

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2018

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 6, 2018. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (morning session only); and Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg. 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

Natural Resources Item #8 was removed from the agenda (Hiring Freeze Waiver for Department Assistant). Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19, 2018: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the January 19, 2018, meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Maureen Garner. One bill exceeded the six-month deadline, but this was due to an overcharge that took Public Works several months of negotiations with the vendor to resolve. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve payment to Simplex Grinnell in the amount of \$165.00; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$317,313.51 for accounts payable, \$342,935.78 for payroll, \$139,013.48 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$13,464.35 for a pass-through to the State Controller, \$610.00 for a pass-through to the Nevada Division of Minerals, \$319.62 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, and \$5,215.24 in Yucca Mountain expenditures, for a grand total of \$818,871.98. *(Note: This total includes the \$165.00 paid to Simplex Grinnell).*

A motion later in the day, to approve a special accounts payable of \$15,272.69, brought the grand total to \$834,144.67.

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

Casual Worker Hours: Casual workers are hired to work 19 hours, or less, per week. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 3.23.2, the Board of Commissioners may authorize a casual worker to work up to 29 hours per week, not to exceed 1,039 hours in a year, if the department’s budget supports the extra hours.

In addition to regular duties, the Comptroller’s office is very busy with software conversion, training, Human Resource responsibilities, and budget preparation. Ms. Garner requested authorization for the Comptroller’s casual worker to work 29 hours per week for the remainder of the fiscal year. Their budget contains 700 casual hours, which will support this increase. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize the Comptroller’s Casual Worker IV to work up to 29 hours per week through June 30, 2018; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: The Commissioners had no activities to report.

Interim Ambulance Coordinator Job Description: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, is retiring effective February 10th. In order to allow proper time to recruit and hire a new manager for EMS, an interim job description was created with some variation in duties. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the Interim Ambulance Coordinator job description as presented; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver for Interim Position: A Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification form was submitted requesting authorization to hire an Interim Ambulance Coordinator. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the Hiring Freeze Waiver and the emergency internal job posting for the position of Interim Ambulance Coordinator; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Review Letters of Interest for Interim Position: Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd, reported that their office received one letter of interest in response to the internal posting of Interim Ambulance Coordinator. The letter was from Sergeant Kenneth Sanders, long-time employee with the Sheriff's Office, who has served in a supervisory capacity for many years. Sergeant Sanders is an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and has worked as a volunteer with Eureka County Emergency Medical Services since 1987.

Compensation was discussed. The Chairman suggested a monthly stipend of \$1,000.00. Sergeant Sanders agreed this was satisfactory and confirmed that his supervisor, Sheriff Keith Logan, was agreeable to him accepting this temporary assignment in addition to his regular duties.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Kenneth Sanders as Interim Ambulance Coordinator with a stipend of \$500.00 to be paid every two weeks; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Express Internet: The County has contracted with Above All Communications, LLC, dba Express Internet, for multiple years. In this mutually beneficial association, Express Internet provides internet service to several County buildings and facilities (12 sites, plus redundancy) in exchange for utilizing County infrastructure to house equipment for their private business as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to the residents of Eureka County.

In 2016, Kyle Moore and Don Meldrum (owners of Express Internet) offered to sell their business to Eureka County, including all equipment serving County government and private residents. The County has no interest in becoming an ISP and, instead, plans to independently provide internet to all facilities at some point in the future. At the same time, the County does not want to put Express Internet in a position that jeopardizes service to many residents.

Kyle Moore was in attendance to discuss the future relationship between Express Internet and Eureka County. His desire is to serve the needs of the County while continuing to serve the needs of well-over 200 residents that make up their customer base. They have persistently built up the network and will continue to make improvements and upgrades with the latest equipment.

If Express Internet is asked to demobilize equipment off the County tower, it will require adjusting radio receivers at every customer site. Because of this, their desire is to remain on County infrastructure, even beyond the term of any current agreements. Something can likely be worked out in the future, where the County assumes the equipment that serves County facilities.

Chairman Goicoechea suggested a contract term sufficient to allow the County to continue building capital to finance an internet buildout and sufficient to allow Express Internet time to consider future business plans. Mr. Moore agreed and suggested regular communication during the contract extension period.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to extend the contract with Above All Communications, LLC, dba Express Internet through June 30, 2020; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Escrow Documents for APN 001-102-13: Assessor, Michael Mears, presented escrow documents to finalize the purchase of APN 001-102-13 from the Caton family. This is property at

11 North Main Street in Eureka on which the County formerly held a long-term lease to house a historic train caboose and numerous other items. In 2016, the family decided to sell the property. Since it would cost more to relocate the items, the County subsequently agreed to buy at the appraised value of \$15,000.00. Escrow was opened in January.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign escrow documents finalizing the purchase of APN 001-102-13 from the Caton family; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Later in the day, Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize a special accounts payable to pay Cow County Title a total of \$15,272.69 for purchase price and closing fees (the \$50.00 recording fee will be reimbursed) for APN 001-102-13. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan: Chairman Goicoechea reported that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council will meet on February 8th. Updates to the Conservation Credit System continue. The Council will discuss six new Instruction Memoranda recently issued by the US Department of the Interior, BLM, for the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plans & Amendments.

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Town of Eureka Cleanup Efforts: Tom Dunkelman, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, gave a brief status update on efforts to remediate properties contaminated with elevated levels of lead and/or arsenic, resulting from historic smelter activity in the Eureka Townsite.

To date, the EPA has sampled almost 300 parcels in town, resulting in cleanup of 126 residential parcels. Initial soil testing began in October 2012 and cleanup activity began in 2013. All cleanup has been on a voluntary basis and positive feedback has been received from the property owners. A repository was constructed on the south side of Ruby Hill Avenue in 2016. Excavated materials are taken to the repository for permanent storage.

The EPA has spent approximately \$13 million in Eureka, with \$2 million coming from EPA Headquarters and the remaining \$11 million coming from the EPA Region 9 emergency response budget (approximately a third of their total budget over the past five years).

2018 Field Season: Looking forward to the 2018 field season, the EPA has \$2.6 million and will use that to prioritize and treat the remaining 40 to 50 residential parcels. Last year, notices were posted issuing a 'last call' for soil sampling, so they expect to complete residential work this year.

This will leave two tasks to finish the entire Eureka cleanup plan. First is the hillside behind the senior housing complex and last are the slag piles on each end of town. The EPA is about \$3 to \$4 million short to complete these tasks. Mr. Dunkelman stated they will continue to pursue funding, but federal funding is hard to predict from year to year.

Proposed Land Exchange: The hillside behind the senior housing complex is comprised of four parcels. The EPA has determined the contamination level is so high that these parcels could not be remediated to a level consistent with future residential use. The best treatment is to cover the hillside with rock and soil and ensure that contamination cannot migrate anywhere. To accomplish this, they propose a land trade.

The EPA has been coordinating with all of the property owners and proposes that the landowners trade their hillside parcels for County owned land in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. The contaminated parcels would be placed under an environmental covenant that would limit future development. The exact details of this type of land exchange must still be worked out since the properties, obviously, have very different characteristics.

Commissioner Etchegaray stated he would only support a land trade if the owners of the hillside parcels are in agreement; the other Commissioners concurred. The Board decided to appoint someone to participate in negotiations.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Public Works Director, Ron Damele, as the lead to assist in negotiating details involved in a land exchange between Eureka County and private property owners, engaging other County staff and officials as needed, and to bring the details before the Commissioners for a final determination. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Comments: Chairman Goicoechea strongly urged the EPA to finalize this project, preferably in the 2018 field season, which will be the sixth year of actual dirt work and the seventh year of EPA presence. The SLAG Working Group facilitated negotiations for an acceptable work plan and both the County and SLAG have been very clear and consistent that the end goal is a finished project, including a time when the EPA considers this resolved and will not return to Eureka related to this issue.

The Chairman voiced appreciation for the EPA working with the County to keep all actions on a voluntary basis and to keep Eureka from being listed as a Superfund site. He emphasized that he didn't want to see a project left unfinished due to lack of funding, causing the EPA to return at a later date, possibly with new administration on both sides of the table who aren't as cognizant of the original goals and agreements.

Mr. Dunkelman responded that the EPA is just as anxious to depart Eureka and is committed to a strong finish on this project.

Public Comments: Eureka resident, Stuart Bloyd, asked if the parcels considered for trade will be surveyed. He stated the EPA removed the cornerstone from his property while working on an adjacent parcel, so he felt someone needed to ensure that boundaries are respected.

Chairman Goicoechea responded that the property lines in Eureka are problematic, but agreed this is an area that everyone can work on. Mr. Dunkelman stated that the EPA will consider surveys if needed.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In January, Eureka served 691 meals and Crescent Valley served 593 meals. A total of \$1,997.55 was deposited for the month. Staff members are scheduled to take the ServSafe® test on February 7th.

Genesis Home Health: Genesis Home Health sent a letter asking for renewal of their contract for the upcoming fiscal year, with a request to increase their per visit rate from \$180.00 to \$200.00 without raising the annual contract amount.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the contract with Genesis Home Health Services for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, for a not to exceed amount of \$10,000.00, including approval to increase the per visit rate to \$200.00. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Consumer Direct Care Network: Consumer Direct sent a letter asking for renewal of their contract for the upcoming fiscal year, with a request to increase the annual contract amount from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Ms. Oram explained that there is a need for services in Crescent Valley and there are people willing to serve as caregivers in the area. The additional contract amount will cover these services.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a contract with Consumer Direct Care Network for Nevada for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, for a not to exceed amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer Job Descriptions: In anticipation of the reorganization of two constitutional offices, effective January 2019, Clerk/Treasurer, Beverly Conley, presented updated job descriptions for the future office of Treasurer/Public Administrator/Public Guardian. (The other affected office is Recorder, which will become Clerk/Recorder). Ms. Conley felt a higher salary

range should be considered at some point for the Public Guardian, as this position is making life decisions for the wards.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the new job descriptions for Deputy Treasurer I at a salary range 115, Deputy Treasurer II at a salary range 122, and Deputy Treasurer/Public Guardian at a salary range 122. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

IT / NETWORK

Replacement Computers: IT Supervisor, Michael Mears, explained that money was budgeted for the conversion from the AS400 to multiple other software applications. In addition, this money will cover replacement of computers not compatible with new software. Currently one computer is needed for the Road Department, three for the Clerk/Treasurer's office, and two for the Recorder's office.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize purchase of six replacement computers, for a not to exceed amount of \$9,000.00, to be paid for from the Capital Projects Fund; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

ASSESSOR

Interlocal Agreement with Secretary of State: Assessor, Michael Mears, requested authorization to enter into an agreement with the Nevada Secretary of State for access to Nevada's Business Portal, commonly known as SilverFlume. This site will be utilized for information only and there is no cost to Eureka County.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the Nevada Secretary of State and Eureka County for access to Nevada's Business Portal, commonly known as SilverFlume. 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. Crews are already running water trucks with the blades due to lack of moisture this season. The mild weather has allowed a lot of gravel to be hauled and southern crews have been working on the 3 Bars Road most of the past month. A new cattle guard was installed and three culverts were replaced. The JD Ranch Road is being bladed; this road is experiencing increased traffic due to mine activity.

Northern crews finished blading the Cortez Road and all of the side roads through the Crescent Valley area. Work has started on the Dann Road, surrounding area, and nearby flat.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities. Mr. Damele and Mr. Hodson have been spending a lot of time working on budgets.

SCBA Inspections: L.N. Curtis is conducting annual inspections of the SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) and compressors at all fire stations on February 6th and 7th.

Institutional Control Plan: Staff met with representatives of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection as work continues on the Draft Institutional Control Plan for the Eureka Smelter Site. It is very close to final draft form, which will be sent to the US Environmental Protection Agency for review.

Utility Systems: All utility systems are in good working order. The valve and other parts have arrived for the water tank at the junction of US Highway 50 and State Route 78. The work, which requires trenching, will be done later in the season.

Facilities: The pool has been very busy with swimmers and is providing private lessons. The Opera House has had a lot of traffic, mostly due to numerous meetings.

Municipal Solid Waste Contractor: The Statement of Qualifications for a municipal solid waste contractor was sent out January 2nd to all garbage collection companies in Ely, Elko, and Battle Mountain. One response was received by the February 2nd deadline and it meets all minimum requirements.

The Board felt Mr. Damele was the most qualified and directed him to negotiate contract terms with the company and prepare a draft contract/franchise agreement, which can then be reviewed by the District Attorney before it is finalized.

Devil's Gate GID Water System Billing Cycle: Eureka and Crescent Valley water statements are sent on the 1st of each month and Public Works would like to move the Devil's Gate GID billing cycle from the 20th to the 1st. This will streamline billing and will work better with the new software program. If approved, customers will receive a notice by mail immediately that the billing cycle is changing and that they will receive a pro-rated bill on March 1st. A second notice will be included with the February 20th bills.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to move the Devil's Gate General Improvement District water billing cycle to the 1st of each month effective with the March 1, 2018, statement; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

MEDICAL CLINICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Update on Clinics & William Bee Ririe: Three members of the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee were in attendance to report on the clinics: Chair, Garney Damele; Vice Chair, Rich McKay; and Member, Jim Ithurralde. A letter was also provided.

MCAC met on January 29th and heard updates on the clinics from Matt Walker, CEO of William Bee Ririe Hospital (WBR). This was the first formal update since October.

Provider Coverage: In January, the Eureka Clinic gained Tamisha Pena, APRN, who will trade off with Jerome Hicks, APRN, on providing services at the Crescent Valley Clinic one day per week. Dr. Clement Strumillo, DO, and Dr. Gary Seigel, MD, alternate to provide two days of physician coverage each week at the Eureka Clinic.

Pharmacy Services: A State law requiring pharmacies to have a licensed pharmacist at each dispensary site negated the original plan to have Ridley's or Economy Drug provide pharmaceutical for the clinics.

Instead, Mr. Hicks has obtained certification to dispense and WBR has obtained a retail pharmacy license. Limited medications will be available soon at the Eureka Clinic. Medications can be dispensed in Crescent Valley on the weeks that Mr. Hicks is there. The Commissioners and MCAC members agreed to request that this service be in place by March 1st.

Nurse Hotline: A health line is required in the clinical services contract. WBR originally planned on providing an after-hours health line allowing residents to access medical staff at the hospital in Ely. They have instead decided to contract with REMSA to provide a 24-hour nurse hotline. This should be in place shortly.

Internet Service & Telemedicine in Crescent Valley: WBR has battled a number of issues in an attempt to obtain an adequate internet connection at the Crescent Valley Clinic. They can provide an audio/visual connection with their Verizon Jetpack, but cannot utilize telemedicine tools now available, such as stethoscope, otoscope, EKG, etc.

Michael Mears explained the two best options for WBR. They can either obtain their own connection through SkyFiber Internet, or the County can increase its 50 MB connection to 100 MB and split off enough bandwidth to service the clinic (about 25 MB). A shared connection is the cheaper option. This would require installation of around \$2,000.00 worth of equipment and would cost an additional \$300.00 per month.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to increase the internet connection with SkyFiber Internet in Crescent Valley and to provide a 25 MB internet connection to the Crescent Valley Clinic if William Bee Ririe Hospital is willing to pay equipment and installation fees of around

\$2,000.00, with Eureka County paying the additional \$300.00 monthly fee. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Future Open House in Crescent Valley: WBR has agreed to hold an Open House in Crescent Valley. The date is yet to be determined. This will be an opportunity for the community to meet clinic staff and may help address the very low patient numbers in Crescent Valley.

Laboratory Costs: Most community feedback about the providers and staff has been very positive. But there is a lot of concern in the community regarding the high cost of lab work. WBR utilizes their hospital lab and will only send to outside companies, such as LabCorp, when their facility doesn't provide a specific test. Emergency facilities with in-house laboratories bill at much higher rates than companies that do large volumes of analyses.

This concern has been presented to Mr. Walker, but he states it is their policy to do labs in-house whenever possible. He didn't feel there should be a different standard for Eureka patients than White Pine patients. He noted that Nevada Health Centers received a higher subsidy from Eureka County, which is one reason they could offer services at a lower price.

Extended Hours: To help bridge the gap of no longer having on-call services at the clinic, the Committee asked WBR about offering extended hours. WBR is willing to extend the Eureka Clinic hours Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (currently 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), at no additional cost. One midlevel provider and one Medical Assistant would be staffed during the extended hours. The Commissioners agreed they would like to try the extended hours.

Physicals, Immunizations, & Pricing: The County had contracted rates with Nevada Health Centers for CDL physicals, police and firefighter physicals, TB tests, and drug testing. The prices for these have proven to be much higher with WBR. After speaking with Mr. Walker, WBR agreed to provide these services at the previously contracted rate. To comply with insurance regulations, WBR must bill at the full rate charged, but the County can short-pay and the balance will be written off. The Commissioners asked to have this in writing, which WBR is willing to do.

Plain Talk Topics: MCAC will include updates of interest to the community in the next edition of the *Plain Talk* newsletter.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve out-of-state travel, from July 17th to 20th, for Steve Zimmerman, Juvenile Probation Officer, and Irma Davila, Senior Department Assistant, to attend the Northwest Alcohol Conference in Boise, Idaho. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. A Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan full group meeting was held on January 22nd. The group is moving forward with drafting an Executive Summary of the Plan, as well as a document outlining the issues, questions, and concerns raised during the process and how they were resolved. The latest edits to the Plan were accepted at the meeting and a revised draft was sent to the State Engineer.

The Eureka Conservation District met on January 25th. The District will pursue a Greater Sage-Grouse grant from the Conservation District Program to do some habitat work with private landowners in the Union Pass area.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority on February 9th in Winnemucca; the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council on February 9th in Las Vegas; the Diamond Valley Rodent District Board on February 12th; the Crescent Valley Firewise Committee on February 13th; and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on the evening of February 13th.

On February 14th, Mr. Tibbitts will tour the Shannon Station Allotment with Jim Baumann and the BLM to discuss the grazing permit. The BLM is asking the Baumanns to transition to a secondary plan under their permit, but range conditions don't really support this move.

Mr. Tibbitts has been asked to participate in the Cooperative Extension Advisory Council. The Council hasn't met for many years, but with recent appointment of Dr. Ivory Lyles as Director for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, it is being reinvigorated. Their meeting is scheduled in Las Vegas on February 16th.

The BLM will schedule a meeting sometime between February 20th and 28th to go over results of the nearly complete Rangeland Health Assessment & Evaluation Report related to pending grazing permit authorizations for Argenta, Cooper Canyon, and North Buffalo Allotments. Although these allotments aren't in Eureka County, decisions related to them will have a lot of bearing on future permit renewals.

BLM Programmatic EISs: Mr. Tibbitts is working on scoping comments for the two BLM Programmatic EISs, one for Fuel Breaks across the Great Basin Region, and the other for Fuel Treatments & Habitat Restoration. He provided a draft letter for the Board's review. Comments will be due in late February or early March, so he will submit a final letter at a future meeting.

These are two important PEISs that will set the stage for many years on streamlining projects for fuels reduction and rangeland restoration in the Great Basin. Because of this, Mr. Tibbitts felt the comments should be substantive and cover a broad range of issues.

Scoping meetings are scheduled within the next couple weeks throughout the west, including in Reno, Elko, and Ely.

Halliburton Draft Groundwater Discharge Permit: Mr. Tibbitts thanked Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, for his review of the draft permit for the Dunphy Grinding Plant and for his assistance in writing the comment letter to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Typically for these types of permits, the mining proponent provides NDEP with sufficient documentation on their planned actions. In this case, there is nothing but a commitment letter with nothing substantiating Halliburton's ability to carry out their plans.

Mr. Bugenig spoke with NDEP and the questions and concerns were forwarded to Halliburton. Halliburton is working to provide a response to the issues.

The comment letter makes it clear that Eureka County supports mining done right and is not against this project. It outlines County policies and goals, explaining that the level of unease is due to the lack of basic background information. It acknowledges that NDEP is working with Halliburton to address these concerns, and that Eureka County is looking forward to their reply.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to send the comment letter to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regarding the Halliburton Draft Groundwater Discharge Permit, NS2017508, for the Dunphy Grinding Plant. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: There has been a recent trend by the BLM to include inventories of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in some of their decisions, such as the recent decision for the Gunman Plan of Exploration and others. FLPMA (Federal Land Policy & Management Act) authorizes creation of these inventories, but requires a public process.

Mr. Tibbitts, Mr. Damele, and Chairman Goicoechea recently met with the Battle Mountain District and voiced concern over the failure to involve the public or to engage State and local government in the process of creating these inventories. The Battle Mountain District raised the issue with the State BLM. The State officials basically responded that it was a good point that they hadn't thought about. Yet nothing has changed.

Mr. Tibbitts recommended that the County formally engage with the BLM to find a solution. The public process outlined in law needs to be followed before making these designations, and possibly a Governor's Consistency Review would be in order.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to formally address concerns over the designation of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and the process by which the BLM is creating these

inventories and directed staff to meet with both State and District BLM officials to begin addressing this issue. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Transfer of John Ruhs: Chairman Goicoechea informed that John Ruhs is being reassigned from his position as BLM Nevada State Director to serve in a position with the National Interagency Fire Center. The Chairman stated that the Congressional Delegation needs to be informed of the poor timing of moving a State Director who is moving in the right direction.

Support Letter to Heller: US Senator Dean Heller is moving forward with legislation to address the longstanding issue of Wilderness Study Areas by clarifying their status and returning their management to active, multiple use. His office contacted Natural Resources for support.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter of support to Senator Heller thanking him for his proactive efforts and outlining the County's position on Wilderness Study Areas, including direct quotes from both the Master Plan and County Code. The letter asks that Senator Heller also consider addressing the similar issue of Inventoried Roadless Areas, which are on Forest Service lands.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to send the letter to Senator Dean Heller supporting his efforts to release Wilderness Study Areas and asking that he address Inventoried Roadless Areas; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Certification of Expenditure of Title III Funds: Eureka County receives annual payments through legislation that provides tax payments to counties to replace lost revenues from forest lands. Eureka County uses these Title III funds for the Firewise Communities Program. A report of expenditures is due by February 1st of each year. A total of \$13,428.75 was used in 2017. Mr. Tibbitts thanked Clerk/Treasurer, Beverly Conley, for acting as the certifying official this year.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the Certification of Title III Expenditures for Calendar Year 2017, for monies received through the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel, March 5th-8th, for Mr. Tibbitts to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, & Teaching (CARET) meeting in Washington, DC; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Tibbitts is a Nevada CARET delegate, appointed by the Dean of University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, & Natural Resources (CABNR). Full expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and per diem will be paid for by CABNR.

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET – DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Law Library Budget (proposed): District Attorney, Ted Beutel, presented a status quo budget for the Law Library.

District Attorney Budget (proposed): Mr. Beutel requested no changes to the District Attorney's budget other than salaries and wages. He sought 1,000 casual hours, a decrease from the current year.

His office is currently advertising for a full-time Administrative Legal Secretary to replace a departing long-time employee. Mr. Beutel had hoped for some overlap of these employees for proper training, but is having a challenging time filling this position. He asked for some latitude in the salary being offered, as this might draw the necessary pool of applicants.

It was noted that a new employee, even at a higher range on the salary scale, would not earn what a long-time employee makes, so the overall budget will likely be less. The Board asked to see a budget comparison of current salaries and wages against anticipated salaries and wages before giving an answer on this budget request.

Commissioner Budget (proposed): Ms. Todd recommended a status quo budget for the Commissioners, unless there was a need to increase the water legal fees or miscellaneous legal fees. After reviewing current year expenditures and considering anticipated activity in these accounts, the Board agreed to a flat budget.

Ms. Todd recommended that a new line item be created to cover the costs of a retiring or resigning long-term employee, who has accumulated large amounts of sick leave and annual leave. Some of the payouts can be quite large and this has never been accounted for in the budget. After some discussion, the Board agreed to budget \$100,000.00, but felt it was a better fit in the Comptroller's budget, since that is where Human Resources is budgeted.

North End Activities Budget (proposed): Spending is on track for activities in northern Eureka County, so this budget will remain flat.

D&T Center Budget (proposed): The Diagnostic & Treatment Center budget pays the contracts with William Bee Ririe Hospital and Rehab Services of Nevada. A cost-share was originally anticipated with Duckwater Shoshone Tribe for provision of health services from William Bee Ririe Hospital. Due to some Tribal Council changes that are being challenged, this has been on hold. Ms. Todd advised that if the County needs to carry the entire clinic contract, the budget should be increased by \$50,000.00.

Agricultural Extension Budget (proposed): The operating budget for Cooperative Extension will remain the same at \$95,000.00. Extension Educator, Gary McCuin, advised he may present a capital expenditure request at a later date that would utilize some fund reserves.

Library Budget (proposed): The Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library proposed a contract increase of \$2,617.00, bringing the total to \$96,799.00. This accounts for wages and benefits that have increased over the past few years, with no increase to the contract. The line item for the library contract was increased from \$95,000.00 to \$96,800.00 to accommodate this. All other line items will remain the same.

Water Mitigation Fund Budget (proposed): After reviewing the current spending level and considering upcoming costs, the Board agreed to leave the Water Mitigation Fund status quo.

Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund Budget (proposed): The Board felt the level of funding in the Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund should remain the same.

Economic Development (proposed): The Economic Development Program Board was dissolved in January and there have been no expenditures from this budget in the current fiscal year. The Board decided to do away with this budget for the upcoming fiscal year, with one exception. The \$5,000.00 budgeted as matching grant funds will be moved into the Commissioners budget under miscellaneous grants.

Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (proposed): The CVTAB has been unable to meet to discuss budgets, but indicated they were willing to submit a flat budget.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:04 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET – DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS (continued)

Fair Board Budget (proposed): Fair Board Chair, Lynn Conley, requested a flat budget for the upcoming fiscal year, but noted that the Fair Board continues reducing costs and expects to submit a reduced budget in the next budget season. She pointed out that the current budget will return a larger balance to the General Fund than in previous years.

Juvenile Probation Budget (proposed): Juvenile Probation Officer, Steve Zimmerman, requested no changes to the Juvenile Probation budget. Many of their line items are pass-throughs because of the program grants they receive. The department is in need of a new vehicle, but it was determined that the current year Capital Projects Fund can finance that purchase.

Juvenile Probation AA Fund Budget (proposed): A flat budget was proposed for the Administrative Assessments Fund.

Treasurer Budget and Clerk Budget (proposed): Clerk/Treasurer, Beverly Conley, presented budgets for her departments. The Clerk/Treasurer budget has been split, and a new account was created for Clerk to accommodate reorganization of two constitutional offices,

beginning January 2019. Fiscal Year 2018-2019 will be the first accounting of a stand-alone budget for Clerk. The Treasurer's budget had a net decrease of \$4,625.00.

Elections Budget (proposed): The Elections budget increased by \$28,500.00 mainly due to election equipment and maintenance. The bulk of this, licensing and support for Dominion equipment, was formerly paid by the Nevada Secretary of State, but counties are now required to pay these fees up front. There is a possibility of partial reimbursement from the State at a later date. Legal advertising accounts for a small portion of the increase.

District Court (proposed): Spending in this budget is dependent on court activity, but it is important to anticipate trial costs. Minimal increases were made to services/supplies and postage. Telephone/fax was significantly decreased. Although nothing was spent for drug court, the Judge requested that funding remain. The main change was addition of \$32,400.00 for conversion from the AS400 to Pioneer software and the annual maintenance fees.

Public Guardian Budget (proposed): Travel/training was increased in this budget to accommodate the required training to obtain or maintain certification as a Public Guardian. All other items were status quo.

Recorder Budget (proposed): Recorder, Lisa Hoehne, presented budgets for her department. She asked to raise casual hours from 200 to 500 for the next budget year. There were minimal increases in services/supplies and machine maintenance. \$2,500 was added to microfilm/records manage to archive historical newspapers. Travel/training was increased by \$1,000.00. Capital outlay of \$2,000.00 was budgeted in anticipation of equipment needs when Clerk and Recorder are combined. \$10,000.00 was included for software maintenance for the new PDI and Helion programs (part of the conversion from AS400).

Recorder Technology Fund Budget (proposed): The only change in the Tech Fund budget was an increase of \$7,000.00 for capital outlay, providing \$17,000.00 if the microfilm machine or map scanner/printer must be replaced or repaired.

Assessor Budget (proposed): Assessor, Michael Mears, presented the budgets under his supervision. The Assessor's budget included a line item for conversion to the Devnet CAMA (computer assisted mass appraisal) system and software maintenance, at a cost of \$30,000.00. It has been ten years since the TS Power Plant has been appraised, so \$20,000.00 was included in contract services to hire a commercial appraiser. A personal property audit of the plant will be conducted at the same time.

Mr. Mears asked for the ability to fill an Appraiser I position in his office. The Appraisal Supervisor has indicated her intent to retire in December 2019. A new appraiser has 24 months from the date of hire to gain certification from the Department of Taxation. If he hires in July, this will allow the new employee 18 months to train and prepare for testing.

The Board understood the necessary time for proper training, but asked that a letter indicating a retirement date be provided. The Commissioners felt this should be a requirement from any department seeking to hire replacement personnel.

Assessor Technology Fund Budget (proposed): The Tech Fund will remain status quo. The last of three Pictometry flights is scheduled, and GIS (geographic information system) programming will be required to integrate with the Devnet software. The Tech Fund has also served the County well as somewhat of a contingency fund.

IT / Tech Support Budget (proposed): Mr. Mears reviewed the IT/Tech Support budget as a whole. He explained that IT and the network are important infrastructure for the County. When technology goes down, people can't work. Due to this, a lot of contingency is built into this budget. Halfway through the current fiscal year, approximately 50% of the IT budget has been utilized – so based on actual spending, Mr. Mears is hesitant to cut too much out of this budget.

An opportunity has come up for the County to begin pursuing the goal of building a fiber loop. Nevada Department of Transportation has a new tower at their yard in Eureka with a 10 GB fiber line and will be trenching behind the Ambulance Bay and Justice Facility. The School District is going to take advantage of the opportunity to connect to the State fiber and Mr. Mears

recommended that the County do the same. The work can be done in the current fiscal year, so won't have to be included in the upcoming year's budget. The Board agreed that this opportunity should not be passed up.

Mr. Mears addressed his role as IT Supervisor. Because of duties in the Assessor's office, including the major transition to a new software program, his role with IT will be more limited in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Mears felt the Board should consider making the IT Manager a salaried position. Because of the nature of technology, many issues must be addressed immediately, causing Ms. Rowley to work a lot of overtime. Mr. Mears asked that the Board contemplate making IT an independent department that answers directly to the Commissioners. Because of all that falls under IT, there may be a need for another employee at some point, especially if the County is looking to decrease their reliance on outside sources.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel (2); Clerk/Treasurer, Beverly Conley; Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd; Public Works Director, Ron Damele; Public Works Administrative Assistant, Joyce Jeppesen; Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts (2); Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Carolyn Bailey; Barrick Cortez, Inc.; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Genesis Home Health Services; Consumer Direct Care Network of Nevada; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (3); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Health (2); Nevada Div. of Minerals; Nevada Health Foundation newsletter; Nevada Land & Water Conservation Fund; Vets for Action; National Assoc. of Counties (2); US Dept. of the Interior, BLM (4); US Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service; North American Eagle; and US Bankruptcy Court.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 p.m.; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of February, 2018.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 6th, 2018, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

I, Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer 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/ Beverly Conley
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer