

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Budget Meeting – March 8, 2011

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law for a budget meeting on March 8, 2011. Present were Chairman Leonard Fiorenzi, Vice Chair Mike Page, Member Jim Ithurralde, District Attorney Theodore Beutel, and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conference system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Fiorenzi called for public comments; there were none.

COUNTY BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Closure of Returned Check Account: Clerk & Treasurer, Jackie Berg, requested approval to close the returned check account. The Treasurer's office has decided to handle checks that are written to the County but returned for insufficient funds from the main bank account and will no longer need this special account. This change has been approved by the County Auditor, Mike Rebaleati, and the external auditors at Kafoury Armstrong. Commissioner Page motioned to approve closure of the returned check account; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

BACKUP GENERATOR FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Public Works Director, Ron Damele, stated that he, Mike Rebaleati, Clayton Nicholes, and Terry Melby all met to discuss backup power options for the County Courthouse. A 250 KW generator could provide 600 amp service which would run the entire building; estimated cost for the generator and complete installation is \$100,000.00. The alternative is to go with a smaller generator to power only the network room, but this option requires significant rewiring which will increase the overall cost. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve purchase of a 600 amp backup power generator for the County Courthouse; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

TENTATIVE REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

Budget Officer, Mike Rebaleati, reported there were no changes to the revenue estimates (of approximately \$20 million) since the last budget meeting on February 23rd.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION AND ACTIVITY – DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Chairman Fiorenzi noted that the County's goal is to keep expenditures below the estimated revenue amount, but the requested expenditures, including departmental budgets, personnel expenses, capital projects, etc., were more than double the revenue estimation of \$20 million. Mr. Rebaleati explained that including items in the tentative budget does not obligate the County to follow through, but the option is there. If costs exceed the annual revenue, fund

balances can be utilized. Many of the large expenses are capital improvements which won't necessarily be done in the upcoming fiscal year.

Diamond Valley Volunteer Fire Department: Ernie Dempsey, Chief, and Terry Conaway, Assistant Chief, presented the budget for the Diamond Valley VFD. It was noted that additional items, normally supplied by Nevada Division of Forestry, were included because of the reduction in services being considered by NDF. Mr. Conaway reviewed a detailed breakdown of the budget requests including fire equipment, safety equipment, services and supplies, and a capital outlay request for expansion of the Diamond Valley Fire Station.

Human Resources: The first topic of discussion related to the departmental budget for Human Resources, was whether the Board wished to fill the vacant HR Analyst position. Chairman Fiorenzi invited comments from Department Heads, employees, or the public regarding this position. Ladd Dubray stated the biggest concern from employees was that the Human Resources person have an appropriate personality and character for the position and not be offensive in the way issues are approached. Jackie Berg stated there was a need for Human Resources, and possibly the County could consider a retired person with qualifications who might be interested in working part-time or even commuting to the area a couple of days each week.

Chairman Fiorenzi felt the Recorder/Auditor's office could resume the personnel responsibilities with assistance from Pool/Pact. The Board requested that the next agenda include an action item for the Board to consider whether they will continue with the Human Resources position.

Assessor Michael Mears stated that the small room adjacent to his offices was a poor location for Human Resources because it lacked the necessary privacy; he requested that the room be returned to his department to be utilized for the additional DMV equipment.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to leave the Human Resources department budget as is; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 2-1 with Chairman Fiorenzi voting against the motion.

Swimming Pool / Parks / Recreation: The Swimming Pool budget was presented by Cindy Adams, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, and Ron Damele. No major increases were requested, although higher prices for chemicals, propane, and diesel were reflected. A capital outlay was requested to replace some training equipment.

Ms. Adams has been researching options that could reduce energy costs at the pool, including heating with solar, covering the pool to retain heat, possibly replacing the air handler with a more efficient unit, and identifying sources of heat loss within the building itself. \$200,000.00 was requested for a feasibility study, possible installation of solar, and installation of a variable frequency drive on the large pump that circulates water through the pool.

Television District: Dave Pastorino, Television District President, was in attendance to discuss the Television District budget. Plans for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 include a \$1.2 million grant/loan from the County in order to complete the digital conversion project. This will be repaid over time from the Television District's allocation of the ad valorem tax rate. The County will oversee the bidding process related to the remainder of this project.

Chairman Fiorenzi asked about the letter received from the Carlin Television District. Mr. Pastorino replied that the Eureka County Television District has no interest in acquiring Carlin's assets.

Cost of Living Adjustment: Mr. Rebaleati requested direction from the Board regarding cost of living calculations. Chairman Fiorenzi stated he would like to see estimates based on a cost of living of 4% applied to the median wage and then calculated across the scale. Commissioner Page felt the adjustment should be more conservative, suggesting 2% or 3%. A 2% increase was suggested for the Department Heads, since their average salary is higher than the median wage of hourly employees.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

NOTE: Inclusion in the capital improvement plan is not a guarantee that the project will be done, but is simply a plan subject to change by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Rebaleati reviewed the five-year capital improvement plan including: NDOT approaches at the subdivision; ambulance replacement; computer upgrades; data processing; airport improvements; fire equipment; park improvements; ballpark restrooms; fairgrounds building; water and sewer maintenance and upgrades; sewer pond expansion; retaining wall; swimming pool upgrades; Crescent Valley road shop; road/street improvements; Crescent Valley paving; Carlin freeway interchange; flood abatement/drainage mitigation; RCB (reinforced concrete box) culverts; building maintenance/repairs/remodels; Crescent Valley fire station expansion; vehicle replacements; general equipment replacement; recreation center; radio repeater upgrades and related equipment; snotel site; media equipment for conference/meeting room and Opera House; landfill compactor; housing project and related infrastructure; spring rehab project; Crescent Valley arsenic treatment plant and water transmission line; digital TV upgrade including buildings and transmission site improvements; and an all-purpose building for the shooting range. Some of these items may qualify to be funded from the Assessor Technology Fund. Priority of these projects will be further refined as recommendations are received from the Commissioners, Public Works, Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board, and the Regional Transportation Commission.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT FOR NORTH END ROAD SHOP

Contract with Ganthner Melby, LLC: Terry Melby, Ganthner Melby, LLC, provided a proposal for architectural work for the North End Road Shop which included the programming, conceptual design, and the first two phases of the schematic design, which takes care of the architectural, civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering for the project. This will be followed by finalization of the conceptual design, completion of the schematic design, drafting construction documents, then going to bid for the project with a scheduled construction date of spring 2012. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the proposal from Ganthner Melby, LLC, for architectural services related to the North End Road Shop; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. A contract will be prepared for approval and signing at the next Commissioner meeting.

SET DATE & TIME OF NEXT BUDGET MEETING

The next budget meeting was set for 9:00 a.m. on Mach 28th. Top sheets for the tentative budget, which is due to the State by April 15th, will be signed at the regular Commission meeting on April 6th.

RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

EUREKA CANYON SUBDIVISION PROJECT

The Board conducted a detailed review of the document outlines that were negotiated between Nevada Rural Housing Authority and the Housing Core Group. The outlines will be forwarded to NRHA's legal counsel, Jones Vargas, to draft the construction and financial contracts/interlocal agreements for the multifamily portion and the single family portion of Phase 1 of the Eureka Canyon Subdivision Project. Additionally, the Board considered whether all or just a portion of Phase 1 of the development should be contemplated and included in the interlocal agreements. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to go forward with development of Phase 1 of the Eureka Canyon Subdivision Project; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

After further refining the document outlines, Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to authorize the District Attorney to forward the amended outlines to Jack White and Nevada Rural Housing Authority; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Fiorenzi called for final public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m.; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 6th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Leonard Fiorenzi

Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Clerk