

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Meeting - February 11, 2019

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 11, 2019. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney, Ted Buetel; and Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 22, 2019: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the January 22, 2019, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Clarification on Commissioner Grant: On January 22nd, the Board approved a grant to the ECHS Student Council and Diamond Mountain FFA students for a portion of a downtown beautification and community service project. In keeping with policy, the School District did not want to receive the grant check. The Comptroller's office spoke with the external auditors, who informed it would be acceptable for the County to pay the project vendors directly.

To offer clarification for the record, the Board agreed to announce that the \$6,000.00 grant for this project will not be paid to the students or the School District, but will be paid to various vendors, in amounts not to exceed a total of \$6,000.00.

CLERK RECORDER

Hiring Freeze Waiver: Clerk Recorder, Lisa Hoehne, submitted a justification form requesting authorization to fill a recent vacancy in her office. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Clerk Recorder to hire a Deputy Clerk Recorder I; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Special Assessments for FY19-20: Each year the Nevada Division of Water Resources provides budgets for special assessments to be billed to water rights holders in Eureka County. All basins in Eureka County are charged \$0.50 per acre foot, with the exception of Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin, which is charged \$1.00 per acre foot.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Division of Water Resources budget for special assessments for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to be collected by Eureka County on behalf of the Division for expenses related to supervision over the following waters in Eureka County: Maggie Creek Groundwater Basin, Boulder Flat Groundwater Basin, Humboldt River Distribution, Whirlwind Valley Groundwater Basin, Lower Reese River Valley Groundwater Basin, Crescent

Valley Groundwater Basin, Pine Valley Groundwater Basin, Diamond Valley Groundwater Basin, and Kobeh Valley Groundwater Basin. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET

Departmental Budgets: The Board reviewed several departmental budgets. Chairman Goicoechea noted that these are tentative budgets and are subject to change prior to final submission of the budget to the Department of Taxation by June 1st.

Juvenile Probation; Juvenile Court AA Fund: Juvenile Probation Officer, Steve Zimmerman, reviewed the tentative budgets for his department. In the Juvenile Probation budget, grant categories were increased to reflect actual grant amounts (pass-through funds), and recreation funds were slightly increased to reflect added activities. Some categories were reduced allowing the overall tentative operating budget for Juvenile Probation to reflect a net decrease of \$200.00 from the previous fiscal year.

The Juvenile Court AA Fund reflected a net decrease of \$18,000.00 due to a substantial reduction in capital outlay and a \$1,000.00 decrease in services and supplies.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative budgets for Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Court AA Fund for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Justice Court; Justice Court AA Fund; Justice Court Facility Fund: Justice of the Peace, Dorothy Rowley, presented budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. A net increase of \$14,900.00 was requested for the Justice Court operating budget (\$5,600.00 for restitution, a pass-through account). Judge Rowley explained that much of the budget is case driven and cases have been steadily increasing with the population influx. Due to a rise in domestic violence cases, there has been a growing demand for outside defense counsel. The prosecuting attorney for these cases is married to the public defender, creating a conflict of interest.

Proposed budget for the AA Fund had a net decrease of \$31,000.00 from the previous year. Judge Rowley explained that an independent court audit (mandated every four years) will be paid from services and supplies, and some capital outlay will be retained for computer replacements.

The Facility Fund is specific to capital outlay purchases, and Ms. Rowley submitted a net reduction of \$80,000.00 for this fund. She plans to use the budgeted \$20,000.00 to replace the JAVS audio video system in Crescent Valley with a compatible system that has a lower annual maintenance costs.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the tentative budgets presented for Justice Court, Justice Court AA Fund, and Justice Court Facility Fund; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Ambulance & EMS: EMS Director, Kenny Sanders, explained that most line items in the Ambulance & EMS proposed budget will remain status quo. There were slight increases in supplies, uniforms, protective clothing, and in travel and training to expand training opportunities for volunteers. This resulted in a net operating increase of \$4,600.00 over the previous fiscal year.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the tentative budget for Ambulance & EMS for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Senior Centers: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reviewed the proposed Senior Centers budget. Most items in the budget will remain status quo. Equipment costs were increased in anticipation of a nutrition grant to replace hot boxes for transporting meals to the homebound. Services and supplies were increased for both Crescent Valley and Eureka for pots and pans, and possible replacement of a computer and an ice machine. Net increase in the proposed operating budget was \$6,700.00 including pass-through grant monies.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative budget for the Senior Centers for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Treasurer; Public Guardian: The proposed Treasurer budget was submitted by Treasurer, Beverly Conley, with a net increase of \$7,625.00. There was a decrease in title search fees, a slight increase in services and supplies, and a \$9,000.00 increase in investment fees. The increase in fees was representative of two things – the County currently has more money invested and, as a safeguard, Ms. Conley budgeted a higher basis point than what is currently being charged on investments.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve the tentative Treasurer budget for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Todd explained that the Public Guardian is funded by the County Indigent Hospital Fund (Fund 180) and there were no requested changes to the operating budget of \$10,000.00. She reminded the Board that the final budget for this fund will change, as the Board has committed to funding a portion of the clinical services contract from this fund.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative Public Guardian operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Recorder; Recorder Tech Fund; Elections; District Court: Clerk Recorder, Lisa Hoehne, presented the budgets for her department. The upcoming fiscal year will be the first budget year that the Clerk and Recorder budgets are combined, so for many of the line items, Ms. Hoehne estimated needed funds by combining amounts from the two previous budgets. She was able to decrease machine maintenance, microfilm/record management, and phone and fax. She requested increases in services and supplies (for computers, software, conference registrations, and to update cemetery maps), annual software contracts, postage, travel and training, and capital outlay (for possible replacement of the map copier). This resulted in a net operating budget of \$68,000.00 and budgeted capital outlay of \$12,000.00.

Chairman Goicoechea observed that this budget may be difficult to estimate the first year these offices are merged, so this budget will be adjusted over the next couple of years as actual costs are realized.

For the Recorder Tech Fund, Ms. Hoehne proposed a \$10,000.00 reduction, but asked to retain \$17,100.00 for possible replacement of the microfilm machine.

In the proposed Elections budget, Ms. Hoehne requested increases to services and supplies, data software contracts, legal advertising, and travel and training, for a net increase to the operating budget of \$19,000.00.

Ms. Hoehne explained several changes in the proposed District Court budget, including a mandatory court audit, an increase in public defender fees, and the new Pioneer software system for court, with a \$20,000.00 licensing fee and \$22,000.00 for annual maintenance. This resulted in a net increase of \$40,450.00.

The Board asked Ms. Hoehne to confirm whether the Pioneer licensing was a one-time fee or if it will recur each year. They asked her to contact the District Judge to inquire whether the public defender contract could be paid out of the County Indigent Fund (Fund 175).

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative budgets for Clerk Recorder, Recorder Tech Fund, and Elections, and to table action on the District Court budget pending the requested information. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Assessor; Assessor Tech Fund; Data Processing: Assessor, Michael Mears, presented the tentative Assessor budget with a net decrease of \$12,200.00 representing reductions in several categories. He explained that contract services was decreased, but he retained \$10,000.00 for two purposes – he plans to contract a company for a personal property audit in the County, and there may be a need for continued services of the commercial appraiser if valuation of the TS Power Plant is further appealed.

Mr. Mears explained that the Assessor Tech Fund is managed at the discretion of the Assessor. This budget supports the annual aerial photography, a portion of GIS costs, and a significant amount is budgeted as contingency in the event of a major technology failure. The

proposed budget of \$365,600.00 is a net decrease of \$34,400.00 from the previous fiscal year. Chairman Goicoechea expressed that Mr. Mears has been generous with his tech fund through the years, which has benefited the entire County.

The tentative Data Processing (IT Support) budget had a net increase of \$9,500.00 for actual expenses not identified in the prior year's budget. This budget contains a fair amount of contingency for potential technology equipment failures. Mr. Mears anticipates a reduction after this next year, when the conversion from the AS400 system is complete and related maintenance costs are no longer budgeted.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative Assessor, Assessor Tech Fund, and Data Processing budgets for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Comptroller; Annual Audit: Comptroller, Maureen Garner, explained that the proposed Comptroller budget was status quo except for a request to increase investigations by \$5,000.00 related to the Human Resources function of the office. Ms. Todd pointed out that the budget includes the entire software maintenance for Tyler Technologies, but in future that cost will be shared by other offices (Treasurer, Public Works), once the actual breakdown is known.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative Comptroller budget for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The Annual Audit tentative budget had a net decrease of \$2,500.00, due to a \$3,000.00 decrease in services and supplies and a \$500.00 increase in legal advertising.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the tentative Annual Audit budget for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

District Attorney; Law Library: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, presented the budgets for his department. The tentative operating budget for the District Attorney had a net increase of \$28,825.00. Mr. Beutel explained that he was budgeting contingency for possible computer replacements and other increases were to support potential additional staff.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the tentative District Attorney budget for the upcoming fiscal year; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

For the Law Library tentative budget, Mr. Beutel explained that his office has reduced the total number of subscriptions, but statute requires that hard copies of certain legal volumes be available to the public, and they are very expensive. To cover these costs, he proposed a net increase of \$5,250.00.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept the tentative budget for the Law Library for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners: The Board reviewed the Commissioner budget. Ms. Todd noted that this budget contains a large amount of contingency related to issues the Commissioners may need to address throughout the year, but the full budget is rarely expended. The Board discussed various issues that could affect the budget, such as legal issues and the Diamond Valley adjudication. Each category in the budget was addressed and increases were made to services and supplies (for replacement computers), legal advertising, and NACO dues (which increased for 2019), for a net increase of \$13,500.00 over the previous year.

North End Activities: A request was received from the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board to increase the North End Activities Fund by \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00. CVTAB Chair, Nona Kellerman, explained they would like to add more activities throughout the year.

Chairman Goicoechea relayed that the residents hadn't come close to using the full budget in past years. Halfway through the current fiscal year, \$6,000.00 remains in the account. Chairman Goicoechea offered that if the full \$9,000.00 is used in the next fiscal year, the extra \$1,000.00 could be requested from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget.

D&T Center (medical clinics): The D&T Center budget supports the clinical services contract and a substantial subsidy paid to the physical therapist. As liaison to the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee, Commissioner McKay stated there was no anticipated increase to the clinic contract.

Since the Board agreed to fund a portion of that contract from the County Indigent Hospital Fund, the tentative budget for the D&T Center was reduced by \$100,000.00.

Agricultural Extension: Cooperative Extension Educator, Gary McCuin, proposed a budget of \$100,000.00 for operations and \$400,000.00 in capital improvements earmarked for an agricultural research station in Diamond Valley.

Ms. Todd explained that the fund balance is approximately \$907,000.00, with over \$637,000.00 budgeted in the current fiscal year (FY18-19), leaving less than \$300,000.00 available for future budgeting.

Mr. McCuin felt that \$200,000.00 would cover capital expenditures for the remainder of the current fiscal year, allowing \$300,000.00 to be released for the next budget. He will confirm this with Dr. Ivory Lyles, Director of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Bill Payne, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, and will report to the Commissioners at a future meeting.

Water Mitigation Fund: This fund supports the contract with Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, and the Joint Funding Agreement with US Geological Survey. Capital outlay was also budgeted in the current fiscal year for drilling a test well in Kobeh Valley. The Board agreed to leave the operating budget status quo. Public Works Director, Ron Damele, stated the capital outlay can be released in the current fiscal year and he will provide an updated estimate for the test well at a future meeting.

Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund: Ms. Todd reported that \$250,000.00 was budgeted in this fund, but nothing has been expended. After a brief discussion, Chairman Goicoechea requested that \$125,000.00 be released in the current fiscal year and that \$250,000.00 be tentatively budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year.

Library: The Library contract and budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 were approved at an earlier meeting, and those changes were reflected in the Library tentative budget, with a net increase of \$2,900.00 over the previous fiscal year.

Economic Development: Nothing was budgeted in Economic Development for the current year and the Commissioners agreed to leave a zero balance for the upcoming fiscal year. The County no longer has a local Economic Development Board. In 2016, the County joined the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority. The County receives an annual \$15,000.00 grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development, which is awarded to counties that agree to join a Regional Development Authority. This grant is now paid directly to NNRDA on behalf of Eureka County.

Action on Commissioner Budgets: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the following tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Commissioners, North End Activities, D&T Center, Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund, and Library. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Information on Agricultural Extension and the Water Mitigation Fund will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Jeremy Rice; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; and Nevada Dept. of Transportation.

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 12:08 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of March, 2019.

/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 February 11, 2019, 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