

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 21, 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 March 21, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, 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. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Goicoechea noted that some items, including the Natural Resource agenda items, will be taken out of order to accommodate various schedules. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda with the stated alterations; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Beowawe resident, Tracey Mellard, requested to be placed on the next agenda to discuss the cost to rent the Crescent Valley Community Center. Chairman Goicoechea responded that County facilities are managed by Public Works, so this item will be included in that section on the next agenda.

Bert Gurr traveled from Elko to attend the meeting and introduced himself as “*your next Assemblyman for District 33.*” Mr. Gurr said he was raised in Elko and, although not a practiced politician, wants to preserve the conservative traditions important to people in this part of the State. He spoke briefly about his years working in real estate and participation in legislative and political activities at State and local levels. He is touring District 33 to meet constituents, and invited everyone to visit Gurr4Nevada.com to find out more about him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 20, 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the January 20, 2022, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$343,084.44 for accounts payable, and \$383,343.49 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), for a grand total of \$726,427.93. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET

Preliminary Revenue Projections: Ms. Todd provided the Board with preliminary revenue projections from the State, showing a significant drop in tax revenues from secured and unsecured property, as well as tax revenues from net proceeds of minerals. The County’s overall assessed valuation dropped by nearly \$90 million, primarily due to changing and depreciating mine valuations.

Capital Outlay: Ms. Todd continued discussing the capital outlay items budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund or the General Fund for the upcoming fiscal year.

4G LTE Infrastructure: IT Director Misty Rowley continues pursuing the fiber infrastructure grant to fund a parallel project that would result in two separate broadband infrastructure networks – one for County government use, and one that could be leased to private enterprise to serve residents. After researching preliminary cost estimates for design of the 4G LTE Infrastructure Project, Ms. Rowley recommended increasing the budgeted amount from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. This will ensure adequate funds if a 25% match is needed for this potentially \$20 million project.

Weed District Spray Outfit: Ms. Todd visited with the Natural Resources Manager regarding purchase of the Weed District spray truck, which will consist of a truck upfitted with a tank and spraying system, and a dump trailer with ancillary tank. She recommended budgeting \$150,000.00. There may be a delay in purchasing the truck, but Mr. Tibbitts believes he can secure some of the items in the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Todd reminded the Board that these expenditures will be offset by BLM grant monies.

Sheriff Department Equipment: Ms. Todd noted that the Sheriff had identified Mobile 911 and the communication center remodel as priorities, with the animal control units and the Search & Rescue ATV and trailer moved to a subsequent fiscal year.

Sheriff Watts interjected that he would like to re-prioritize the ATV and include it in the upcoming budget year for \$40,000.00, while leaving the trailer in a subsequent fiscal year. He explained the current ATV is at least ten years old and virtually useless to Search & Rescue.

The Board agreed to include the ATV in the budget. Chairman Goicoechea asked the Sheriff to consult with Public Works to see if the current ATV could be used by another department instead of disposing as surplus property.

Sheriff's Vehicles: As instructed, Ms. Todd met with the Sheriff's Office to discuss the request to budget five new vehicles. The Sheriff was not available, but Undersheriff Thomas agreed the department could reduce the request to four vehicles. Public Works participated in the meeting and supported purchase of three replacement vehicles.

Jeb Rowley explained that the Sheriff's Office has purchased nine vehicles over the last three years and the fleet has remained manageable. But when four or five new vehicles are added in a single year, it increases the costs and workload related to maintaining the additional vehicles. He added that the Sheriff's Office travels about 255,000 miles per year, which would support replacing two vehicles each fiscal year.

Sheriff Watts explained why he requested five new vehicles. The Sheriff's fleet currently has ten vehicles with over 100,000 miles. He intends to repurpose two vehicles – one would be used for travel to the academy and another would be assigned to Search & Rescue. With five deputies moving from detentions to patrol, there is a need for additional patrol vehicles. Sheriff Watts briefly discussed the benefits of moving to leased vehicles for his department, but everyone agreed that it was too late in this budget season to make that a practical option for the upcoming year.

Ms. Todd encouraged the Board to consult with the external auditor before considering vehicle leases, because the reporting requirements can be extensive.

Motion on Capital Outlay Items: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve budgeting \$5 million for the 4G LTE Infrastructure Project, \$150,000.00 for the Weed District spray outfit, \$40,000.00 for the Search & Rescue ATV, and \$207,000.00 for three new patrol vehicles with upfitting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – EUREKA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

Notice: Notice was given that a public hearing would be held on March 21st to invite public comments and take action on a resolution amending the Eureka County Personnel Policy. The resolution and proposed policy changes were distributed to all County employees and made available in the offices of the County Clerk and Commissioners for public examination.

Open Public Hearing: Chairman Goicoechea opened the public hearing and invited comments on the proposed policy changes.

Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple gave a brief overview of the changes, which focused on the employment section to ensure fair and consistent practices when hiring new employees or promoting from within the organization. Job descriptions must be up to date before offering any position for hire or promotion. Hiring freeze waiver forms or promotion request forms must be completed and submitted to the Comptroller, Human Resources, and ultimately approved by the Commissioners. Positions or promotion opportunities must be advertised for 14 calendar days. The application process will be done through the Human Resources application portal. Selection of candidates for hire or promotion will be made in consultation and participation of Human Resources. Hiring freeze waivers expire after 180 days and promotion approvals expire after 90 days, triggering the process to begin again.

Sheriff Jesse Watts voiced concerns, stating he did not support the new promotion process. He felt once a Deputy I meets certain criteria or becomes certified, it is the natural progression for them to advance to a Deputy II or III, and s/he shouldn't have to apply for these promotions.

Chairman Goicoechea and Commissioner McKay both stated support for the updated policies. After hearing no further responses to calls for public comment, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt, as presented, the resolution amending the Eureka County Personnel Policy. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Scholarship Drive: Winnona Eversgerd, School Counselor, was in attendance to request a donation to the annual scholarship drive, explaining there were 25 graduating Seniors in the Class of 2022.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to contribute \$2,000.00 to Eureka County High School's annual scholarship drive for the Class of 2022, to be paid from the miscellaneous grants account in the Commissioners' budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Wildfire Awareness Campaign & Resolution: Jared Bybee, Field Manager for BLM's Bristlecone Field Office, was in attendance to present, for signature by the Board, a resolution supporting the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign from May through October, 2022.

Commissioner McKay motioned to adopt the Eureka County Resolution in Support of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign from May-October 2022, with the slogan "*Battle Born. Wildfire Ready.*" Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEVADA WILDFIRE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN / MAY – OCTOBER 2022 / "*Battle Born. Wildfire Ready.*"

WHEREAS, wildfire significantly impacts Nevada's environmental, economic, and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, residents must prepare to survive wildfire by ensuring proper management of vegetation surrounding the home and appropriate home construction and maintenance to resist ignition; and

WHEREAS, residents need to work together to prepare their homes and communities to survive wildfire and commit to become fire adapted; and

WHEREAS, residents can save precious time in an evacuation by preparing a go-bag and family evacuation plan ahead of time;

THEREFORE, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the period of May through October 2022 as the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign and this year's banner theme is: "*Battle Born. Wildfire Ready.*" This campaign is a means for education and a call for residents of Eureka County to work together to be ready for wildfire.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 21st day of March, 2022,
by the EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chairman

/s/ Rich McKay

Rich McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Comm. Admin. Asst.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In February, Eureka served 682 meals and Crescent Valley served 710 meals. A total of \$7,978.50 was deposited for the month.

Medicaid Match Contract: The County has a Medicaid match contract with the State in which it agrees to pay the nonfederal share of expenditures, set forth in statute, as a mandatory part of the State Plan for Medicaid. The State is now managing these contracts through the Social Services department of the respective counties.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Medicaid match contract between Eureka County through Eureka County Social Services and the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services through the Division of Health Care Financing & Policy and the Division of Welfare & Supportive Services for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SOGOVIQA AQUAPONICS, LLC

Aquaponics Facility: Representatives of Sogoviaq Aquaponics, Doug Jaquay, Garry Duncan, Kevin Vogel, and John Hogan, were in attendance to discuss plans to construct and operate an Aquaponics Farm & Fish Production Facility in Eureka County, near Duckwater.

The men described the project, which will be a closed loop, one-million square feet, aquaponics facility made up of two large industrial greenhouse buildings. With low energy and low water needs, the agriculture side will grow organic produce and the fish side will grow freshwater fish and shrimp. The fish naturally fertilize the water and the plants absorb nutrients and help clean the water. The plan is to truck the products (fish and shrimp will be shipped live) to wholesalers.

The footprint of the building will be approximately 35 acres, and it is estimated that another 30 acres will be needed for operations and loading area. Sogoviaq will do the dirt work and prepare the site. Partner company, Kubo, will deliver and set-up the pre-fabricated industrial greenhouse buildings. This project has been planned to work in partnership with Nevada Vanadium to benefit its Gibellini Mine Project.

Ron Espell explained that the Gibellini Mine will lease water from the Fish Creek Ranch and can use 650 gallons a minute under the water right. This will essentially shut down one pivot. Water can be routed to this facility to maintain some agriculture productivity. There is also the possibility of leaving the pivot in production by irrigating with fertilized water from the facility. From a conservation perspective, there may be an opportunity to irrigate some of the highly alkaline land with the fertilized water to create grass habitat for sage grouse.

The men answered several questions from the Board. Chairman Goicoechea asked the group to be prepared to work with the County as they move forward, particularly Public Works related to road issues and Natural Resources related to natural resource issues.

NEVADA VANADIUM

Gibellini Mine Project: Ron Espell, CEO of Nevada Vanadium, provided an update on the BLM permitting process for the Gibellini Mine Project. Federal Register publication of the Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Availability is expected within days, and this will kick off a 45-day public comment period. Nevada Vanadium has strong support from the BLM on this project. BLM State Director Jon Raby has offered to give a project briefing if the national BLM Director requires it.

Mr. Espell said about 1,900 conservation credits are needed for the mine under the Conservation Credit System, and they hope to generate those at the Fish Creek Ranch (which Nevada Vanadium is in the process of purchasing). M3 Engineering is working on a feasibility study, and Nevada Vanadium has engaged Hitachi Energy to determine reliability and optimum application of the renewable energy component of the project. This includes solar with battery storage and a potential conveyer system that generates its own power by the downhill transport of ore from the pit to the crusher. Commissioner McKay has participated in meetings with Nevada Vanadium and Mt. Wheeler Power on the solar aspect, which will not only reduce demand on the grid but is a potential power source to the grid. In cooperation with Mt. Wheeler Power, a third-party load study is underway to examine (a) available power to the project through conventional transmission lines and renewable energy, and (b) the potential to supply energy to the grid.

On mining and production, Caterpillar has proposed a partnership where it would provide all equipment, maintenance facilities, and maintenance. Nevada Vanadium would provide the manpower. This may prove to be a preferable option to a mining contractor.

Mr. Espell explained Nevada Vanadium Mining Corp. is a company created from the parent company Silver Elephant Mining Corp., and is working with Toronto Stock Exchange to get the company listed. The transition to a publicly traded company should be complete by the end of April. This move was driven by investors who are interested in the vanadium aspect (critical minerals and renewable energy) versus nickel and silver. This project is dependent on the price of vanadium, which has been steadily increasing and is currently over \$12.00 a pound. Mr. Espell concluded by stating the project is still on schedule to begin mining in 2024.

McEWEN MINING

Potential Lease & Man Camp: Todd Sylvester, Site Manager at McEwen's Gold Bar Mine, has been meeting with Jeb Rowley weekly about potential lease of County property at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision as a site for temporary housing to serve as a man camp for employees of the mine and mining contractor, Ledcor.

Since visiting with the Board in February, Mr. Sylvester said another County lot has been identified. He has been working with engineers and Ledcor on planning and cost estimates. Mr. Sylvester estimated \$310,000.00 to get the property ready, and \$80,000.00 for electrical work, which leaves a little over \$100,000.00 (of the \$500,000.00 budget) for road improvements and water lines. The 8-inch water line can be done, but Mr. Sylvester asked if the County would waive the requirement to seal the road. He also noted that the original estimate of \$540,000.00 for the trailer units, which is Ledcor's contribution, has since increased to \$900,000.00.

The Commissioners and Mr. Rowley discussed the roads and amount of traffic the man camp will create, but ultimately maintained the need to seal the road based on too many concerns over impacts to the overall subdivision.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Adjudication Hearings: Mr. Tibbitts said he has spent a lot of time related to the District Court hearings for the Diamond Valley Adjudication. Testimony on the BLM's Public Water Reserves (PWR 107), which were challenged by the County, starts on March 22nd and continues all week and into

the following week. This has involved a lot of preparation, work with attorneys, and contracts with independent experts.

HRBWA: The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority met on March 11th and decided to protest Gold Standard Ventures' new applications for mining water in the over-appropriated Humboldt River Basin. This is for the new project above the Tomera Ranch just over the mountain range (Pinon Range) in the Dixie Creek area of the basin.

CAB: The County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife met on March 17th and asked if there had been any follow-up related to County roads that are being blocked on the Diamond Range. Mr. Tibbitts is still researching the matter to help the Board determine the best course of action.

Upcoming Meetings: On March 31st, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) will be in Eureka as part of its annual tour and management meetings on Mormon crickets and grasshoppers. Chairman Goicoechea noted that NDA is holding a workshop on March 22nd, that can be attended virtually, on NAC 571, related to importation of livestock, and testing/vaccinating for various diseases.

Nevada Rangeland Grasshopper & Mormon Cricket Suppression Program EA: Mr. Tibbitts explained that based on a settlement with some environmental groups, Nevada Rangelands must complete an Environmental Assessment each year and get a signed FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) before they can do any treatments on public lands for grasshoppers or Mormon crickets. Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter supporting the EA.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to Nevada Rangelands supporting its Grasshopper & Mormon Cricket Suppression Program Environmental Assessment; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act (HR 6935): Mr. Tibbitts said that grazing permits cannot be retired under the Taylor Grazing Act, but every couple of years legislation is proposed calling for voluntary and permanent retirement of permits. The BLM has been able to get temporary retirements under Resource Management Plans, but they only last for the duration of the respective RMP.

Mr. Tibbitts explained the problem with the proposed legislation is it creates an environment that allows special interest groups to create issues or litigate, essentially causing a rancher so much expense that the only option is to sell out. But grazing is the primary tool for reduction of hazardous fuels and managed rangelands provide water and other benefits to wildlife. Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter to the Congressional Delegation in opposition to HR 6935, copied to the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Nevada Joint Interim Natural Resources Committee, and Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter opposing HR 6935, the proposed Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act, to the Congressional Delegation; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Diamond #1-27 Oil Well Project: On March 7th, representatives of Great Basin Operating LLC, proponent of the proposed Diamond #1-27 Oil Well Project, visited with the Commissioners. They wanted to acknowledge the County's concerns, voiced in a letter to the BLM, and agreed to be proactive in addressing those concerns. They asked the County to write a letter to the BLM noting their commitment to mitigate issues related to the project that could impact Eureka County.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared the letter as a follow-up to previous comments on the proposed Diamond #1-27 Oil Well Project, and to inform the BLM of the proponent's commitment to the County. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the follow-up letter to the Elko District BLM on the Environmental Assessment for the proposed North Diamond Valley #1-27 Exploration (Oil Well) Project, and informing of Great Basin Operating LLC's commitment in regard to the County's concerns. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Mr. Tibbitts requested authorization for out-of-state travel for the Weed Control & Resources Technician to pick up the trailer as part of the weed spraying outfit for the Diamond Valley Weed District. He expects the travel to take place in mid-April.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Mitchell Nielsen to pick up the new Weed District trailer from the dealer in Fresno, California, once the final availability date is confirmed. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

OLCESE WASTE SERVICES

Update on Waste Services: Rick Lake, Operations Manager for Olcese Waste Services, gave an update on residential and commercial waste collection in Eureka County over the past quarter. Four 96 gallon residential services were added to the route in January; two new residential services were added in February; and two new residential services were added in March. Mr. Lake noted there were some changes in accounting staff that caused some minor delays with billing, but everything has been resolved. He made Public Works aware of the issue right away.

SHERIFF

Updated Job Descriptions: Undersheriff Tyler Thomas worked with Human Resources to update the deputy and dispatch job descriptions, and he noted that they were reviewed and approved by Nevada POOL/PACT. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the updated job descriptions for Deputy I, II, & III; and Dispatcher I/II; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waivers: Undersheriff Thomas explained that the hiring freeze had been waived on January 30th for two positions, but should be ratified in relation to the updated job descriptions. Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Sheriff to fill the positions of one Deputy I, II, III (vacant as of 12/11/21), and one Deputy I, II, III (vacant as of 01/08/22). Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications were submitted for two additional vacancies. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Sheriff to fill one Dispatcher I (vacant as of 02/22/22), and one Deputy I, II, III (vacant as of 03/02/22); Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Forensic Services Contract FY22: Sheriff Watts clarified that the forensic services contract was a new contract for Fiscal Year 2023, and was not the Fiscal Year 2022 contract discussed at a recent meeting. The Sheriff was asked to ensure the signature lines in the contract are corrected to include the Chairman's signature.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 contract with Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Science Division, with selection of Option A as the scope of services, and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract outside of the meeting once the requested changes are made. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Out-of-State Travel: SAR Division Commander Arnold Pena requested authorization for two Search & Rescue volunteers to attend training in New Mexico, noting the volunteers will pay their own travel and lodging expenses. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel for two Search & Rescue members to attend the International Technical Rescue Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2nd-7th, 2022, with tuition costs of \$900.00 (\$450.00 per person) to be paid with monies budgeted for Search & Rescue (010-034-53010-078) in the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NORTHERN NEVADA EMS CONSORTIUM

Donation Request: Rusty Bahr was in attendance representing the Northern Nevada EMS Consortium. He explained that NNEMSC is a nonprofit organization that raises money and works

primarily with air ambulance providers (particularly MedX AirOne) to ensure that people who need those services aren't left with a huge medical bill. Eureka County has contributed in the past, and NNEMSC requested donations for the current and upcoming fiscal years.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a donation of \$5,000.00 in the current fiscal year (FY22) to be paid from the miscellaneous grants account in the Commissioners' budget and a donation of \$5,000.00 in the upcoming fiscal year (FY23) to be paid after July 1, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for February was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$44,153,610.92.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Updated Job Descriptions: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve updated position descriptions for a full-time Legal Secretary and a casual Department Assistant; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the District Attorney to fill the positions of one full-time Legal Secretary, and one casual Department Assistant; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: District Attorney Beutel stated that one staff member will attend training for the new case management program recently approved. He reminded the Board that this new software replaces the current program, which has inflated its annual cost to \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Ashley Adams to attend the Prosecutor by Karpel training conference in St. Louis, Missouri, scheduled April 18th through April 21st. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK RECORDER

Date to Canvass Results of Primary Election: Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne requested that the Board schedule a meeting to canvass returns of the Primary Election, which must be done between June 21st and June 24th. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to cancel the June 20th meeting and to meet on June 21st.

Election Worker Compensation: Ms. Hoehne requested that the February 2010 resolution setting compensation pursuant to NRS 293.460 be modified for the 2022 election so that both poll workers and counting/election board workers, who are not County employees (County employees receive their regular pay), may receive \$20.00 per hour, for no more than 29 hours in a work week.

Commissioner McKay motioned to set compensation for poll workers and counting/election board workers, who are not County employees, at \$20.00 per hour for the 2022 election cycle. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Election Workers: Ms. Hoehne requested a waiver of the 19 hour per week limit for casual workers to allow election workers to work up to 29 hours per week. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Clerk to utilize poll workers, and election/counting board workers for up to 29 hours per week beginning May 31st through June 17th in accordance with Personnel Policy 3.23. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Modification to Position Descriptions: Ms. Hoehne requested that the requirement to be a registered voter in Eureka County be removed from the Election Officer (Poll Worker) and Counting Board Member job descriptions (approved on February 7th), because she is having difficulty finding enough poll workers.

Chairman Goicoechea said he has discussed this issue with the Clerk, and feels strongly that persons deciding whether residents of Eureka County must show identification or meet some other criteria before being allowed to vote, should be registered in Eureka County. He sympathized with

her plight, but felt residents of another county might not always have the best interest of Eureka County at heart.

After some further discussion, Commissioner McKay motioned to amend the Election Officer (Poll Worker) and Counting Board Member job descriptions by removing the requirement that they be registered voters of Eureka County and instead require them to be registered voters in the State of Nevada. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1, opposed by Chairman Goicoechea.

Ratify Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications: The hiring freeze was waived to allow the Clerk to fill the election worker positions, but needed to be ratified since the job descriptions were amended. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify waiver of the hiring freeze for Election Officer (Poll Worker) and Counting Board Member positions; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Update on 2022 Primary Election: Ms. Hoehne reported that early voting begins May 28th and will go through June 10th, with election day June 14th. Early voting in Eureka will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hours for Saturday have not yet been set. There will be a physical polling place in Crescent Valley during early vote, with abbreviated dates and times, yet to be determined. There will be a polling location in Crescent Valley on election day, but the hours will be dependent on availability of poll workers.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were a total of 30 calls for ambulance service in February, with 24 responses from the Eureka station, four responses from the Crescent Valley station, and two calls cancelled prior to response. Nine patients were transferred to air medical services. REACH Air conducted landing zone training with EMS and the Volunteer Fire Department in Crescent Valley.

COUNTY FACILITIES

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

Opera House: The Opera House had 164 attendees to meetings and events and seven visitors in February. There was a blood drive on March 2nd, a dance recital on March 10th, and bingo on March 17th. Upcoming events include an i80 Gold open house on March 23rd, and the Lincoln Day Dinner on March 24th, a performance by Tylor & the Train Robbers on April 2nd, and classical piano performed by Christina Cuda Robertson on April 8th.

Sentinel Museum: The Museum had 40 visitors in February.

Swimming Pool: The Pool had 117 swimmers for the month. Tony Alvarado joined the staff as Swimming Pool Supervisor and a new Casual Assistant Manager was selected. The \$14,265.69 POOL/PACT risk management grant was awarded for 75% of the cost of the security cameras.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: One lot application is still pending. Ms. Jeppesen is meeting with Nevada Department of Transportation later in the day regarding two lot applications.

Eureka Landfill: The Landfill had 337 municipal customers and 475 commercial customers in February. It received 140 tons of municipal waste and 90 tons of construction and demolition debris. The littler fencing arrived on March 10th. One load of tires was removed by Liberty Tire Recycling. Metro Group should be here any day for a load of scrap metal.

Eureka Airport: A total of 2,891 gallons of fuel was sold at the Airport in February – 158 gallons of avgas and 1,661 gallons of Jet A fuel. Cameras and door locks have all been installed and are operational.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

SERC OPTE Grant Application: LEPC Chair Jeb Rowley explained the Committee voted to use grant monies to purchase decontamination tents for EMS. The total grant amount sought is

\$21,450.00 with \$17,450.00 for the tents and \$4,000.00 for operations. The application is due March 23rd.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 State Emergency Response Commission/Operational, Planning, Training, & Equipment (SERC OPTI) grant application for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Vehicle Inventories: Mr. Rowley and Senior Mechanic David Jones have been working with various departments to track vehicles and equipment in order to determine optimal inventory and potential surplus. They met with Undersheriff Thomas regarding Sheriff's Office vehicles.

BLM Fire: On March 9th, Mr. Rowley met with BLM Fire Management Officer for the Battle Mountain District, Tim Howell. The BLM will break ground this year for the new crew quarters in Eureka. They will be located where the current wildland fire station is just west of town. Frank Goodson is the Eureka Fire Management Officer. BLM reported that Eureka is fully staffed currently and it plans to station a new dozer in Eureka this year.

Red Card Wildland Fire Training: Red card wildland fire training is scheduled March 24th for Dunphy volunteers, April 5th (two trainings) for road employees and Eureka volunteers, May 4th for Pine Valley volunteers, and dates are pending for Crescent Valley and Beowawe.

Road & Utility Project: Phase one of the Eureka improvements is at 30% design. Plans should be in place to allow Eureka and Crescent Valley street maintenance to proceed concurrently in the spring of 2023. Public Works is working on bid documents and timeline for the CMAR (construction manager at risk).

Public Works toured Crescent Valley with Lumos & Associates to review some boundary line issues that impact roads and water lines. Lumos will fly the area for accurate measurements to create a topographical map. The road crew continues working on identifying water valves under dirt roads before paving can be done.

Nevada Gold Mine Solar Project: Public Works met with Nevada Gold Mine regarding a County road that splits the solar project in Boulder Valley. They are requesting approximately one mile of paving for dust mitigation.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: The State reviewed and approved engineering plans for looping of the water line on 3rd Street.

Miscellaneous: The Kenworth was delivered to Arizona to be outfitted as a frac tank transport. The shop crew assisted Search & Rescue by manning the snow cat on a recent mission.

Joint Water Conservation Plan: Mr. Rowley presented the updated Joint Water Conservation Plan, which includes water conservation measures and procedures related to drought management. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the updated Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Eureka Water System, Devil's Gate GID 1 & 2, and Crescent Valley Town Water System. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution to Adopt Joint Water Conservation Plan: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to sign the Resolution to Adopt a Joint Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Eureka Water System, Devil's Gate GID District #1 & District #2, and Crescent Valley Town Water System. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

March 21, 2022

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A JOINT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN FOR
THE TOWN OF EUREKA WATER SYSTEM, DEVIL'S GATE GID DISTRICT #1 & DISTRICT #2
AND CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN WATER SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wish to adopt a joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil’s Gate GID District 1 & 2, and the Town of Crescent Valley; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is dedicated to promoting water conservation through public outreach, customer education and responsible stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the water conservation plan will be provided to customers of Eureka County water system in an effort to increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in Nevada and the need to conserve water; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has programs to identify and reduce water system leakage, inaccuracies in water meters, and to monitor distribution system pressures; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acts immediately to repair leaks as soon as they re identified and water operators check each system twice a day.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, who are also the Board of Directors of the Devil’s Gate GID Board that:

1. The joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil’s Gate GID District 1 & 2, and the Crescent Valley Town be adopted.
2. The joint water conservation plan be available and distributed to users in the Town of Eureka, Devil’s Gate GID District 1 & 2, and Crescent Valley Town water systems.

ADOPTED this 21st day of March, 2022.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
J.J. Goicoechea
Chairman, Eureka County Commissioners
Vice Chair, Devil’s Gate GID Board

/s/ Mike Sharkozy
Vice Chair, Eureka County Commissioners
Member, Devil’s Gate GID Board

/s/ Rich McKay
Member, Eureka County Commissioners
Chairman, Devil’s Gate GID Board

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Admin. Asst.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Public Works; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Recreation Board; Television District; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Eureka County High School; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; UNR Radon Program; UNR UCED newsletter; UNR CABNR newsletter; Nevada Aviation Assoc.; USDA APHIS Nevada Office; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Health & Human Services; Nevada Dept. of Public Safety; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; Kindra DiArman; EOPA newsletter; US Forest Service; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); and Governing E-news (multiple).

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea commented on the card from Kindra DiArman thanking the Chairman for speaking with her on wild horse issues. Ms. DiArman is coming in July during the Triple B gather, and will tour the area to look at range conditions and animal conditions.

Eureka County was added as a signatory on a thank you letter sent to BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning concerning her meeting with stakeholders of the Path Forward regarding appropriations. The Chairman will forward a copy for distribution to the Board.

The Chairman gave a brief update on efforts to form a health district. There is a statute that district member counties must be adjacent. The group is working toward a potential legislative fix with assistance from Assemblywoman Titus, but may consider an Interlocal Agreement instead.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Eureka resident Cindy Adams said she went to the local clinic for a pre-surgery COVID test and was told she had to pay \$400.00. She called William Bee Ririe Hospital in Ely and was told they will no longer absorb the costs of the COVID tests. Her insurance agreed to a one-time reimbursement, but Ms. Adams felt the cost was outrageous.

Chairman Goicoechea said he would discuss the matter at the health district meeting the next day and will let Ms. Adams know if any solutions are suggested. Joyce Jeppesen offered that Churchill County's Resource Liaison stationed at the Eureka Airport can do a rapid test that afternoon at no cost. Ms. Adams agreed and Ms. Jeppesen will call and make the arrangements.

Ms. Adams stated appreciation for the ambulance service, which delivered her to the airport recently for a care flight to Reno.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of May, 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 March 21, 2022, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

I, Kathy Bacon Bowling, 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/ Kathy Bowling
Kathy Bowling, Clerk