Office,

obtaining price quotes for Crescent Valley broadband, and working on an Incident Response Plan with Quest.

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This was tabled to later in the day as HIAC Chairman Jayme Halpin was unavailable at the time set on the agenda.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne discussed the JAVS upgrade/replacement quote for the Seventh Judicial District Court which was budgeted for \$50,000 but has only amounted to \$36,000 due to the District Judges' decision not to obtain new Court cameras. Clerk Recorder Hoehne said that if the Court was authorized for \$40,000 in expenditure for the JAVS upgrade that would work. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve up to \$40,000, Commissioner McKay seconded. Passed 2-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Fourth of July Cleanup: Director Rowley commended the Eureka Swimming Pool employees and Lester Porter's staff for their efforts in beautifying the community and the Landfill cleanup. Currently Public Works Maintenance and Grounds employees have been cleaning up after the street events at the Annual EVFD's 4th of July celebration and completing office projects and the moving of several offices to and from two different County buildings.

Utilities & Facilities: The Consumer Confidence Report was sent out with the July water/sewer billing.

An excavator was rented and released for the cleaning of the Sewer Pond.

The arsenic media changeout will begin July 14, 2020 in Crescent Valley's arsenic treatment plant.

Radio Repeater Upgrades: Chairman Goicoechea and Director Rowley addressed the need to speak with contractor Bill Bass and have him diagnose the problem with transmission from the mountaintop equipment to digital. The EVFD volunteers and Sheriff's Office deputies are having issues with their radios.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Raymond Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. A blade has been working in the north end of Diamond Valley and is moving to the west side. The Antelope Valley and Sadler/Brown Roads are close to completion. The Whistler Road to Henderson Pass is done. At the north end of the County the Maggie Creek, Palisade and Barth roads are done. Blading on the Mary's Mountain access is currently being done. Fire breaks in and around Eureka were completed prior to the Fourth of July fireworks program. North end Building and Grounds employees are busy taking care of the Park and reading water meters.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Morman Cricket Update: The crickets have moved out of the townsite of Eureka and north towards Twelfth Street in Diamond Valley. The Department of Agriculture baited on Twelfth Street which was successful to stop the invasion into the hay fields. Mr. Tibbits warned there will be

another wave of Mormon Crickets next year because the females have laid their eggs before they left or were eradicated. Next year it will be crucial to address the problem earlier than this year.

Gold Rush Permitting: Mr. Tibbits reported the permitting process is moving along at a quick pace and the EIS should be published and out to the public by the end of the year.

Ruby Hill Mine: The mine is going in to retrieve the ore in the open pit where the high wall failed several years ago. Mr. Tibbits has been working with Randy Hassen, Ruby Hill Mine Manager, and Joseph Martini, Director of Environmental Affairs, Elko Mining Group, to be included on the Commissioners' meeting agenda for July 20, 2020. They would like to update the Commission on future mining plans at RHM and further efforts to engage the community through the Ruby Hill Mine Community Advisory Committee.

Targeted and Prescribed Grazing of Annual Grasses in the Great Basin Ecosystems of Nevada Environmental Assessment (EA): Mr. Tibbits drafted a letter to the BLM regarding the EA and thanked the BLM and EA contractor for close coordination on this EA. The acceptance of the letter was motioned by Commissioner McKay and seconded by Chairman Goicoechea. Passes 2-0.

Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands Solicitation of Recommendations: Mr. Tibbits relayed that Jared McConnell has indicated the Committee may invite participation from Eureka County on the Committee's July 22nd meeting. There was discussion on the 1872 Mining Act and the federal government wanting to impose a federal royalty on mining companies. This would cause a negative impact on net proceeds the State and County now receive.

Emerging Wild Horse Management issues: The discussion centered on the drought and overpopulation of wild horses in Eureka County. Mr. Tibbits is concerned about the Fish Creek Herd Management Area and commented that horses are currently sucking mud. The BLM will recommend water hauls if the situation becomes even more dire but will require that a bait and trap be included around water supplies. This Fall there are scheduled horse gathers in both the Diamond and Roberts Creek Mountain ranges.

BID AWARD for 2020 ROAD and AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PROJECT

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners reconvened to hear from Michael Bennett of Lumos and Associates and Public Works Director Jeb Rowley regarding the vetting procedure of the two bids submitted on the Road and Airport Maintenance Project. The bids were from Intermountain (\$3,775,775.00) and Sierra Nevada Construction (\$3,414,007.00). It was motioned by Commissioner McKay to award SNC as the winning bid and seconded by Chairman Goicoechea. Passed 2-0.

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chairman had a letter from Alexandra Vink, North End County Employee, indicating her interest in the vacancy on the HIAC. It was motioned by Commissioner McKay to appoint Ms. Vink to the HIAC and Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Eureka County taxpayer; and Julie Dondero, Douglas Carson Rodeo Club President.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McKay motioned for adjournment of the meeting and Chairman Goicoechea seconded. Passed 2-0.

Approved by vote of the Board this 14th day of August, 2020.

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

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

/s/ Lisa Hoehne
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder