

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Quarterly Meeting - April 15, 2010

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 15, 2010, at the Crescent Valley Town Center. Present were Chairman Leonard Fiorenzi, Vice Chair Jim Ithurralde, Member Mike Page, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 AND DISCUSSION

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment. Forest Anderson stated he has lived in the area for five years, and has been paying for water and hauling it out of town. Recently, access to the water has been limited to business hours only. He does not feel its right for the County to take his money and then limit his access to water and stated he would appreciate the County looking into this as soon as possible.

Robert Nelson agreed with Mr. Anderson on the water issues, but also wanted to discuss the lack of emergency medical services. Mr. Nelson recently had an incident that was suspected carbon monoxide poisoning, but a subsequent incident with the exact same symptoms proved to be a low blood sugar problem. During the second incident he was placed on a helicopter, against his will, and now has \$25,000.00 worth of debt for hospital and transport services.

Christina Turner stated she is not happy that water can now only be accessed 40 hours a week, which is a hardship for her since she needs help hauling the water, and doesn't always have help during business hours, which can leave her over the weekend with no water. If the 24/7 access is no longer available, the rates should be reduced.

Mary Garcia stated she also needed the ambulance for a low blood sugar condition. She was incoherent and in very serious condition, and was transported by ambulance to Elko; so she doesn't understand why the helicopter had to be called for Mr. Nelson when their situations were similar. Regarding the water issue, the out of town people pay the same amount for water and should not be restricted to time limits in order to obtain that water. Many of them work and cannot access the water during business hours.

Phil Schmitz, Chief of the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department, wanted to clarify the request that was recently made for security cameras in the Fire Department building. This item was budgeted for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, but Mr. Schmitz would prefer that these be installed in the current fiscal year. The Board directed him to speak with Mike Rebaleati, Budget Officer, and Ron Damele, Public Works, to verify that money was available in the current year budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Page motioned to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2010, budget meeting; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2010, workshop to review

proposed updates to the Personnel Policy Manual; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reviewed correspondence for the Board.

JOINT MEETING WITH CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Gloria Sharrow, Chairperson of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (CVTAB) called their meeting to order. CVTAB members present were: Gloria Sharrow, Dawn Gann, and Kollene Schwartz. Chairwoman Sharrow called for public comment. Jay Scott asked if it would be possible to expand the area that members of the CVTAB can be elected or appointed from, to include Beowawe, Dunphy, etc. District Attorney, Ted Beutel, clarified that the CVTAB was set up according to Nevada Revised Statutes for unincorporated towns, and the only eligible citizens must reside within the legal town boundaries.

Discussion of Procedures and Practices Between the Two Boards: Chairman Fiorenzi noted that this item had been placed on the agenda by the CVTAB, and he invited them to share their concerns. Ms. Gann felt this was most likely a communication problem between the boards, and the Crescent Valley Board often felt like they did not have the latest information or status on projects taking place or being discussed for their area. Ms. Schwartz added that residents often feel that items of interest to Crescent Valley are dropped or never get completed. After further discussion, Chairman Fiorenzi suggested that the Clerk send a written update following each Commissioner meeting, and asked the CVTAB members if they felt this would alleviate any lack of communication. Chairwoman Sharrow stated she thought it was a good idea and her fellow CVTAB members agreed. The Chairman directed this item to be placed on the next agenda for formal action.

Ms. Gann asked how requests from the public should be handled, for instance, if a member of the public complains about the weeds in Crescent Valley. Chairman Fiorenzi advised the CVTAB to research and follow County policy, providing that information to the public.

Virgil Roper informed both boards that a Firewise Community meeting is scheduled for May 8th and will have representatives from the BLM and Nevada Division of Forestry; one of the planned items of discussion includes involving the community in a weed eradication program.

Chairwoman Sharrow stated that another concern in the community is the lack of medical care, and the problem with Nevada Health Centers not supplying the medical providers as outlined in the contract. Commissioner Ithurralde replied that the County has been actively working towards getting an additional provider who will serve both areas (Eureka and Crescent Valley).

Forest Anderson stated that clinic days are often cancelled for minor excuses, such as the air conditioning is out. He said the Commissioners hold the 'purse strings' and should make Nevada Health Centers accountable or terminate the contract with them, or at the very least include something in the contract for a cost reduction when the terms of the contract are not met. The Commissioners agreed to place Nevada Health Centers on the next agenda to address some of these problems.

Mr. Anderson also suggested that a County newsletter might better inform Crescent Valley residents of current issues.

Lack of Town Board Candidates for 2010 General Election: Chairman Fiorenzi asked the Town Board if they had considered any solutions to their impending lack of quorum, which will occur in January 2011 due to the lack of candidates for the 2010 General Election. Chairwoman Sharrow stated she was willing to serve another term, but had been unable to get to Eureka to complete the filing requirements. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Town Board would continue with recruitment efforts for the current vacant seats, and also begin recruitment

efforts for the term beginning January 2011 (at which time the CVTAB will be reduced to a three-member board pursuant to the recently adopted County Ordinance). The CVTAB can then make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding appointments to either the current term or the upcoming term.

Adjournment of CVTAB: At this point the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board adjourned their meeting.

EUREKA COUNTY FIRE SERVICES

Decision Regarding Fire Services Providing Emergency Medical Care: Chairman Fiorenzi stated that based on recent requests, this item was placed on the agenda for the Commissioners to set a standard regarding services to be provided by the different Fire Departments in the County.

Virgil Roper noted his past experience as a paramedic, and stated he has served on several Fire Departments that provide emergency medical care as a service to the public.

Phil Schmitz stated that the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department has been trying to get EMT Basic training without success. He felt if the firefighters were also EMTs it would supplement the ambulance service.

Adell Panning agreed that the more trained responders you have at an incident, the more beneficial it is to the community and could restore community faith in the emergency services.

Forest Anderson added that he was a certified first-responder and showed up at an accident scene but was turned away. He said if the County is asking for volunteers, then they shouldn't turn them away when they show up to help.

Chairman Fiorenzi responded that anyone is welcome to volunteer in that capacity if they join the EMS & Ambulance service, but he wasn't going to support fire departments that are "all risk" in a county the size of Eureka. He was not in favor of creating a situation where two organizations respond to the same emergency and try to override each other.

Commissioner Page motioned to request that EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, come forward at a future meeting to discuss protocol and make recommendations regarding coordination of the different emergency services when responding to the same incident; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Notification of Grant Awards: Grant documents were signed on April 6, 2010, and forwarded to the State due to the stringent deadline. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to ratify the signing of the following grants from the Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division: (a) congregate meals grant in the amount of \$6,743.00 with a County match of \$1,190.00, and (b) home delivered meals grant in the amount of \$2,094.00 with a County match of \$370.00. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Activities and Upcoming Meetings: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported that work continues on transition of the Weed District to Natural Resources. Ellaree Mariluch has provided assistance as time allows. A priority list and work plan are currently being compiled. Mr. Tibbitts and Ms. Mariluch toured the Diamond Valley area and completed an inventory of Weed District supplies on April 7th. They toured the Pine Valley area on April 14th.

Mr. Tibbitts attended the following: a US Forest Service meeting in Elko on April 8th regarding the new planning rule being developed by the Forest Service; a meeting with Rocky Mountain Resources on April 9th regarding a new vanadium mine planning to go into operation at the old Gibellini Mine (anticipated production by 2012); a NEPA Committee meeting on April 13th; and a Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on April 14th. Upcoming meetings

include a Nevada Department of Agriculture meeting and Weed Free Forage program on April 19th; the Eureka Firewise Community meeting on April 16th; and a Crescent Valley Firewise community event on May 8th.

Joint Funding Agreement with US Geological Survey: Mr. Tibbitts stated that this funding agreement was forthcoming following the USGS presentation and discussion with the Board at the last Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with the US Geological Survey for a Hydrologic Monitoring Program in the Mount Hope and Roberts Mountains vicinity; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Administrative Draft Solar Programmatic EIS: At the previous meeting, Mr. Tibbitts reviewed comments that were prepared regarding Chapter 5 of the Administrative Draft Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Commissioner Page motioned to approve comments for submission to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Administrative Draft Solar Programmatic EIS; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Legislative Counsel Bureau Request: A request was received from Michael Stewart, Legislative Counsel Bureau, for the Commissioners to identify a position regarding the setting of elected officials' salaries. The Board briefly discussed the pros and cons of the two options: (a) continue as is, with the Nevada Legislature setting local officials' salaries; or (b) having the County Commissioners set their local officials' salaries. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned that the Board's position was that the practice of the Nevada Legislature setting local officials' salaries should continue; Chairman Fiorenzi seconded the motion; motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Page voted against the motion.

Payment to AT&T for Phone System Modifications: Pat Irwin, AT&T, attended the April 6th meeting to discuss problems that had occurred during the transition of County offices to a new phone system, outlining several modifications that were needed. Commissioner Page motioned for AT&T to make modifications to the new phone system at a cost of \$4,250.00; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Crescent Valley Water System: Commissioner Page wanted the Board to consider installation of a currency operated meter for public access to the Crescent Valley water system after regular business hours. Chairman Fiorenzi stated this was a town water system, intended to service residents inside the town boundaries. Before making any changes, he would like several things to occur: (a) research the legalities regarding proper usage with this type of water system; (b) consider the possible contamination hazard with this type of direct access to the water system; and (c) receive a recommendation from the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board. Commissioner Ithurralde agreed, stating that regulations under the authority of the Nevada Division of Water Resources should be researched, and a cost estimate for this meter modification should be obtained. Commissioner Page motioned to have the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board consider this item and provide a recommendation to the Commissioners; and that in the meantime cost estimates for installation of a currency operated meter could be obtained; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Virgil Roper asked if locking of the system could be suspended until the Commissioners reach a decision regarding public access. The Board agreed to consider it at their next meeting.

Forest Anderson stated before purchasing property in the Crescent Valley area, he researched to make sure water was available; he has now been paying into the water system for years and should not be denied access.

Laptops and Electronic Files for Commissioner Meetings: As requested by the Board, Network Analyst, Kyle Moore, researched the cost to purchase laptop computers in order for the Commissioners to access electronic files during their meetings. Mr. Moore indicated that each

laptop with accessories could be purchased for under \$1,250.00. Chairman Fiorenzi stated he will use his own laptop and did not want the County to purchase an additional one for him. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to purchase four laptop computers for utilization of electronic files during Commissioner meetings, which will also serve as a long-term cost savings for the documentation, copying, supply, and storage costs related to paper records for the meetings; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 2-1. Chairman Fiorenzi voted against the motion, due to his statement that only three laptops were necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Fiorenzi opened the floor to public comment. Vicki Drenon read a portion of the County Code outlining administration of the Crescent Valley water system: TITLE 13 – TOWN OF CRESCENT VALLEY, CHAPTER 30 – CRESCENT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM, SECTION .120.C: *“For persons with or without online service, water may be obtained at the water spigot located at 528 Fifth Street, in Crescent Valley from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays, at the rate set for residential service, by contacting the Public Works Office in person or by phone at 468-0326. The Director reserves the right to discontinue the sale of such water after posting a thirty day notice.”*

Jay Scott asked why taxpayer money was funding a water study as part of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mount Hope Mine. Chairman Fiorenzi explained that the study would provide the citizens of Eureka County with valid information so a knowledgeable decision could be made regarding whether water applications should be protested to preserve an economic base in the County. Additionally, it will provide information regarding the declining water table in Eureka County.

There were no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Page motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11.25 a.m.; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 20th day of May, 2010.

/s/ Leonard Fiorenzi
Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Clerk