

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 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 November 5, 2021. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was required in District Court. 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**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Randy Klatt, member of the Television District Board, notified the Commissioners and the public that there is now a phone number for the Television District's technician, 775-237-2244, and the District is working to get some of the transmission problems resolved.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 20, 2021: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the September 20, 2021, Commission meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$440,998.98 for accounts payable, \$506,325.41 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$1,061,539.08 for a pass-through tax allocation to the Nevada State Controller for School District tax revenues, \$14,078.19 for a pass-through to the State Controller, \$31,650.00 for a pass-through to the Nevada Division of Minerals, \$719.48 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, and \$129.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$2,055,440.14. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Health Services Agreement: On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Churchill County approved the Health Services Agreement with Eureka County for an initial term of November 2021 through October 31, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal through October 31, 2023. Services under this agreement will be funded with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) monies. Churchill County received an additional \$2 million allocation for the specific purpose of identifying and meeting health needs in neighboring rural communities. Eureka County was the first to identify immediate needs and declare an interest in joining this alliance.

Under this agreement, Churchill County will hire a full-time Resource Liaison and a part-time Community Health Nurse to be located in Eureka County. These positions will take on many of the COVID-related duties, assisting with COVID testing and vaccinating and assisting County

staff with management of other health related duties, including indigent services and home health services.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement Between the County of Churchill and the County of Eureka for the Provision of Health Related Services. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Assistance for Counseling: Pursuant to State law and Eureka County Code, Eureka County provides financial assistance, up to \$1,000.00, for counseling of certain crime victims. The District Attorney's office received an application which met the criteria for this assistance.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application of an individual for financial assistance for counseling up \$1,000.00 in accordance with Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. motion carried 3-0.

MCAC Appointment: Letters were received from Shealene French, Miles Umina, and Jackie Berg stating interest in being appointed to the vacant "County Employee" seat on the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee. Ms. Berg has served as committee secretary since MCAC was formed in 2012, but stated she is interested in taking on a more active role.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to appoint Jackie Berg to the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee for a two-year term ending December 31, 2023. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1. Commissioner McKay voted against the appointment, stating he would have supported appointing an employee from EMS or the Sheriff's Office.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In October, Eureka served 756 meals and Crescent Valley served 729 meals. Total deposits for the month were \$8,297.00.

## **SHERIFF**

Award Presentation: Sheriff Jesse Watts said he was humbled and honored to present awards in recognition of the dedicated men and women of the Eureka County Sheriff's Office. He noted that some were not able to attend, and their awards will be presented at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Sheriff first presented Undersheriff Tyler Thomas with a management certificate from the Nevada Commission on Peace Officers Standards & Training.

Sheriff Watts then presented Undersheriff Tyler, in the presence of many family and friends, with a Medal of Valor. Referencing an incident earlier in the year, in which the Undersheriff returned gunfire, the Sheriff stated the medal is awarded when "*a department member selflessly gives his or her life in the line of duty or distinguishes him or herself by a performance or an act of courage involving extreme risk or eminent danger to life above and beyond the call of duty.*" The Sheriff remarked that this medal has never been awarded by the Sheriff's Office before.

Out-of-State Travel for Undersheriff: Undersheriff Thomas has been enrolled in the Staff & Command College since May with numerous videos and assignments, and sought permission to travel to Alabama to complete the last phase of the training.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel and per diem for Undersheriff Thomas to travel to Alabama, January 16-29, 2022, to attend training at the Staff & Command College. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel for Sheriff: Sheriff Watts requested authorization to travel to Alabama for the Undersheriff's graduation.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel and per diem for Sheriff Watts to travel to Alabama, January 26-29, 2022, to attend the Undersheriff's graduation from Staff & Command College. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel for Sheriff: The Sheriff requested authorization to attend the COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) Conference, stating he will only need per diem as COPS is paying for travel and lodging.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Sheriff Watts to attend the COPS National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness & Trauma in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, with all expenses other than per diem paid by COPS. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Statement by Sheriff Watts: Sheriff Watts made the following statement, *“I was going to do a prepared statement, and I’m just going to go off the hip and just say that I would like to say thank you to the citizens for the support during the recall. I’d also like to say thank you to the people that filed recall and the issues that were brought up, and I hope that we can take a unified front and come together to fix these said issues, because they’ve never been brought to me before. And I’m willing to meet in the County Commission meetings. I’m willing to meet in my office. I’m going to make myself available any time, any place, to make sure that we as the people that serve the people are truly doing it for the right reasons, and we can make that mission one mission of serving the citizens. Thank you.”*

## **SEARCH & RESCUE**

Out-of-State Travel: Arnold Pena, Search & Rescue Commander Southern Division, submitted a request for out-of-state travel and tuition costs for three volunteers to attend rescue training in North Carolina. The volunteers will pay their own travel, lodging, and food expenses.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel and tuition costs totaling \$5,085.00 (\$1,695.00 per student), to be paid with monies budgeted for Search & Rescue (010-034-53010-078) in the Sheriff's budget, for three volunteers to attend the American Emergency Response Training's Advanced Technical 70-hour Rescue Course on the USS North Carolina BB-55 Battleship, January 23-29, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **IT DEPARTMENT**

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. Syber Networks was in Eureka earlier in the week and assisted on several projects.

Sheriff's Office: Two new switches were programmed and installed, and three new workstations were set up at the Sheriff's Office.

Justice Court: A panic button was installed and a new workstation was set up for Justice Court.

Eureka Clinic: Fiber was tested at the Eureka Clinic to verify adequate connection speeds. It was determined that the internet issues were caused by William Bee Ririe's firewall, so the hospital's IT person will need to address it.

County Facilities: Punch down cables were installed at the Eureka Library and Crescent Valley Library and fiber was tested. Several WiFi access points were manually updated. All network switches and routers were updated to the latest operating systems. The IT Department is walking various County facilities to get accurate quotes for recabling the buildings.

The IT Department will assist AT&T when they return on November 18<sup>th</sup> to complete the final cutover from copper PRI (primary rate interface) to fiber PRI.

Crescent Valley Internet Solution: At the last meeting Ms. Rowley explained that, pending re-bid of the E-rate fiber projects in Crescent Valley, AT&T has offered a temporary internet solution for County facilities in the form of enterprise level hotspots, which use routers with higher security capabilities. This will require purchase and installation of cellular equipment, which also qualifies for E-rate funding.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchase of cellular equipment for the Eureka County Fiber Expansion Project as a temporary broadband solution in Crescent Valley, for an amount not to exceed \$12,596.00 (\$10,496.25 plus 20% contingency for equipment) with an additional not to exceed amount of \$10,000.00 for labor, utilizing monies budgeted for fiber optics

(042-140-55010-204) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Grant Writer: Ms. Rowley submitted a letter to the Board supporting use of grant funding for the County to build internet infrastructure, separate from the County's infrastructure, that could benefit all citizens. Eureka County would not become an ISP (internet service provider), but could offer use of the infrastructure to private companies. The company(ies) would provide the equipment necessary to reach and serve the customers.

Ms. Rowley requested authorization to seek a qualified grant writer as an independent contractor since the level of grant monies needed to accomplish this will be substantial.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the IT Department to seek a qualified contractor for the limited purpose of identifying and applying for grants for broadband infrastructure. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Business Continuity Technologies Contract: Ms. Rowley negotiated a different level of services with BCT, noting the new contract will continue until services are again renegotiated or terminated with 30 days written notice by either party.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the contract extension with Business Continuity Technologies with renegotiated hybrid custom managed services for a reduced monthly rate of \$2,500.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Syber Networks Contract: Ms. Rowley requested renewal of another agreement that allows Eureka County to engage additional IT services from Rory Jackson of Syber Networks LLC, wherein BCT agrees it will not enforce a non-solicitation clause in its contract. This agreement will run concurrently with the BCT contract.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agreement between Eureka County, Business Continuity Technologies, and Syber Networks LLC, for continued IT services and support. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Report on Activities: Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson reported on Road Department projects and activities. The southern crew is blading Mustang Road, Sadler Road, and Antelope Road taking advantage of the recent precipitation. A blade has been working in Grass Valley and is nearly done there. Crews have been hauling water quite a distance for that project, since the mine has shut down its water source. Water was also hauled to the contract blade on 3 Bars Road and Roberts Creek Road. Crews cleaned several cattle guards on the Segura Road and have been sweeping and mowing in that valley.

The northern crew finished blading Rose Ranch Road and Willow Corral Pass and has moved on to Maggie Creek Road. Several culverts will be installed shortly on Rose Ranch Road. A winter gravel haul is planned for Rose Ranch Road and Willow Corral Pass.

All sprinkler systems and water meters have been winterized. Soil sterilant is being spread around fire hydrants and other areas to get a jump on weed control next spring. The operator position in Crescent Valley was filled by an employee transfer from the water department.

Snow Removal: Mr. Hodson commented on the substantial snow storm at the end of October. Despite careful preparations, he said the first snowfall can be a challenge. It was a wet heavy snow with the added difficulty of a power outage during the storm. Mr. Hodson asked residents to understand that the County is willing to help by plowing driveways, but roads and public areas, such as the airport, are priorities. During heavy or repeated snowstorms, it may take a day or two to get around to driveways and walkways. Mr. Hodson encouraged people to avoid parking on the street and to avoid using street frontage for vehicle or trailer storage when plows are running.

Crescent Valley Town Center: Mr. Hodson reported that the Crescent Valley Town Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but occasionally staff may be

called away from the office. When this occurs, a sign will be placed on the door with a phone number where someone can be reached for assistance.

October Free Dump Days: The Free Dump Days were again a big success. There were five Saturdays in October, so it was a good opportunity for residents to take advantage of the free dumping.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

Vaccines: The vaccine POD (Point of Dispensing) at the Vandal Athletic Center was a success, with 66 COVID shots and 12 flu shots given. Remaining inventory from the event (about 20 COVID vaccines) is available at the Eureka Clinic. Mr. Rowley thanked everyone who participated in the event.

Mr. Rowley said the latest order of rapid tests has been delayed. The vendor has assured that the order is still active and a tracking number will be available soon. If testing levels remain stable, including student athlete testing, the current inventory should be sufficient for two weeks.

Chairman Goicoechea said he plans on working with the school to move athlete testing to Mondays in the event Binax test inventory runs low and mail-out PCR tests must be used.

Miscellaneous: Delta Fire Systems will be in Eureka soon to replace and upgrade fire panels at the Eureka Senior Center and the Eureka Clinic. Crews are doing flushing maintenance of the sewer main after some reports of blockage. Mr. Rowley is reviewing the first draft of the landfill volumetric survey completed by Lumos & Associates. He is working with Wilkin Trucking to establish a road maintenance Memorandum of Understanding for Rose Ranch Road.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: Summit Engineering is reviewing access and utility easements at the subdivision and will prepare necessary maps and documents for the County to update and ensure accuracy of subdivision records.

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Technician: A Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification was submitted for the vacant technician position in Crescent Valley due to an employee transfer.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to fill the position of Public Works Technician I in Crescent Valley. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **CRESCENT VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Parade of Lights: Eldon Brown requested \$500.00 to purchase prizes – gift cards for 1<sup>st</sup> (\$200.00), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$150.00), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (\$100.00) – for the Parade of Lights event scheduled in Crescent Valley on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Gift cards will total \$450.00 and the extra \$50.00 will cover activation fees.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the request for \$500.00 to be issued to Eldon Brown from the North End Activity Fund to purchase prizes for the Crescent Valley Parade of Lights. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. 10.24.19

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

Diamond Valley Adjudication Hearing: Mr. Tibbitts has spent much of the past week attending the Diamond Valley adjudication hearing in District Court. The hearing will continue the following week and then there will be a break until March.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee on November 8<sup>th</sup>; a Nevada Division of Water Resources hearing on proposed regulations November 10<sup>th</sup>; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority on

November 12<sup>th</sup>; an N6 Grazing Board meeting in Eureka on November 15<sup>th</sup>; and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Goldrush Mine Project: The Administrative Draft EIS for Nevada Gold Mine's Goldrush Mine Project is currently under review by cooperating agencies, before final release to the public.

Ormat Crescent Valley Geothermal Exploration Project: Mr. Tibbitts provided a copy of Ormat's Operations Plan for the Crescent Valley Geothermal Exploration Project. Mr. Tibbitts explained that this project is simply exploration. If a reliable resource is identified, a separate permitting process will be needed for development of a power plant. The exploration is in an area of checkerboard land, and exploration will take place on both public and private land. Ormat has begun drilling one well under a lease for privately owned land.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that Ormat is a very reputable company. He explained the drilling will access the geothermal aquifer, which is different than the alluvium water that feeds the Crescent Valley municipal water system. Ormat has stated an interest in upgrading and widening some of the access roads, on which the County holds a prescriptive right-of-way (RS 2477).

The deadline for scoping comments is November 18<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter outlining the County's comments and recommendations. The letter asks that Eureka County be involved, with cooperating agency status, as the BLM prepares the Environmental Assessment for this project. It asks that the County's plans and policies be considered, and asks for close coordination as matters of importance to Eureka County are addressed, including water resources, wildlife, noxious weeds, vegetation, socioeconomics, and roads and access.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the comment letter to the BLM, Tuscarora Field Office, for consideration in preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Ormat Crescent Valley Geothermal Exploration Project. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOU for FRTC Intergovernmental Executive Committee: The US Navy sent a Memorandum of Understanding for establishment of the Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee, stating that IEC members can sign the MOU at the Committee's meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Goicoechea is County representative on the IEC and Mr. Tibbitts is the alternate.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize Chairman Goicoechea to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel (2); Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; IT Director Misty Rowley; Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Shealene French; Miles Umina; Jackie Berg; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; N6 Grazing Board; Mt. Wheeler Power; Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (2); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Allison MacKenzie Ltd.; Nevada Dept. of Health, Div. of Public & Behavioral Health; Nevada State Historical Preservation Office; UNR CABNR newsletter; UNR NEAP Network newsletter; UNR UCED newsletter; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (2); Elected Officials to Protect America; CML Security; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and America First Policy Institute (multiple).

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea reported that he has spent a lot of time over the past week working with fellow proponents of "*The Path Forward...*" on a letter to US Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland concerning wild horse management. Eureka County and others agreed to endorse and sign on to the letter, which has been a work in progress. With the tremendous push lately to get away from large gathers and rely on smaller gathers and fertility control, this letter is timely and the proponents have requested an in-person meeting with Secretary Haaland. The letter agrees that fertility controls, done right, are needed but will not be

effective until herd levels are under control, and this is not possible without some large gathers. The Chairman will forward the final letter to be included in a future meeting packet.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Lisa Wolf, Crescent Valley resident, notified the Board that she has returned to Eureka County and will resume covering Board meetings. This will not be print news as before, but will be Central Valley News broadcasts over the internet. She is also planning events in Crescent Valley under the name Central Valley Trading Post and will distribute posters prior to each event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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 November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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