

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2022

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 20, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay (via phone), District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Goicoechea reminded everyone that Commissioner McKay was joining by telephone due to quarantine after contact with a confirmed COVID case.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The minutes were tabled (due to staff illness), and items #4 and #5 under Human Resources (related to election workers) were tabled at the Clerk Recorder’s request. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Jerry White asked to be placed on the next agenda to make a formal donation request for Perdiz Sport Shooting in the current fiscal year and to request that a donation be budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. One invoice included charges that exceeded the six month limit and needed approval. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve payment in the current fiscal year of \$768.00 to Washoe County Medical Examiner’s Office (total invoice was \$4,781.00, but other charges were current). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the regular expenditures included a pass-through refund from N1 Grazing Board to a local ranch owner (Slagowski Ranches). This was not County money, but due to a family relationship, he wanted to ensure there was no appearance of conflict.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$420,831.69 for accounts payable, \$655,934.93 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$1,049,762.56 for a pass-through tax allocation (school taxes) to the Nevada State Controller, \$684,827.70 for a pass-through (other taxes) to the Nevada State Controller, and \$228.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$2,811,584.88. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0

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

COMMISSIONERS

February 22nd Meeting: Board meetings are set by ordinance to occur the 6th and 20th of each month. If this falls on a nonjudicial day, the meeting is to be held on the closest judicial day. In 2022, the second meeting in February could held either the 18th or 22nd. By consensus, the Board agreed to hold that second monthly meeting on February 22nd.

Quarterly Fiscal Report for Indigent Defense: The Board reviewed the quarterly financial report, showing that Eureka County expended \$15,120.00 for indigent defense and related services during the last quarter (October, November, December). Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to

approve the quarterly Financial Status Report to be submitted to the Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Request for Modified Work Schedule: On November 19, 2021, the Board conducted a public hearing to allow the public to give input and to receive advice from Human Resources on whether the County should consider a modified work schedule. The request had been put forth by a couple of department heads who wanted to allow staff to work a four-day, 40-hour workweek (“4/10s”) rather than the standard Monday through Friday schedule.

At the hearing, the Board was advised that statutory offices (offices of elected officials) cannot alter work schedules unless financial hardship can be proven. Comments received from the public indicated there were concerns that an altered schedule could reduce service to the public.

The Commissioners agreed that no financial hardship could be proven and felt it wasn’t the appropriate time to alter schedules that might have an impact on the taxpaying public. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to deny a modified work schedule for all County offices or departments that don’t already have an approved alternative schedule in place (for instance, law enforcement). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Petitions Regarding Mining Claims: The County received two Affidavits & Petitions to Explore & Develop Mining Claims (pursuant to NRS 517.390) from Wade Robison of Ely, regarding APN 009-190-02 and APN 009-070-07. Mr. Robison addressed the Board explaining he is a fifth-generation Nevadan who knows the history and importance of mining to local communities and the State. NRS 517.390 allows a person to petition for mining claims held in trust by a county through its Treasurer, due to delinquent taxes.

District Attorney Beutel explained that the properties can either move forward to a delinquent tax auction or the petitions can be granted. If granted, the petitioner has six months to explore the claims. At the end of six months, the Treasurer transfers title to the petitioner in exchange for payment of all back taxes and fees.

Treasurer Pernecia Johnson felt it was in the County’s best interest to sell the claims by auction. The last mining claim was sold in 2016 for over \$25,000.00. After one year, \$22,000.00 in excess proceeds was deposited in the County’s general fund. Both mining claims are scheduled to be sold at auction in April, and receipts are expected to exceed the roughly \$200.00 owed on each claim in fees and back taxes.

Chairman Goicoechea said the Commissioners were sympathetic to Mr. Robison’s interest, but were compelled to act in the best interest of Eureka County. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to deny the Affidavits & Petitions to Explore & Develop Mining Claims from Wade Robison for APN 009-190-02 and APN 009-070-07. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

IT DEPARTMENT

Resolution Designating Authorized Representative: IT Director Misty Rowley presented a resolution to designate her as the County’s authorized representative in making application for broadband infrastructure grants. As official representative, she can grant the contracted grant writer necessary online access.

Ms. Rowley commented that the required documentation and preparation involved with managing these grants is excessive and requires more time than she or legal counsel have to give. Chairman Goicoechea felt this work would probably best be done by a contractor and suggested that Ms. Rowley find an individual or company qualified to do grant administration, and place it on a future agenda.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution designating Misty Rowley as the authorized representative of the Eureka County IT Department for the purposes of making application for broadband infrastructure grants. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eaton Corporation Service Agreement – Courthouse: Ms. Rowley presented two service agreements for renewal, which cover the uninterruptable power supply battery systems in the Courthouse NOC (network operations center) room and the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to renew a three-year service agreement with Eaton Corporation for UPS equipment in the County Courthouse network operations center at an annual cost of \$11,965.38 and authorized the IT Director to sign the agreement. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eaton Corporation Service Agreement – Sheriff's Office: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to renew a three-year service agreement with Eaton Corporation for UPS equipment at the Sheriff's Office at an annual cost of \$14,946.37 and authorized the IT Director to sign the agreement. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE

Notice: Notice was given that the Board would hold a public hearing on January 20, 2022, to invite public comments and take action on an ordinance amending the 2018 EUREKA COUNTY CODE by amending the existing sections and adding a section to TITLE 2, EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CHAPTER 10, GENERAL PROVISIONS, addressing redistricting following the 2020 Census. The draft ordinance, entitled December 2021 Eureka County Commissioner Districts Realignment Ordinance, has been on file with the County Clerk for public examination.

Redistricting Proposal: The Board discussed redistricting options at length with Assessor Michael Mears during the November 19th and December 6th meetings. A minimum of six boundary options were considered and the redistricting ordinance setting new district boundaries was proposed by the Board on December 20th.

Open Public Hearing: Chairman Goicoechea opened the public hearing and invited public comments on the proposed ordinance. After subsequent calls for comment, the hearing was closed.

Adopt Redistricting Ordinance: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the December 2021 Eureka County Commissioner Districts Realignment Ordinance, an ordinance amending the 2018 Eureka County Code, Title 2, Eureka County Commissioners, Chapter 10, General Provisions. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were a total of 22 calls for ambulance service in December, with 15 responses from the Eureka station and seven responses from the Crescent Valley station. Three patients were transferred to air medical services.

2021 Annual Ambulance Run Report: Mr. Sanders presented an annual report showing a total of 315 ambulance runs for Calendar Year 2021, an increase of 86 runs over the previous year. Of the total runs, 204 were out of Eureka and 111 were out of Crescent Valley. There were 92 patients transferred to air medical services (72/MedX AirOne, 20/REACH Air). There were 68 patients transported to regional hospitals (37/Elko, 19/Ely, 12/Battle Mountain).

Quarterly Report: EMS submitted a report showing federally mandated write-offs of Medicaid and Medicare ambulance accounts for the past quarter. There were zero write-offs in October, zero in November, and \$645.00 in December, for a quarter total of \$645.00.

Small Barrel Incinerator: Mr. Sanders explained that under the State license/variance, EMS is required to have a proper disposal method for expired and partially used medications. He obtained a quote for a small barrel incinerator for controlled burning.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve purchasing a Helios small barrel incinerator from GEI Works in the amount of \$6,595.18, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-054-55010-000) in the Ambulance/EMS budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Medication Cabinets: The State requires secure storage of medications, and a quote was obtained for locking medication cabinets with electronic notification and tracking systems. The quote included a three-year subscription for support, software upgrades, and hardware warranty.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchasing two C2 Vanguard ClinixSafe electronic locking medication cabinets from MedixSafe in the amount of \$7,247.40, to be paid with funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-054-55010-000) in the Ambulance/EMS budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ASSESSOR

Update on Yucca Mountain Website: Assessor Michael Mears explained the Yucca Mountain website (yuccamountain.org) was created in 1995 when Eureka County first became an AULG (affected unit of local government) in relation to the Yucca Mountain Project. The site has been maintained by John Walker under the direction of Nuclear Waste Advisor Abby Johnson, but both have retired this past year.

Mr. Mears felt it was worthwhile to retain the domain because the site has an abundance of data and information. He notified the Board that, as County Webmaster, he was willing to maintain the website and will work on merging it into an archived format to preserve the data.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Online Application Portal: Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple informed that the online application portal has been fully implemented. The system was built to serve public sector employers with an automated hiring process. This will save time, ensure a more uniform and transparent hiring process, and provide an easy-to-use template for applicants. It is also user-friendly for department heads, who will receive notifications immediately when applications are submitted. Ms. Whimple stated she has already received encouraging feedback, and noted that applicants may come to her office if they want assistance or need access to a computer.

Hiring & Promotions: On January 10th, Human Resources sent a memorandum to all department heads and supervisors outlining the hiring and promotion processes. Ms. Whimple said her intent was to ensure that all departments are in compliance with the legal requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and also in compliance with County policies.

For the benefit of the Board and managers in attendance, she reaffirmed the steps necessary for hiring and promotion, describing the requirement of an updated/approved job description, an updated/approved waiver of the hiring freeze, and a 14-day internal posting. For promotions, Ms. Whimple recommended a promotion request form that must be completed by the department and approved by the Board before the position is posted. Hiring freeze waivers will expire in 180 days and promotion requests will expire in 90 days.

She asked that all applications be submitted through the online portal and that all hires and promotions be made in consultation with Human Resources. Moving forward, Human Resources will inform the Board of all newly hired or promoted employees.

Sheriff Watts voiced several questions and concerns. Referencing the Deputy Sheriff I, II, & III job description, he said it has been the practice to promote a deputy as soon as he/she meets the qualifications of the next rank – for example, when someone attains POST (Peace Officer Standards & Training) certification before 12 months of employment.

Ms. Whimple agreed that this has been the practice in at least one department, although it has been done in violation of existing policies. This is why she wants to address the inconsistent practices. Updating and creating forms will help ensure that all departments are aware of, and consistently comply with, the proper steps.

Lisa Hoehne commented that not all people have computers or live near Eureka where they can easily visit a County office. Chairman Goicoechea reminded everyone that multiple computers are available to the public at both library branches on each end of the County.

Jeb Rowley noted that there could be problems advancing certain seasonal workers. For instance, pool attendants train to become lifeguards, but many are students and don't work 12 consecutive months. Chairman Goicoechea asked him to meet with Ms. Whimple to work on this issue.

Board Action on Hiring, Promotions, & Policy: Chairman Goicoechea asked for Board action to accomplish the following: (a) uphold current hiring and promotion policies as reaffirmed by the Human Resources Director at the day's meeting and in her memorandum dated January 10th; (b) direct HR to continue policy review for the purpose of recommending changes to create a more transparent hiring and promotion process; (c) direct HR to update the Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification form and to create a Promotion Request Form (both forms will be presented for Board approval at a future meeting).

Commissioner Sharkozy stated he would make the motion as outlined by the Chairman; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

EMS Volunteers: Ms. Whimple explained that she would like a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification on file for each position that she posts on the online application portal. EMS Director Kenny Sanders completed the form for volunteer EMTs and Certified Drivers. The Board reviewed the forms and had no questions.

SHERIFF

Quarterly Report: Sheriff Jesse Watts provided a quarterly report showing administration, communications, detention, and patrol statistics for October, November, and December. There were 2,676 calls for service during the quarter. The County's liability insurance requires that the Sheriff report quarterly on the security of the jail and treatment and condition of inmates. The report showed that the jail, which has five full-time employees, had seven new bookings for the quarter. Sheriff Watts explained that there are actually zero inmates at the jail, since all prisoners are being housed in White Pine County.

Sheriff Comments on NHP Services: Commissioner McKay (referencing the Sheriff's increased budget and staffing requests) asked what the Sheriff felt was the biggest impact on law enforcement's workload in Eureka County. Sheriff Watts replied that the "*number one draw*" on his deputies was lack of Nevada Highway Patrol presence in the County and the region, causing his deputies to respond to multiple calls and crashes. He said, "*that is a big draw on us and a big drain to be honest,*" adding, "*that's the major thing.*"

Hiring Freeze Waivers: Sheriff Watts presented a total of five Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification forms, requesting to fill the following vacancies: one Dispatcher, three Deputies I, II, III, or Sergeant, and one Lieutenant.

There was a discussion concerning the need for transparency in the hiring process, with Chairman Goicoechea inquiring at what level the Sheriff expects to fill the three deputy positions. Sheriff Watts replied that he now faces a dilemma, due to the earlier described promotion requirements, because he cannot promote in the first 12 months.

Chairman Goicoechea instructed that, once hiring approval is given, the position can be filled with a lower rank. For instance, if the hiring freeze is waived for a Deputy III and there is no qualified candidate, it can be filled with a lower rank. If this occurs, the Sheriff must work with Human Resources to agendaize it on the next available agenda to properly inform the Board, which will keep the hiring process transparent and the record accurate.

With that, Sheriff Watts said he would like to go with two Deputy IIs, one Deputy III, a Dispatcher I, and the Lieutenant position which, he argued, was not done away with as stated in an earlier meeting. The Chairman reiterated, and staff confirmed, that the Lieutenant position and job description were eliminated beginning July 2016. The position has not been reinstated or budgeted since that time. The Sheriff continued to argue about the Lieutenant position.

Chairman Goicoechea responded to the Sheriff, *“I’m going to be candid – you sat here and deliberately misled this Board.”* This was in reference to Sheriff Watts presenting the Lieutenant job description for Board approval on January 6, 2022 and, that very afternoon, turning in paperwork showing he had promoted someone to the position effective January 1st.

Sheriff Watts contended that promoting to Lieutenant was no different than other past practices. As an example, he cited the K9 Deputy positions which did not previously exist. He said upon approval of the job description, he appointed two deputies without waiver of the hiring freeze and without prior budget approval.

Chairman Goicoechea responded, *“And we’re saying we were making mistakes. I’m man enough to say I’ve made mistakes here, this Board has made mistakes, and we’re not making them again.”* He continued that the Sheriff was scheduled to present his budget requests on February 7th and, if he wished to reinstate and budget a position, that was the time to make that request or recommendation. He then called for a motion regarding the positions other than Lieutenant.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Sheriff to fill the vacant positions of one Dispatcher I, two Deputy Sheriffs II, and one Deputy Sheriff III, with hiring done in accordance with all steps outlined in the Human Resources memorandum of January 10, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report for December was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$43,885,195.86.

Tax Delinquent Auction: Ms. Johnson provided the Board with a list of tax delinquent parcels scheduled for auction on April 20th. State law allows a local government to acquire delinquent parcels held in trust if it serves a public purpose. The Public Works Director said one parcel may prove beneficial, but he had not yet inspected it in person.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the list of tax delinquent properties held in trust by the Treasurer, and authorized proceeding to auction in April 2022 pursuant to NRS Chapter 361 and 2019 Order of the Board, reserving the right to withhold one parcel in northern Eureka County pending review by Public Works. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Consider Ordinance Change: The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board requested that its meeting time, which is set by ordinance, be changed from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Before making an ordinance change, the Commissioners asked that the Town Board review the entire ordinance to ensure there weren’t other changes it would like to recommend.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Facilities Update: Joyce Jeppesen, Public Works Assistant Director-Administration, gave an update on activities at County managed facilities.

Opera House: In December, the Opera House had 29 tourists and 474 attendees at meetings and events. This included multiple mine meetings and the Firemen’s New Year’s Eve Ball. Ms. Jeppesen described several events coming up over the next months.

Sentinel Museum: The Museum had 60 visitors in December. On January 10th, a top television network from France filmed footage at the Museum and Opera House for a documentary on Highway 50.

Swimming Pool: The Pool had 41 swimmers for the month. Two new lifeguards were hired. Interviews for the Swimming Pool Supervisor will be conducted on January 24th.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: One application for a subdivision lot was withdrawn, but another one is now pending.

Eureka Airport: A total of 396 gallons of fuel was sold at the Airport – 175 gallons of avgas and 219 gallons of Jet A fuel. A crew from Quest is currently installing the new security cameras.

Eureka Landfill: The Landfill had 332 municipal customers and 58 commercial customers in December. It received 121 tons of municipal waste and 115 tons of construction and demolition debris.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

COVID Update: COVID rapid test acquisition is becoming more challenging. Notification was received from William Bee Ririe Hospital in Ely that testing services are restricted to extreme cases only. Work continues with Churchill County on recruiting and setting up a team in Eureka to assist with COVID testing and vaccines, and to hold monoclonal antibody clinics. Eureka Airport will serve as a base for the team.

Senior Center Addition: Crews continue working on the Eureka Senior Center to enclose the back patio as an addition for some much-needed storage space.

Landfill Fencing: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a quote from Metta Technologies for 500 feet of Defender 10 Litter Fence for an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (190-273-55010-000) in the Landfill Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Pipeline Supplies: Due to supply shortages and price escalations, Mr. Rowley requested authorization to purchase and warehouse pipeline supplies for a planned and budgeted project. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (042-140-55010-746) in the Capital Projects Fund to purchase pipeline supplies for the Devil's Gate GID mainline extension, in an amount not to exceed \$126,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Weeds/Fuels: Mr. Tibbitts recently met with K.C. Shedden, Fuels Program Manager with Battle Mountain District BLM. Mr. Shedden is interested in working on priorities in the Eureka County portion of the Battle Mountain District, including grant opportunities for vegetative control in addition to the weed control grants. More grants will soon be available due to the monies Nevada will receive in federal infrastructure funding.

State Engineer Order 1329: The final State Engineer Order 1329 was issued in December. Eureka County submitted written comments and attended the hearing. Mr. Tibbitts said there were quite a few changes from the draft to the final version. The Order establishes interim procedures for managing waters of the Humboldt River, which will remain in effect until replaced.

The Order is a product of a settlement agreement with Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD). Several groups, including PCWCD, have appealed the Order. The various appeals have been filed in four different District Courts in the State. Nevada Gold Mines is now seeking to intervene to protect its interests. Mr. Tibbitts said he will follow this closely, noting that Crescent Valley is in the Humboldt River Basin and the County's municipal water system is junior to every other right in the basin.

Adjudication of Water Law Cases: In March 2021, the Nevada Supreme Court convened the Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases, which will meet on January 21st to consider two proposals. One proposal is to establish stand-alone water courts with appointed judges; and the other proposal is to use existing District Court judges. Chairman Goicoechea and Mr. Tibbitts have already provided comment, particularly on the necessity that any judges ruling on water law need to have the proper background, education, and experience. Mr. Tibbitts noted that rural

Nevada is well represented on the Commission by Jeff Fontaine, Esq. (Executive Director for both Humboldt River Basin Water Authority and Central Nevada Regional Water Authority), Karen Peterson, Esq. (the County's water attorney), and Oz Wichman of Nye County, who were all specifically appointed to represent rural interests.

Upcoming Meetings: Mr. Tibbitts will travel to Carson City January 24th-25th related to ongoing depositions in the Diamond Valley Adjudication case. The BLM's scoping meetings for sage grouse planning are ongoing; one was held earlier in the month and another is scheduled for January 24th. Nevada Division of Water Resources is doing a series of drought workshops with one on January 26th and two more in February. The BLM is hosting workshops on January 26th & 27th on the proposed Greenlink North Project, the green energy transmission line that NV Energy wants to build along the US Highway 50 corridor. Mr. Tibbitts received notice that an Environmental Assessment will be prepared for Golden Lakes Exploration as a result of drilling it has done near Eureka, and the BLM will host a kickoff meeting on February 7th.

Waters of the United States: The US Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have again proposed a rule revising definition of "waters of the United States." The proposal would replace the present rule with what existed before the current rule was adopted in 2015. Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter objecting to repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States rule (Navigable Waters Protection Rule) and asking that the proposed rule be withdrawn.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to the Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers in response to their proposed rule (Docket EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602) to again revise the definition of "waters of the United States." Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sage Grouse Issues: The County recently accepted cooperating agency status as the BLM revisits its 2015 land use plans to address Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management. The comment deadline of February 7th has since been extended and Mr. Tibbitts is preparing formal comments. For the record, he wanted to recap that (under prior Board approval) he and the Chairman will be working with Laura Granier, Esq., and Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts Inc., to ensure that all parties (NACO, stakeholder counties, etc.) strategize effectively and present a concerted effort on this issue.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET – DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

District Attorney; Law Library: District Attorney Beutel reviewed his budgets. No changes were requested for the Law Library budget. In the District Attorney's budget, requested increases included an additional \$50,000.00 in contract services, an increase of \$21,000.00 in investigations, and monies to support another workstation and travel/training. He explained this budget will support an investigator, anticipated civil litigation, and purchase of case management software. Mr. Beutel asked the Board to look at the track-record for his department, noting that monies are not spent just because they are budgeted, but are only spent if truly necessary.

Agricultural Extension: Comptroller Todd visited with Extension Educator Gary McCuin, who requested no changes to the Ag Extension budget.

North End Activity Fund: No changes were proposed in this fund.

Data Processing: IT Director Misty Rowley reviewed changes requested in her operating budget. Software costs were increased by \$63,000.00 to cover the E911 program (now mandated), migration to Office 365 (versus individual Microsoft Office programs), and software to support a hyper converged server. If the County is successful in obtaining \$10 million in grant funds for a broadband buildout, the grant writer's commission would be \$500,000.00, and this was included as well.

Natural Resources: Jake Tibbitts reviewed his budgets, commenting (similarly to the District Attorney) that he only spends what is necessary and historically spends only 50% of his budget. The single requested increase for Natural Resources was contingency in the event of computer failure, based on a recommendation from IT.

NRAC: This budget was reduced by eliminating funds for phone/fax, which will easily be absorbed by the Natural Resources budget.

Game Board: This budget supports the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and expenses are reimbursed by the State. The budget is based on number of State meetings; but with the use of virtual meetings, very little will be expended.

Diamond Valley Weed District: Mr. Tibbitts said the cost of chemicals and herbicide has doubled in a year, which is the primary reason for the increase in this budget. He reduced contract services for the year, and expects to reduce it to zero in the following year. Mr. Tibbitts reminded the Board that the bulk of this budget is reimbursed by BLM grants.

Diamond Valley Rodent District: Mr. Tibbitts said that the Rodent District Board hasn't been active for years, but he did budget for postage (for notices) and rodenticide, in the event that the District decides to do something.

County Commissioners: Ms. Todd asked about the potential County match on the broadband infrastructure grants for a \$10 million buildout. Some grants don't require a match, but some require as much as 25%. Mr. Tibbitts commented on the environmental aspect of an infrastructure buildout. Hiring a contractor to write an Environmental Assessment could easily cost \$50,000.00. He said the Board should also consider the added cost and time involved to obtain BLM permitting.

The Chairman asked the Comptroller to tentatively include the \$2.5 million for a potential match, along with an additional \$55,000.00 for NEPA contracts. Commissioner McKay requested that miscellaneous grants be increased to \$100,000.00 for the upcoming year. Office supplies were increased for a replacement laptop computer and contingency for a desktop computer.

D&T Center (Medical Clinics): This budget covers clinic costs (75%) and the physical therapy contract, and no increases were anticipated.

Water Mitigation Fund: This budget covers Dale Bugenig's contract, the US Geological Survey agreements, and \$300,000.00 for test drilling/pumping. No changes were recommended.

Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund: No changes were made to this fund.

Library: No increases were anticipated for the library contract.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel (2); Natural Resources Advisory Commission; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Television District; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest; Northeastern Nevada EMS Consortium; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Water Resources Assoc. (2); Nevada Rural Housing Authority; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry; UNR UCED newsletter; UNR CABNR newsletter; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (2); Federal Aviation Admin.; Hearst Television; EOPA newsletter; US Senator Jacky Rosen; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and America First Policy Institute (multiple).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 7th day of February, 2022.

/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 January 20, 2022, 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