

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 6, 2021

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on April 6, 2021. The meeting was conducted telephonically pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, which was extended by subsequent Directives through duration of the current State of Emergency. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Mike Sharkozy (via telephone); Commissioner Rich McKay; and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was required in District Court. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chairman removed Natural Resources Item #3; he and Mr. Tibbitts continue working on comments on Forest Service Rangeland Management Directives proposed updates as previously directed by the Board, and there is nothing to report at this time.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Melody Garaventa said television reception has been poor since June and is progressively getting worse. When she calls the Television District, she is repeatedly told they are working on fiber optics, but nothing changes. Most channels pixelate and then go out completely within ten minutes. She asked the Commissioner to look into this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 5, 2021: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the March 5, 2021, 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 \$385,976.38 for accounts payable, \$353,971.29 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$445,048.95 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, \$450,585.92 for a pass-through to the Nevada State Controller, \$242.84 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, and \$108.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$1,635,933.38. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET

Note: The Television District Board convened a joint meeting with the Commissioners for review and signing of the tentative budget for the Television District. Present representing the Television District were: President Bill Leppala, members Tracy Moylan, Randy Klatt, Joe Whimple, and Eldon Brown.

Television District Public Comment: During opening and closing public comment, Melody Garaventa addressed the Television District Board concerning the poor television reception. Several channels are no longer on the air and the remaining ones are not watchable. Giving specific dates and times, she said her numerous calls to Mr. Leppala have been futile. She felt it was

inexcusable that the Television District and its technicians have not resolved these problems, especially considering the amount of money the District spends each year.

Television District Tentative Budget: Comptroller Kim Todd gave a brief overview of the tentative budget for the Television District. Budgeted revenues were \$237,957.00, with expenditures of \$258,650.00, for a deficit of \$20,693.00. She added that the Board's secretary notified her that the District plans to meet again before the final budget is filed to discuss further increases to this budget.

Mr. Leppala confirmed the District is waiting for final quotes on a large project and is considering purchasing a snowcat in the upcoming year.

Ms. Todd cautioned that the ending fund balance is dwindling because expenditures continually exceed revenues (for example \$617,500.00 was expended in FY 19-20).

Following a brief discussion concerning the budget and technical and service problems, the Television District Board took action to approve its tentative budget.

Commissioner Approval – Television District Tentative Budget: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Television District tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Rodent District Tentative Budget: Ms. Todd continued an overview of the remaining budgets. The Rodent District will receive \$7,800.00 in revenues and has budgeted expenditures of \$47,000.00, but Ms. Todd noted this fund has a substantial fund balance.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Rodent District tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Weed District: The Weed District tentative budget included \$21,800.00 for property tax revenues and \$161,100.00 for expenditures. This included monies to engage a contract weed sprayer in the event the new weed technician position cannot be filled, so is a contingency amount that will likely not be expended.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Weed District tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Devil's Gate GID Tentative Budget: This is a proprietary fund and does not receive property tax revenues. This budget included \$66,700.00 in revenues and \$445,350.00 in expenses, for a budget deficit of \$378,650.00. Ms. Todd noted that the three water districts continue to lose money each year and would benefit from a rate increase (water service rates have not changed for ten years).

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Devil's Gate GID tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Crescent Valley Town Tentative Budget: Budgeted property tax revenues for the Crescent Valley Town were \$11,014.00, with expenditures of \$738,500.00 (\$94,700.00 in the town fund and \$643,800 in the proprietary water fund). This resulted in a budget deficit of \$65,000.00 in the town fund and a deficit of \$443,000.00 in the water fund, for a total deficit of \$508,000.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Crescent Valley Town tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka Town Tentative Budget: The Eureka Town budget included \$33,909.00 in property tax revenues and \$1,423,700.00 in expenditures (\$135,300 in the town fund and \$1,288,400.00 in the proprietary water fund). This resulted in a budget deficit of \$26,000.00 in the town fund and a deficit of \$1,025,100.00 in the water fund, for a total deficit of \$1,051,100.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Eureka Town tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County (General Fund) Tentative Budget: This budget, comprised of 25 funds, included \$17,598,541.00 in tax revenues (property tax and net proceeds of minerals), but receives other revenue sources, such as earned interest. Total budgeted expenditures were \$30,241,105.00. After all budgetary calculations, this budget will be filed with deficit of

\$2,881,122.00, but Ms. Todd pointed out this was an improvement over the previous year's budget, which had a deficit of \$14 million.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Eureka County tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Schedule Budget Hearing: Commissioner McKay motioned to schedule a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on May 20th to adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budgets and tax rate. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG CORONAVIRUS FUND GRANT

Notice: Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners would hold a public hearing to invite comments on potential projects to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Fund (CDBG-CV) Round 2, with an estimated \$28,858.00 available to Eureka County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Projects must meet certain criteria and monies must be spent to prepare, prevent, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline to submit the grant application was April 27th.

Public Hearing: Chairman Goicoechea opened the hearing and invited input on potential projects, noting comments would be accepted for five days following the hearing.

Commissioner McKay suggested using the grant to offset vaccination related expenses, such as wages for EMS staff and clinic personnel to administer the COVID-19 vaccines.

Earl Overholser suggested purchasing small portable generators that could be used during power outages by people dependent upon home medical devices.

There was a discussion between staff, the Board, and members of the public, with positive consensus on both suggestions. The Board agreed to move forward with an application for both projects and asked staff to help provide demographic and statistical information necessary to meet eligibility requirements for the grant.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

BLM Oil & Gas Lease Parcels: The Board received a letter from the Elko District BLM on April 5th regarding potential oil and gas lease parcels in Pine Valley, with a comment deadline of April 15th. This didn't allow time to place it on the agenda, so Mr. Tibbitts will respond and ask for ratification at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings & Activities: The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority is meeting on April 9th, and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission is meeting on April 14th. Depositions for the Diamond Valley Adjudication case will be taken the week of April 19th.

Proposed Interim Order for Humboldt River: Nevada Division of Water Resources has extended the comment deadline to April 16th on the Proposed Interim Order Within the Humboldt River Region. A virtual hearing was conducted on April 2nd and was attended by Mr. Tibbitts, Chairman Goicoechea, and Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig. The Chairman and Mr. Tibbitts had a follow-up meeting early on April 6th with local mining representatives.

The Proposed Order is based on a complex multi-year model that has been created, made up of three different models, covering the entire Humboldt River Basin. Mr. Tibbitts stressed that this was a model, basically a conceptual representation, and not a study based on actual measurements in the basin. The model has not yet been made available to affected parties or the public, and there are concerns that a specialized program may be needed to run the model.

Many provisions of the Proposed Interim Order are concerning and go against the County's points and arguments in various water litigation, including some that the Nevada Supreme Court failed to clarify. The provisions will impact the County's municipal water in Crescent Valley. Additionally, it is not clear that the Division has legislative authority to enact such an order. Mr. Tibbitts requested approval from the Board to continue working with the Chairman and other stakeholders to complete the County's response by the April 16th deadline.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize Mr. Tibbitts to continue working to prepare a response to Nevada Division of Water Resources concerning the Proposed Interim Order Within the Humboldt River Region. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

South Railroad Mine Project EIS: The County has been invited to participate as a cooperating agency with the Elko BLM on the Gold Standard Ventures, Corp., South Railroad Mine Project EIS. The project is located in Elko County, but access to the mine will be on the Pine Valley side of the mountain range, with potential impacts to Eureka County. Mr. Tibbitts incorporated changes into the Memorandum of Understanding and drafted a cover letter.

Commissioner McKay motioned to sign and send the response letter and amended Cooperating Agency Memorandum of Understanding to the Elko BLM on the Gold Standard Ventures, Corp., South Railroad Mine Project EIS. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ruby Hill Mine Infiltration Project: Dale Bugenig assisted Mr. Tibbitts with review of the draft renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for the Ruby Hill Mine Infiltration Project (NEV20051006). A comment letter was prepared supporting approval of the permit renewal and offering suggestions that would clarify and make the permits more defensible.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in support of the draft renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for the Ruby Hill Mine Infiltration Project. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Public Records Requests: A letter was received from District Attorney Ted Beutel informing the Board of a number of large public records requests for email communications that his office has received. He anticipates more requests of this nature in the future. This is monopolizing his and his staff's time and pulling them away from important work, so he reached out to the Board for a more equitable solution.

Legal Secretary Ashley Adams explained that the requests are primarily related to law enforcement communications and, therefore, contain sensitive information that must be redacted. IT Director Misty Rowley is assisting with pulling the emails off the server and creating files, so it is impacting her workload as well.

Ms. Adams contacted other legal offices, both public and private, but none were able to offer a more efficient method of responding to these requests, so the office continues to manually review each email and attachment. They are also working to fill the vacant positions in the office and have conducted several interviews, with more pending.

Ms. Rowley joined the conversation and will reach out to Quest technicians to see if they know of an automated or more efficient way to approach the task. Updating the email retention policy will help make this less onerous in the future, but doesn't help with the current workload.

Chairman Goicoechea reached out to other counties concerning this. Some have hired Public Information Officers and some use Civil Attorneys, but these are usually shared jurisdictions where there are both county and city governments to share the costs, and the Chairman stated he is not in favor of creating another County office or position.

He offered that there was money readily available in the District Attorney's budget from salary savings and in the Commissioners' budget for contract services. The Board would support contracting help in the short-term as the District Attorney's office works to fill the vacancies.

Commissioners McKay and Sharkozy concurred that the best immediate option was to engage contracted help and reach out to Quest for a possible alternative.

Policy on Fiscal Notes: Kim Todd said she was asked by an elected official to submit a fiscal note on proposed legislation, based on the misconception that this was the responsibility of the Comptroller and the Treasurer, so she requested direction and clarification from the Board.

This led to a discussion between the Board and department heads, and all agreed that each department is best suited to write fiscal notes on legislation affecting their department, and the Comptroller and Treasurer can be used as resources for financial data.

Commissioner McKay motioned that department heads wanting a fiscal note on legislation that impacts their respective department should take the lead on writing the fiscal note and rely on the Comptroller and Treasurer for supporting financial data. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Legislative Session: Chairman Goicoechea noted that Assessor Michael Mears testified on SB10, NACO's property tax bill that would keep annual property tax increases from falling below 3% due to abatements.

Sheriff Jesse Watts reported on AB376, which would affect immigration laws. He said this was a sanctuary state bill that would remove criminal's accountability and create more victims of crime. He is tracking other law enforcement bills, but this one was most concerning to him.

Chairman Goicoechea said AB433 would authorize the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to establish a fee for those participating in the Conservation Credit System. Other states have similar programs, but they are funded through the legislature, a step that Nevada did not take. He relayed that imposing a fee was not his first choice in funding the program, but was the only source of funding currently proposed. The program has proven successful, but cannot continue without funding, and is providing mining an avenue for mitigation that does not exist otherwise.

Mr. Tibbitts offered to testify on behalf of Eureka County on April 7th, and he and the Chairman recommended that the County go on record supporting the program and funding for the program, but neutral on AB433. Commissioner McKay agreed that it was a good program. He and Commissioner Sharkozy concurred with the recommendation.

Mr. Tibbitts briefly touched on the two water bills proposed by the State Engineer's office. They were extensively amended on April 5th, and the amendments were positive, but Mr. Tibbitts still did not recommend County support. One amendment added restrictions that under water banking conservation measures, water cannot leave the basin of origin, and this addressed one of the County's primary concerns.

SJR7 would remove governance of the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution and place it under the Legislature, but the concerning provision in this bill would remove funding and status from UNR as a land grant university, which Mr. Tibbitts viewed as another attack on agriculture. He recommended opposing this legislation, and the Board wholeheartedly agreed.

Mr. Tibbitts explained that AB90 would require mitigation payments for projects of intercounty significance, which the County opposed. The bill proponent, Majority Floor Leader Benitez-Thompson, has since proposed an amendment to appoint an interim committee to study these projects. Storey County proposed an amendment to the amendment to ensure counties where the projects originate are guaranteed a seat on the committee, and Eureka County has been asked to support the bill with these two amendments. Mr. Tibbitts recommended that the County support this with the amendments, as the only way to ensure Eureka County will have continued input on this legislation.

Commissioner McKay said his first inclination was to oppose the bill, but he agreed with supporting it to ensure Eureka County has a voice. Commissioner Sharkozy concurred.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: The Sagebrush Ecosystem Council met on March 30th, and Chairman Goicoechea said a good portion of the meeting was spent discussing a nationwide report released by US Geological Survey concerning the decline in sage grouse populations. The report looked at everything from pinyon-juniper, fire, mining, and horses. It predicted a 70% decrease in sage grouse numbers over the next few years anywhere a Herd Management Area is 50% over Appropriate Management Levels.

The Chairman felt the report was timely, with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council testifying this Session in favor of SJR3, legislation urging Congress to fund "*The Path Forward for Management of BLM's Wild Horses & Burros.*" Unfortunately, SJR3 was amended at the last

minute by the Senate Natural Resources Committee and Chairman Goicoechea said it was completely worthless at this point.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. She continues working with Commissioner McKay on Rural Health Care funding to supply internet in Crescent Valley at a discount. Various fiber projects are ongoing, and she is working with Syber Networks on those. Ms. Rowley is researching retention policies concerning the mail server and how to best implement those policies. The State was in Eureka this past week and she assisted with redesign of the County network, and installation and testing of new routers and switches. Work continues with the Sheriff's Office and Public Works on testing an improved network design for radio communications, and researching two-factor authentication solutions for law enforcement and potentially other departments in the future.

County Facilities Fiber Project: Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize purchase of supplies needed to complete the County facilities fiber project for an amount not to exceed \$5,138.06 utilizing funds budgeted for fiber optic and network upgrades (042-140-55010-203) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In March, Eureka served 1,143 meals and Crescent Valley served 1,079 meals. The centers have decided to restrict home-delivered meals to the homebound (as of April 1st in Eureka and April 12th in Crescent Valley), because many of the seniors have still not returned after the centers reopened on March 15th. A total of \$14,802.35 was deposited for the month.

MEDX AIRONE

MedX AirOne: Paul Ward, Executive Director of MedX AirOne, joined the meeting by telephone to continue discussing options to supplement Eureka County emergency services.

Advanced EMT Option: Mr. Ward confirmed his original estimate of \$300,000.00 annually to station an AEMT in the community, but clarified this was for two AEMTs, one in Eureka and one in Crescent Valley. This would be accomplished by rotating in different providers, with an individual working a 7-day shift with 24-hour on-call coverage, to be replaced by another individual for the next 7-day shift. If the County opted for a single AEMT stationed in the Eureka area, cost would be \$150,000.00 annually.

FBO Option: Mr. Ward explained he was currently in Salt Lake City to research the company's Fixed Base Operator contracts with other entities to get a better feel what that proposal would look like.

Jeb Rowley commented that he is researching FBO contracts with other similar airports, both public and private, to identify core contract duties and services to best serve the Eureka Airport without inhibiting services currently provided to transient aircraft and other users. He is exploring this slowly and cautiously.

Future Presentation: Mr. Ward recently spoke with a practitioner at the Eureka Clinic, Tamisha Pena, and is working on an in-depth presentation on community health and EMS and what that could mean for Eureka. He hopes to present that at a future meeting.

Board Comments: Commissioner Sharkozy asked how the proposed option would affect the local EMS staff and volunteers and wanted to ensure they were being consulted. He suggested having a roundtable discussion with all stakeholders, including the EMTs.

Commissioner McKay responded that he has met with the EMS team and they are more open to some options than others. Their primary concerns are the potential impacts on a volunteer organization and that the call level may not support the proposed level of augmentation. He agreed

that a roundtable discussion was a good idea, stating he is very open to feedback. Commissioner McKay added that his goal is looking towards the future and eventually having an aircraft stationed in Eureka.

Chairman Goicoechea thanked Mr. Ward, stating he appreciates the service MedX provides and the willingness to offer options, but there are two factors that will influence his decision – ensuring that the volunteer service remains whole and confirming that it makes sense financially. He noted that next year’s budget includes an additional full-time Advanced EMT for Crescent Valley, so steps are being taken to ensure adequate emergency coverage.

Other Comments: Several EMTs, both in Eureka and by phone from Crescent Valley, thanked the Commissioners for suggesting a roundtable meeting.

Sheriff Watts commented he felt there was a need to enhance emergency services, which was the reason he proposed (in a previous year’s budget discussion) that his deputies become EMTs. He said the proposal was to supplement emergency services and not to replace existing staff or volunteers.

Earl Overholser commented that Eureka County AEMTs have clearance to perform medical procedures above the AEMT level, but one from another organization won’t have that clearance. He asked why the County had not advertised for bids related to this proposal.

Chairman Goicoechea again referenced the tentative budget approved earlier in the meeting for next fiscal year (July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022), stating it didn’t contemplate this proposal and Commissioner McKay is simply taking the lead on something to be considered in a future budget year.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Chairman asked Commissioner McKay to work with Mr. Ward to set up the roundtable discussion, and to ensure that a notice of attendance is posted so all Commissioners can attend if they wish.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Update Report: Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson gave an update on Road Department projects and activities. In Diamond Valley, southern crews completed the gravel haul on Gold Street and have moved to County Road 101. The gravel haul to 15th Street is nearly complete. Two blades worked the East Antelope Road to take advantage of the recent moisture and repaired some substantial washouts. Crews are thinning trees on Whistler Road, and will disassemble the screening plant (currently in the Green Pit) and move it into Eureka for repairs.

Northern crews have been working on the Spa Road and the Gold Springs Point Road. The Gold Springs Point Road needs more work, but it has a good solid temporary fix that should hold for a while.

Progress continues on the Crescent Valley Town Park. The pavilion was removed and will be placed at the Fannie Komp Senior Center. With that structure gone, cement work can begin and will take some time. There’s been some vandalism at the park and the Sheriff has posted it on social media. Mr. Hodson asked that residents help keep an eye on the park.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

COVID Vaccines: Emergency Management continues working with EMS on the vaccine program. It is starting to slow down and the State will adjust vaccine allocation accordingly, so Mr. Rowley is working on a transfer to adjacent counties rather than reallocating doses to State inventory.

Free Dump Days: Free Dump Days are scheduled each Saturday in May from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Eureka Landfill and the Crescent Valley Laydown Yard. In coordination with Free Dump Days, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will be accepting household mercury at the Landfill on May 15th.

Mr. Rowley is trying to secure an NDF honor crew to clean up the Landfill prior to the inspection that is due by April 21st.

Fire Training: Red Card wildland firefighter refresher training has been scheduled on April 20th for the Crescent Valley and Dunphy Volunteer Fire Departments.

Emergency Preparedness: All emergency management supplies, including trailers and generators, are being evaluated, restocked, and prepared for readiness.

Radio Network: Work continues with Galena Group, Western States Enterprises, IT Department, and Sheriff's Office to work through the proof of concept testing to prove effectiveness of the LTE coverage and connection points for radio transmission. Proof was achieved at the Sheriff's Office in Eureka and the equipment will next be set up in Crescent Valley to test transmission to Eureka.

Water Service in Crescent Valley: Public Works received a water application for service in Crescent Valley. The property owner has indicated he may postpone the connection, but Mr. Rowley would like approval so he is able to move forward once the owner is ready.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water service for APN 002-026-08 in the Crescent Valley Townsite; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Job Description: Assistant Director Joyce Jeppesen worked with Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple to update the Administrative Assistant job description. Commissioner McKay motioned to adopt the Public Works Administrative Assistant I, II, & III job description; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver: Public Works submitted a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification for the position that will begin in July. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to fill the Administrative Assistant position; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Record of Negotiations: Mr. Rowley explained that, as part of the process to build the equipment storage building and install two additional windsocks at the Eureka Airport, environmental studies and design work must be completed. Public Works negotiated with Lumos & Associates to complete studies and design work, and a Record of Negotiations is required by the FAA because entitlement funds will be used.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and sign the Record of Negotiations for Engineering Services with Lumos & Associates for design and environmental studies related to the Eureka Airport snow removal equipment storage building and two additional windsocks, in the amount of \$72,500.00, to be paid with FAA grant funds. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wildland Fire Protection Program: On March 16th, Mr. Rowley met with Nevada Division of Forestry to review the new two-year contract under the Wildland Fire Protection Program. There were some minor language changes and the contract was reduced by about \$30,000.00 per year, since it is based on the previous seasons' fire activity.

Chairman Goicoechea asked about the availability of NDF honor crews for firefighting. Mr. Rowley replied that it is still unknown and authority concerning that has moved up the chain of command. Chairman Goicoechea wanted the record to reflect that it is very frustrating that Eureka County can dispatch and operate its own fire equipment, and only needs the assistance of a 12-man ground crew and can't even have the assurance of that.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the two-year Interlocal Contract between Eureka County and the State of Nevada, acting by and through its Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Forestry, for the Wildland Fire Protection Program, in the amount of \$55,169.00 per year, for a grand total of \$110,388.00 for the contract term of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Annual Walk-Through: Sheriff Watts announced that the Board would conduct the annual walk-through and inspection of the Justice Facility and Detention Center upon adjournment of the meeting. This will be a 24-month review, since the annual walk-through in 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic. (*Note: No deliberation and no action will take place during this annual walk-through and inspection.*)

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel (3); Eureka County Television District; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Lumos & Assoc.; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (2); Nevada Dept. of Agriculture; Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Nevada Dept. of Health, Child & Family Services; Nevada Public Utilities Commission; Creative Solutions LLC; Save the West newsletter; On Time Sports Company; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (3); and multiple Governing electronic newsletters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Kim Todd shared that Geri Norton passed away on March 22nd. Geri worked closely with Eureka County staff during many years serving as auditor for the County before becoming Finance Officer for the Elko County School District. Ms. Todd wanted to send condolences to her family on behalf of the County.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of May, 2021.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the April 6, 2021, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

I, Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Commissioner Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, Clerk