

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 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 January 6, 2020. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; and Commissioner Clerk Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was absent. 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

Several items were removed from the agenda: the December 20th minutes were removed, as they were not yet available; the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council has not met recently, so was removed from the Commissioners’ section; and the Sheriff’s item concerning 12-hour shifts for Dispatchers was removed pending an opinion from outside legal counsel.

Chairman Goicoechea commented on the importance of having minutes drafted on time, particularly during budget season, and offered to speak with the Clerk Recorder about this if needed.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Ashley Adams, Administrative Legal Secretary, informed that the District Attorney’s office will begin advertising for the vacant position of Legal Secretary. A Hiring Freeze Waiver request will be placed on the next agenda and the office will await Board approval before hiring this position.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Chairman 2020: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to retain J.J. Goicoechea as Chairman for Calendar Year 2020; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Vice Chair 2020: Commissioner McKay motioned to retain Mike Sharkozy as Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2020; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Kim Todd. An invoice from Net Transcripts exceeded the six-month limit, requiring specific approval by the Board. Sheriff Jesse Watts explained that the invoice is from a company used for court-related transcripts and payment was set up via credit card. The credit card has since expired and the company failed to contact the Sheriff’s Office in a timely manner.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve payment to Net Transcripts in the amount of \$124.80 for Invoice No. 0025972-IN; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. *(This amount is included in the overall expenditures presented for approval.)*

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$344,849.28 for accounts payable; \$442,314.80 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); and \$3,594.23 in Yucca Mountain expenses; for a grand total of \$790,758.31. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY DIRECTORS / DEPARTMENT HEADS

Annual Appointments: Annual appointments are made for the at-will positions that answer directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner McKay motioned to reappoint the following positions: Public Works Director Ron Damele; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; County Comptroller Kim Todd; IT Director Misty Rowley; EMS Director Kenny Sanders; Senior Centers Program Director Millie Oram; and County Webmaster Michael Mears. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The Board received two letters, one from Fred Etchegaray and one from Jackie Berg, asking the Board to consider a wage increase for Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts based on his commendable work and numerous extra hours of work and travel that he sacrifices in his service to Eureka County.

COMMITTEE, BOARD, & LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Changes and/or Restructuring: The Board reviewed a comprehensive worksheet showing a list of members on all County committees and boards, non-County committees and boards, and liaisons appointed to various groups or representing specific issues.

The Chairman consulted Ron Damele, Chair of the SLAG Working Group, and it was determined there is no longer a need for this committee. Commissioner McKay motioned to dissolve the SLAG Working Group; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Appointments: The Board continued reviewing the worksheet and, with several motions and unanimous votes by the members, the following appointments and reappointments were made:

COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Board of Equalization

Jim Gallagher / Business / four-year term

Fair Board (District #15 Agriculture Board)

Dorothy Rowley / County At Large / four-year term

Michaela Elicigui / County At Large / four-year term

Health Insurance Advisory Committee

Kim Todd / Courthouse / two-year term

Bruce Harland / North-End Employee / two-year term

Joyce Jeppesen / Annex (Admin. Facility) / two-year term

Roger Hubbard / Alternate / two-year term

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Pete Goicoechea / State Elected Official / one-year term

Mike Sharkozy / Local Elected Official / one-year term

Ron Damele / Civil Defense, Emergency Management / one-year term

Jesse Watts / Law Enforcement / one-year term

Jayne Halpin / Firefighting / one-year term

Kenny Sanders / First Aid / one-year term

Shealene French / Health; Alternate-First Aid / one-year term

Michael Mears / Community Group; Broadcast or Print Media; Alternate-Local Elected Official

John Schweble Jr. / Transportation / one-year term

Earl Overholser / Local Environmental, EPCRA Facility / one-year term

Roger Hubbard / Alternate-Firefighting / one-year term

Misty Rowley / Alternate-Broadcast or Print Media / one-year term

Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Jim Baumann / Ranching / four-year term

Ken Conley / Farming / four-year term

Gary McCuin / Business / four-year term

Planning Commission

Philip Brown / Commissioner District #2 / four-year term

Tony Rowley / Commissioner District #2 / four-year term

Sasha Meyers / Alternate-County At Large / four-year term

Recreation Board

Jeff Bartley / Motel-Hotel / four-year term
Darlene Moody / Motel-Hotel / four-year term

Regional Transportation Commission

Mike Sharkozy / Commissioner / two-year term
Philip Brown / Resident, Largest Town in County / two-year term

Senior Center Advisory Board

Cindi Culver / Southern County / three-year term
Tressa Pitman / Northern County / three-year term

NON-COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Boulder Valley Monitoring Plan

Mike Sharkozy / Liaison
Jake Tibbitts / Liaison

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member
Jim Gallagher / Farming / Member
Fred Etchegaray / Farming / Member
Jake Tibbitts / Alternate-Eureka County
Rich McKay / Alternate-Commissioner (new)

Diamond Natural Resources

Protection & Conservation Association
Jake Tibbitts / Liaison (non-voting)

Homeland Security Working Group

Jesse Watts / Sheriff, Eureka County

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member
Carl Slagowski / Eureka County / Member
Tom Tomera / Eureka County / Member
Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Alternate

Mt. Hope 3M Plan Tech. Adv. Comm.

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member
Dale Bugenig / Eureka County / Alternate

Mt. Hope 3M Plan Water Adv. Comm.

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County

Nevada Association of Counties

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County / Member
Rich McKay / Eureka Co / Alternate

Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member

Nevada POOL/PACT Board

Rich McKay / Eureka County / Member (new)
Ted Beutel / Eureka County / Alternate
Ron Damele / Eureka County / Alternate

Nevada Project Heartbeat

Shealene French / Eureka Co / Member
Kenny Sanders / Eureka Co / Alternate

Nevadaworks

Mike Sharkozy / Eureka County / Member

Northeastern Nevada Regional Dev. Auth.

Rich McKay / Commissioner / Member

Ruby Hill Community Adv. Committee

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member

LIAISONS - VARIOUS GROUPS / ISSUES

Census Issues

Michael Mears

Legislative Representatives

J.J. Goicoechea
Michael Mears
Jake Tibbitts
Jesse Watts

Water Protest Filings

J.J. Goicoechea

Crescent Valley VFD

Mike Sharkozy

Water Rights

Ted Beutel

Eureka VFD

J.J. Goicoechea

Natural Resources

J.J. Goicoechea

Yucca Mountain

J.J. Goicoechea

NDF & Rural VFDs

J.J. Goicoechea

NV Department of Taxation

Michael Mears

Remaining Vacancies: It was noted that the following vacancies exist and the Board will accept letters of interest from parties who are interested in serving:

County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

VACANCY / Sportsman / three-year term

VACANCY / Alternate / three-year term

Diamond Valley Rodent Control District Board

VACANCY / Agriculture / three-year term

Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Mike Rebaleati wishes to resign his seat representing ‘Wildlife’ as soon as a replacement is found

Planning Commission

VACANCY / Alternate-County At Large / four-year term

Senior Center Advisory Board

VACANCY / County At Large / three-year term

COMMISSIONERS

Assistance for Counseling: Pursuant to State law and Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30, Eureka County must provide 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 County Code and State law; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Radon Action Month: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution proclaiming January 2020 as National Radon Action Month in Eureka County per request of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Free radon testing kits will be available to residents during January and February at the local Cooperative Extension office in the Administrative Facility, 701 South Main Street in Eureka.

Eureka, Nevada

January 6, 2020

***A PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY 2020 AS
“NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH IN EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA”***

WHEREAS, many Eureka County residents don’t know about radon, yet need to know for the safety and health of their families, as radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer for smokers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates 21,000 people in the U.S. die each year from lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure; and

WHEREAS, radon kills more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, and home fires combined; and

WHEREAS, any home in Eureka County may have elevated levels of radon, even if neighboring homes do not, and living in a home with an average radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day; and

WHEREAS, testing is the only way to know if a home has an elevated radon level, and testing is easy and inexpensive and, when identified, homes can be fixed; and

WHEREAS, University of Nevada, Reno Extension’s Nevada Radon Education Program, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the EPA support efforts to encourage all Eureka County residents to test

their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and have new homes built with radon-reducing materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim January 2020 as “NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH” in Eureka County, Nevada.

ADOPTED this 6th day of January, 2020.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, DVM, Chairman
Eureka County Board of Commissioners

Attest: */s/ Jackie Berg*

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center for December. Eureka served 840 meals and Crescent Valley served 654 meals. A total of \$11,779.50 was deposited for the month.

IT / NETWORK

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley provided an update on IT projects and activities. Conversion of Windows 7 computers to Windows 10 is 90% complete. Planning continues for the upcoming fiber project. The new spam server is on line and data transfer has begun. Data migration to the new GIS server is complete. Business Continuity Technologies visited to assist with phase one of the NOC (Network Operations Center) room cleanup. Ms. Rowley continues gathering information and creating plans for moving the remaining County facilities off Express Internet wireless service. The State requires an annual Incident Response Plan and Ms. Rowley is looking into options and costs.

Engineering for Fiber Optic Project: Installation of fiber optic cable between the Administrative Facility/Annex and Courthouse, and EMS Ambulance Bay and the Opera House, requires adhering to criteria established by the utility company, so Ms. Rowley requested authorization for Quest and Mt. Wheeler Power to work together on engineering for the fiber optic project.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize Quest and Mt. Wheeler Power to work cooperatively on pole engineering for the upcoming fiber project, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 utilizing capital outlay budgeted for fiber optic and network upgrades in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fiber Assistance from Syber Networks: Ms. Rowley requested authorization to utilize Syber Networks for assistance and consulting services related to the County's existing fiber infrastructure and upcoming fiber optic projects.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a quote from Syber Networks, not to exceed \$10,000.00, for assistance and consulting related to the existing fiber infrastructure and upcoming fiber projects, to be paid with monies budgeted for fiber optic and network upgrades in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Authorization to Engage in Outside Employment: Ms. Rowley submitted a letter to the Board formally requesting authorization to engage in outside employment pursuant to Section 2.20 of the Eureka County Personnel Policy. Mr. Rowley assured the Board that Eureka County will remain her top priority and the outside work will not interfere with her duties as IT Director.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to grant authorization for Misty Rowley to engage in outside employment pursuant to Section 2.20 of the Eureka County Personnel Policy, conditional that the work will not interfere or conflict with her duties as IT Director. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTHY PAWS OF EUREKA

Use of Donated Funds: On November 6th, the Board approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to Healthy Paws, with \$4,000.00 designated for the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program.

Cindy Beutel explained that she recently had the opportunity to transport 45 felines from Eureka (six kittens and 39 cats) to Battle Mountain where Maddie's Pet Project provided a mobile veterinary van to spay, neuter, and vaccinate the cats at no cost. A volunteer from Crescent Valley trapped 20 cats and those were also treated in Battle Mountain.

Healthy Paws does not own a vehicle and Ms. Beutel's personal vehicles are not suitable for transporting this number of cats. She spent approximately \$600.00 to rent a van and to purchase tarps to protect the interior of the vehicle. Ms. Beutel also uses donations to purchase items such as cat food, litter, medications, and for care at the local veterinary clinic. She wanted to ensure that this use of funds is acceptable to the Board, especially since similar opportunities for free or reduced treatment exist.

Once treated, most adult cats are released back to their colony and most kittens are adopted. Ms. Beutel reported that the Humane Society in Carson City took an injured cat that was treated locally and the Humane Society in Reno took six kittens that were too sick to be adopted immediately.

Ms. Beutel will continue working with the local veterinary clinic, volunteers, the Humane Society, and Maddie's Pet Project (which donated \$1,500.00 for Healthy Paws of Eureka to apply for 501c3 status).

The Commissioners felt that Ms. Beutel was doing a good job stretching the donated dollars and they appreciated the assistance from Maddie's Pet Project.

Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify and authorize use of County donated funds for transportation costs (including vehicle rentals) as part of the TNR Program, including incidental costs for cat food, litter, veterinary treatment, and medications. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Raymond Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. The gravel haul from the JD Ranch Road to State Route 278 is complete and crews are now working on the Grass Valley Road, McCluskey Road, and near the Gund Ranch. Most of the work has been a cooperative effort by both the north end and south end crews. Everyone also spent a few days on snow removal. Mr. Hodson expressed that the road crews wanted to wish everybody a Happy New Year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities. A fair amount of time is being spent on budget preparations.

Utilities & Facilities: All utility systems are in good working order.

Radio Repeater Upgrades: The licensing coordinator has forwarded the licensing modifications for next season's radio repeater upgrades to the FCC and a response is expected in about 30 days.

Kobeh Valley Test Well Project: Boart Longyear Drilling Services will begin drilling this week in Kobeh Valley. Drilling is expected to take about ten days.

Klindt Building Demolition: Public Works administrative staff is working with the Labor Commission on some issues with the certified payroll for the Klindt Building demolition and expects to have the issues resolved soon.

Landfill Building: The new building for the Landfill will be delivered January 14th. Electrical wiring and insulation will be installed by the utility crew.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts was not available and will report on activities at the next meeting.

Sage Grouse Issues: Chairman Goicoechea provided a brief update on sage grouse issues. He will be in Washington, DC, January 7th-9th and has meetings scheduled with the Department of the Interior and USDA Forest Service.

As a protective measure, the Department of the Interior filed an appeal of Judge Winmill's preliminary injunction on the BLM's 2019 Plan Amendments (in US District Court in Idaho). The Chairman has heard that the BLM plans to rewrite the Plan Amendments and he will inquire about status of actions in regard to the injunction, planned rewrite, or other actions.

In meeting with the Forest Service, he will continue to work towards resolutions in the Forest Service Plan Amendment (following the recent objection resolution meeting in Salt Lake City), and hopes a lengthy objection process can be avoided.

RECREATION BOARD

RFP for Contracted Events/Tourism Position: Elmer Porter, Chair of the Recreation Board, along with members Robin Hicks and Jeff Bartley were in attendance (Commissioner McKay is also a member) to discuss the Rec Board's recent decision to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contracted events coordinator.

Mr. Porter explained that the Recreation Board unanimously voted to fund a contracted position (individual or company), to be paid entirely with Recreation Board funds, to manage events and promote tourism in Eureka and to write and manage grants to support local events. This person/company will manage events assigned by the Rec Board, but can also assist individuals or nonprofit groups who sponsor events.

District Attorney Ted Beutel assisted in drafting language for the RFP and the Recreation Board hopes to fill this position for the current calendar year.

In response to inquiries whether this person will assist with events in Crescent Valley, Mr. Porter explained that State law requires funds to be spent in the taxing jurisdiction, and Rec Board funds are derived from room tax for motel and hotel rentals in Eureka. If time allows, this person may be willing to assist with planning, but no funds can be spent in Crescent Valley. For further clarification, Chairman Goicoechea stated this position *is not* a County position, but will be contracted by the Recreation Board, which is a separate entity established by NRS.

Although the County will not be a party to the contract, will not provide funding, and will not be involved in oversight of this position, Robin Hicks stated the Recreation Board wanted the Commissioners' support. She explained they were basically asking that the County give its "blessing" for the Recreation Board to pursue this.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned that the Board of County Commissioners supports the Recreation Board's efforts to advertise a Request for Proposals to contract with an individual or company, to be paid with Recreation Board funds, to manage events in Eureka and to write and manage grants to support local events, including those sponsored by individuals or nonprofit groups, in an effort to support tourism in Eureka. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Order of the Board: In 2019, the Board updated its Order directing the County Treasurer to offer all tax delinquent properties for sale pursuant to NRS 361.595.

List of Tax Delinquent Parcels: Treasurer Pernecia Johnson provided a list containing 19 tax delinquent parcels, noting that all taxes and fees had been paid on two of the parcels, so they will be removed from the sale list, as will any others that are paid in full by the deadline.

Consider Acquisition of Delinquent Parcels: Prior to the meeting, Ms. Johnson reviewed the list of tax delinquent properties with Ron Damele to determine if the County might have interest in acquiring any of the parcels, as permitted by NRS 361.603. Mr. Damele informed that none of the parcels would be beneficial to Eureka County.

Proceed to Sale: Commissioner McKay motioned to decline Eureka County acquiring any of the current tax delinquent parcels and directed the Treasurer to proceed with the April 23, 2020, tax

delinquent property auction to sell any parcels remaining delinquent beyond the April 20th redemption date. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Employee Recognition: Sheriff Jesse Watts recognized the following employees, who were nominated by their coworkers, for their accomplishments and excellent service:

- * Deputy Duane Edwards was recognized as Employee of the Quarter.
- * Deputy Andrew Uder was recognized as Employee of the Year in Detentions.
- * Dispatcher Clara Bundy was recognized as Employee of the Year in Communications.
- * Sergeant Marcial Evertsen was recognized as Supervisor of the Year.
- * Sergeant Tyler Thomas was recognized as Employee of the Year in Patrol.
- * Cheryl Morrison was recognized as Employee of the Year in Administration.
- * Maureen Garner received special recognition for 25 years of service to Eureka County.

Idemia Service Agreement: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the annual Maintenance & Service Agreement with Idemia for the LiveScan fingerprinting machine in the amount of \$2,590.00; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Lawsuit Against AB291, the Nevada "Red Flag Law": Sheriff Watts explained that he has been asked to join the lawsuit challenging the State of Nevada and Governor Sisolak in reference to AB291, the "Nevada Red Flag Law," which carries an effective date of January 1, 2020. Elko County Sheriff Aitor Narvaiza and Churchill County Sheriff Richard Hickox were in attendance and voiced their support of Sheriff Watts in this effort.

Sheriff Watts explained that this legislation has many flaws, but the most disturbing is the lack of due process given citizens. Under this law, a person can petition the court to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order, which will require law enforcement to confiscate a person's weapons simply based on an allegation, and the seizure will occur before the allegations can be substantiated. The Nevada Sheriffs are meeting in Tonopah on January 7th to discuss this lawsuit and the best way to move forward with a united front.

Chairman Goicoechea invited public comments on this item. Commissioner Sharkozy said several citizens in Crescent Valley told him they oppose this new law. Ashley Adams asked about funding, stating that she didn't want Eureka County to pay an inequitable share of the litigation costs. Cathy Sampson of Crescent Valley noted that several organizations are posting opposition to this law on Facebook.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize Sheriff Watts, representing Eureka County, to join as a Plaintiff with NevadansCAN and other Nevada Sheriffs challenging the State of Nevada and Governor Sisolak regarding passage of AB291, the Nevada "Red Flag Law." Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Goicoechea asked Sheriff Watts to bring this issue back before the Board once he has information on what level of funding might be required from Eureka County.

GENESIS HOME HEALTH

Hospice Care: Dr. Jun Iguban and staff members Erica Kapua, Human Resources and Administration, and Judy Covarrubias, Home Health Nurse, were in attendance to request the County's support for Genesis Home Health to begin providing hospice care in Eureka County.

Dr. Iguban explained that hospice service will allow patients with terminal illnesses, such as cancer or heart failure, to remain home and receive compassionate care and pain management enabling them to live out the remaining days or hours of their lives with dignity. Dr. Iguban stated that addition of a satellite pharmacy in Eureka will enhance this treatment. Genesis Home Health will pay for medications and durable equipment.

Ms. Covarrubias emphasized that this will not be 24-hour a day care, so the patient must live with a family member or caregiver. She added that Genesis is working to recruit local volunteers to provide respite care and give family members or caregivers a break. Ms. Covarrubias requested

assistance with moving equipment (hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc.) into patients' homes, adding that a local storage option would be greatly appreciated.

Commissioner McKay stated that he met with Public Works to discuss storage options for this equipment. Chairman Goicoechea asked EMS Director, Kenny Sanders, to work with the EMS volunteers to find people willing to assist with moving the equipment, and added that the Board will consider a storage container in the upcoming budget discussions. A resolution supporting Genesis Home Health and hospice care will be placed on a future agenda.

Chairman Goicoechea shared that he is working on another option to establish a facility in Eureka for elder care/disability care. Some grant funding is available. It will take at least one more Legislative Session to secure sufficient funding, but options are looking promising.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks (2); Healthy Paws of Eureka; Fred Etchegaray; Jackie Berg; Misty Rowley; Lester Porter; Assessor Michael Mears; District Attorney Ted Beutel (3); Comptroller Kim Todd; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; MedX AirOne; LP Insurance Services; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Health Foundation; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (3); and US Homeland Security (2).

In response to Connie Hicks' letters concerning crickets in the Town of Eureka, the Chairman suggested inviting the Nevada Department of Agriculture to attend a future meeting to discuss appropriate treatment.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - WAGE & SALARY SCALE

Salary Range Assignments: Due to some disparity in the County's wage and salary scale, which was brought to the Board's attention with recent changes to some job descriptions, the Commissioners asked Comptroller Kim Todd to evaluate the wage and salary scale and to recommend changes to create more uniformity with all departments in the County. If changes are approved and job descriptions are moved to a different range on the salary scale, employees will be assigned to an appropriate step in the new range to ensure that nobody will be paid less than their current rate of pay.

In approaching this project, Ms. Todd explained she realized that she wasn't comparing 'apples' to 'apples' and noted that she reviewed numerous job descriptions in order to consider job duties, work assignments, field work, required criteria, mandatory certifications, and continuing education. She ranked the different supervisory positions, explaining that one type of supervisor manages employees and operations, while a higher-level supervisor conducts performance evaluations, completes disciplinary actions, and creates staff schedules. Some supervisors only manage a few employees, whereas other supervisors are responsible for numerous employees.

Law enforcement has a separate salary scale (dictated by State law) with higher rates of pay due to the nature of the work and advanced certifications required. Law enforcement has an accelerated retirement schedule, including different PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) contribution rates.

For the Board's benefit, Ms. Todd reviewed all positions, department by department, with the suggested range assignments. She told the Board that she met with every department head to review the proposed range assignments and everyone supported the changes, with the exception of one who still had some concerns. Ms. Todd also recommended removing any salary ranges that are not assigned to a job description.

Employee Comments & Concerns: Numerous employees were in attendance and offered several suggestions and comments. Some encouraged the Board to postpone action on this item to allow staff more time to review the proposed changes.

Assessor's staff felt the mandatory and challenging certifications tied to job descriptions in their office should be taken into consideration when assigning salary ranges to the Appraiser job descriptions. They also felt that a range 115 for the entry level position could hinder recruitment. Assessor Michael Mears agreed that applicants are often intimidated when they learn what duties are required in his office.

Sheriff Watts would like to make changes related to two jobs in his office. He wants to identify supervisory duties in the Deputy III job description and he proposed that the Undersheriff's salary be based on a percentage of the Sheriff's salary as it was during a previous administration. This will require a change to the Personnel Policy.

Commissioner Concerns: Overall, the Board agreed with the suggested changes, but had concerns over the few employees who would move to a lower range if the suggested assignments were approved. Each range has 30 steps. An employee moving to a lower range would be placed on a higher step, which would decrease the number of steps they could advance before "topping out." Since this only affected a handful of Public Works employees, Ron Damele offered to meet with those employees and the Comptroller to find a resolution before the next meeting.

The Commissioners agreed they will consider a higher range for the entry level position in the Assessor's office. Final recommendations will be reviewed and acted upon at the January 21st meeting.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Board recessed for lunch from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - PERSONNEL REQUESTS

New Position Requests: The Board asked that all new position requests be presented at this meeting. No final decisions will be made until the requests are included in the budget worksheets so the Board can review the fiscal impact.

Work Study: Chairman Goicoechea would like to have a work study conducted in each office that is requesting additional personnel. He asked Ms. Todd to look into options and costs.

District Attorney: Ted Beutel submitted a letter outlining personnel requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The current year includes two budgeted positions, which remain vacant - a Chief Deputy District Attorney and a Legal Secretary. Mr. Beutel wishes to continue budgeting these positions and asked to increase the Chief Deputy position by \$10,000.00 to \$95,000.00. The Legal Secretary was erroneously budgeted as an Administrative Assistant at a lower salary, so this should also be increased.

Additional positions requested for FY2021 are a Deputy District Attorney at \$90,000.00 and an increase of casual hours from 800 to 1,039. In anticipation that public records requests will likely increase, he would like to budget \$150,000.00 for contract services.

Assessor: The Assessor is not requesting additional personnel, but an Appraiser I position has been budgeted with Assessor Tech Fund monies for the past two fiscal years (thru June 30, 2020) because of the Devnet conversion. This should now be budgeted in the County's General Fund.

Clerk Recorder: Lisa Hoehne gave a detailed presentation describing work in her office, along with a written report listing percentage increases over the past few years. She described work that needs to be addressed - including multiple boxes of documents (which may account for missing historical documents) and a large backlog of indexing. She explained that work fell behind after Nevada Gold Mines recorded documents in July after the Newmont Barrick merger. Over 750 documents recorded since that time are waiting to be indexed.

Ms. Hoehne stated there are daily election tasks and elections have consumed most of her time. She said District Court duties will include jury trials, correcting issues related to the software conversion, and scanning past documents into the system.

She requested an additional full-time employee, noting that casual hours were not budgeted in the current fiscal year. She concluded by saying, "*I would like to remind the Commission that NRS 293.445 requires the Commission to provide the County Clerk with sufficient assistance to perform properly the election duties.*"

The Board inquired how Ms. Hoehne is prioritizing her work. Chairman Goicoechea asked several questions about unscanned court documents and the recording/indexing process including how the public (or businesses such as title companies and finance companies) can access needed documentation. The Board agreed that a work study would give them a better estimation on the level of staffing needed in the Clerk Recorder office.

IT / Network: The current IT budget includes hours for a casual employee. IT Director Misty Rowley is concerned that she won't find a person with the needed skill set unless a full-time position is offered. With another staff member, Ms. Rowley could work to increase her knowledge base as well. She explained that there has been a tremendous increase in cyber security legislation. It is also imperative that the Sheriff's Office have an IT person available when needed. With the County eliminating reliance on Express Internet, increased technical support will be needed for the County's fiber and wireless infrastructure.

Sheriff: Sheriff Jesse Watts stated that he is requesting an increase of seven full-time employees and one half-time employee, for a net increase of 7.5 employees, bringing total staff numbers to 29.5.

The Sheriff explained that this would allow for 24/7 coverage in Crescent Valley, would allow the Detention Center to be staffed 24 hours per day with two Deputies per each 12-hour shift. This includes one additional Dispatcher, and two Deputies assigned to traffic safety (one funded by Nevada Gold Mines). The half-time person would fill the need for a Bailiff with the anticipated increase in trials due to a change in law that allows defendants to request juror trials in domestic violence cases.

Sheriff Watts felt the traffic safety positions were important, explaining there were 190 vehicle accidents in Eureka County with seven fatalities in 2019, a 700% increase in fatal crashes over the previous year (there were zero fatal crashes in 2018). In large part, he attributes this increase to the lack of Nevada Highway Patrol presence in the County. He said there were also 2,000 additional calls/incidents in 2019 over previous years.

The Sheriff's Office currently has five vacancies with three contingent hires. Interviews are scheduled to fill the remaining vacancies. Once all vacancies are filled and all Deputies are POST certified, Chairman Goicoechea asked if the Sheriff would still need this level of additional staff. The Sheriff responded that in 2013 the Sheriff's Office had 29 employees, so this request would restore the department to previous staffing levels.

Public Works: Ron Damele is not seeking additional staff. His only request is to move the 200 casual hours from the Opera House and increase it to a total of 800 casual hours that can be used in any of the departments under Public Works.

Fiscal Impact: Before approving any personnel requests, the Board asked Ms. Todd to calculate the fiscal impact for review at a future meeting.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - COST OF LIVING & MERIT PROPOSALS

PERS Contribution Rates: Kim Todd explained that in even years the Public Employees Retirement System can do an actuarial audit to determine if PERS contribution rates are at an appropriate level. Police/fire employees have higher PERS contribution rates and the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 increase for law enforcement employees was approximately \$0.30, which basically absorbed the \$0.25 cost of living adjustment (COLA) given that year. Due to this, she had several employees request that the County not consider a COLA any lower than \$0.50.

Proposed COLA: Ms. Todd calculated a \$0.50 COLA, which would cost the County \$86,093.50. The total for annual merit increases (if every employee is eligible) would be \$61,042.95. The elected officials' salary bill has expired, so elected officials will not be eligible for a raise until another bill is passed by the State Legislature. Appointed positions typically receive a percentage increase comparable to the COLA rate, which would be nearly 4% if a \$0.50 COLA is given and approximately 5% if a \$0.75 COLA is given.

The Board requested that Ms. Todd prepare COLA estimates for discussion at the next meeting, with calculations comparing different dollar amounts as well as percentage increases.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET - CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUESTS

Capital Outlay Requests: The Board asked that all departments present capital outlay requests during this meeting. No final decisions will be made until the requests are included in the budget worksheets so the Board can review the fiscal impact.

Senior Centers: Millie Oram would like to replace the oven at the Fannie Komp Senior Center in Crescent Valley at an estimated cost of \$10,500.00.

Public Works: Ron Damele presented capital outlay requests for the departments under Public Works. The Public Works budget should include \$160,000.00 for vehicles, for purchase of two work pickups and two car pool vehicles.

Public Works–Crescent Valley Water System: \$230,000.00 was requested for the Crescent Valley Water System, itemized as follows: \$125,000.00 to sandblast and repaint one of the water tanks; \$60,000.00 for arsenic media replacement; and \$45,000.00 for a new pickup.

Public Works–Landfill: A total of \$395,000.00 was requested for the Landfill, as follows: \$350,000.00 for a replacement track loader, and \$45,000.00 for a new pickup. The Landfill pickup may be purchased in the current fiscal year.

Public Works–Road Department: \$800,000.00 was requested for equipment purchases of a grader, loader, two semi-tractors, and a snow plow. A ten-wheeler truck is also needed, but Mr. Damele believes it can be purchased in the current fiscal year.

Public Works–Buildings/Medical Clinic: William Bee Ririe has requested a new x-ray machine for the Eureka Clinic, at a cost of \$60,000.00.

Public Works–Fire District: The Fire District needs a new service truck at an estimated cost of \$200,000.00.

Public Works–2020 Road & Utility Improvement Project: A total of \$3 million should be budgeted for the 2020 Road & Utility Improvement Project, with \$475,000.00 for Airport improvements, \$500,000.00 for final design of the project and to secure a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), and \$2 million for construction costs (scheduled to begin in May 2021).

Public Works–Radio Repeater Project: \$100,000.00 should be budgeted to complete the radio repeater project. Much of the work will be done in the current fiscal year, but this would cover any remaining work.

Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board: Nona Kellerman relayed that the Town Board would like to request the following improvements for the Crescent Valley Town Park: a 16'x20' cover for the picnic area at an estimated \$11,000.00; a 16'x20' concrete pad at an estimated \$5,000.00; and four new picnic tables (three 8 ft tables and one 10 ft. wheelchair accessible table) for an estimated total of \$4,100.00.

The following replacement items are needed for the Crescent Valley Community Center (cost estimates have not yet been discussed): ten 8 ft. tables with a rolling storage rack; two privacy screens; six tablecloths; and six table skirts.

IT / Network: Misty Rowley requested \$100,000.00 for new network racks with temperature control (air conditioning), remote monitoring, and security locks. She requested \$60,000.00 for the upcoming fiscal year as part of the two-year project to install wireless infrastructure enabling the County to move off Express Internet's service.

Ambulance & EMS: Kenny Sanders estimated that \$50,000 to \$60,000.00 will be needed to replace the support vehicle in Crescent Valley.

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Watts requested \$25,000.00 for speed feedback signs and crosswalk signs in Eureka (NV Gold Mines is paying for speed feedback signs in the Crescent Valley area). He requested \$180,000.00 (\$60,000.00 each) for three new 4-wheel drive patrol vehicles, including upfitting (decals, lights, radios).

The Sheriff asked that \$100,000.00 be budgeted for a console remodel project for dispatch, which will move dispatch into the patrol offices and will move the detention office into the current dispatch area, providing them with direct visual supervision of the jail.

Clerk Recorder: Lisa Hoehne asked that \$10,000.00 be budgeted to replace the copy machine in her office. She asked that \$70,000.00 (a rough preliminary estimate) be budgeted for District Court improvements including replacement of the following: copy machine, JAVS audio/video system, telepresence, and computer.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET – REVENUE PROJECTIONS

March Revenue Projections: Ms. Todd told the Board that revenue projections are due from the Nevada Department of Taxation in March. The Assessor completes the Segregation Report by the end of January, and this includes ad valorem estimates for Eureka County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of February, 2020.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

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

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

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

/s/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder